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Onderwerp: SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 10-12-2010

On this International Day for Human Rights, we would like to repeat that domestic workers also have rights! Thousands of domestic workers are currently trapped working in slavery ([read article](#)). According to a recent survey on migrant domestic workers in the UK - of which there are an estimated 20,000 - 95% aren't paid minimum wage, 58% are expected to work more than 55 hours a week and 41% have no paid holidays.

SOLIDAR supports the work of our partners in [The Global Network](#), reiterating the call for an ILO Convention on Domestic Workers Rights. This Convention should include at least: the recognition of equal rights for all workers; the right to organise; social protection coverage, namely access to a basic social security package; and equal rights for migrant workers and nationals.

We will be active in 2011 to make sure that these rights are included in the Convention to ensure decent work becomes a reality for domestic workers; and to keep struggling for the respect and indivisibility of human rights worldwide, especially in China, Western Sahara and Iran!

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

SOCIAL SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST BACK AT HEART OF EU POLITICAL DEBATE

This week documents with the conclusions from two key EU meetings on SSGI, the 3rd Forum on SSGI and the ESPCO Council were published, setting out possible venues for further action; and SOLIDAR Secretary General intervened on a hearing on SSGI organised by the S&D Group in the European Parliament. [Read more..](#)

UPCOMING EU INITIATIVES ON LONG-TERM AND ELDERLY CARE

On Tuesday (7 December), SOLIDAR met with partners and institutional representatives at the European Parliament Interest Group on Carers. The meeting was an opportunity to explore what specific actions are to be taken at the EU level on long-term care, with concrete proposals to feed an upcoming Commission Staff Working Paper. SOLIDAR advocated for the importance of having quality services, ensuring adequate (policy) attention for carers and their interests, in particular their working conditions, including those of regular or undocumented migrant care workers, and the better recognition and promotion of informal care. [Read more...](#)

MATERNITY LEAVE PROPOSAL REJECTED BY COUNCIL

Earlier this week the majority of Member States rejected the European Parliament's position calling for a 20-week leave for mothers on full pay and two-week leave for fathers, saying that it would cost employers and governments too much. It seems that the majority of Member States would support an extension to 18 weeks of maternity leave on full pay as an acceptable basis for a compromise, as also requested by the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). The pressure is high to still arrive at a compromise under Belgian EU Council Presidency. Read more in [European Voice](#).

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

DECENT WORK IS KEY TO EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

On 6-7 December the 5th edition of the European Development Days took place in Brussels. SOLIDAR organised a workshop in the frame of this event on Decent Work and Women's Rights, co-organised with members One World Action and ARCI. A panel of speakers composed of Joanna Szabunko (KARAT, Poland), Batoul Yahfoufi (Zahle University, Lebanon), Lovely Yesmin (Partnership in Action, Bangladesh) and Britta Thomsen (MEP, S&D) discussed how we can work together to ensure that women's labour around the world is decent. [Read more...](#)

SOCIAL PROTECTION: THE MISSING PIECE IN THE DEVELOPMENT PUZZLE

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