

Active Domestic Workers Consultancy – professionalizing and protecting domestic workers

Daily tasks in house-keeping in Nepali homes are often carried out by so-called domestic workers. Their work consists among others of washing, cleaning, cooking, shopping, and caring for children and elderly people. It is hard work, yet not often a respected job. Moreover, the work is mostly unregulated, and many domestic workers are overworked, underpaid, unprotected, and especially live-in domestic workers suffer from maltreatment and abuse. A large part of the domestic workers in Nepal are children. Due to many reasons, domestic work is hardly protected by law, which renders domestic workers vulnerable to unequal, unfair, and often abusive treatment.

Fortunately, there are many organizations trying to tackle these problems. On a global scale, the International Labour Organization (ILO) is organizing an International Labour Conference in June 2010, with special focus on the promotion of ‘decent work for domestic workers’. Several organizations in Nepal are also concerned with the promotion and protection of domestic workers’ rights, such as Nepal Independent Workers Union (NIDWU), CWISH (Children and Women in Social Service and Human Rights), Domestic Workers Forum (DWF) and several trade unions.

Active Domestic Workers Consultancy (ADWC) is a new organization, founded on 16 May 2010, and is directly involved in job placement and capacity building of domestic workers. Their main objectives are to create an environment for promoting professional domestic workers, and to provide skill-based training for domestic workers with their job placement. ADWC’s working method allows domestic work to professionalize and to support workers in finding a decent work environment. In this way, the labour rights of domestic workers are to be ensured.



Sharing this common goal of regulating the employment of domestic workers, CWISH supports Active Domestic Workers Consultancy financially and with assistance in capacity building of domestic workers, while ADWC is accountable to CWISH and will regularly write progress reports and provide information to CWISH.