

National Union of Domestic Employees

(NUDE)



Established: 1st October, 1982
Registered Under The Trade Union Ordinance
(The Trade Union Regulation)
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26th July, 2011.

Honourable Minister Errol McLeod
Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro
Enterprise Development
Level 6
International Financial Complex
Wrightson Road
Port of Spain

Dear Sir,

Re: Ratification of ILO Convention No. 189 on Decent Work For Domestic Workers

On behalf of the Executive of the National Union of Domestic Employees (NUDE), I want to extend our deepest appreciation for your support at the 100th International Labour Conference (ILC) when our National Delegation all voted in favour of the historical ILO Convention and Recommendation for Domestic Workers.

In our ongoing effort to ensure Domestic Workers enjoy *Decent work and a Decent life* and our post ILC activities, we would like to know if the issue of the ILO Convention No. 189 on Decent Work For Domestic Workers has been brought to the Cabinet and whether your Cabinet would be addressing the issue of Ratification of the Convention on the legislative Agenda for the coming Parliamentary term.

This ILO Convention No. 189 is very important to us as you are aware and already some countries are discussing the issue in their Parliament, Tanzania for example. Therefore, could you give us something concrete so that we can bring to our membership of what government has done so far and is going to do with regard to the above captioned issue.

We rely on your support as we daily have to hear stories of the abuse domestic workers face in the work place (private homes) and they frequently have no means of recourse because they are not considered as workers under the Industrial Relations Act (IRA). There is also the inability of Domestic Workers to enjoy the same protection under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Retrenchment and Severance Benefit Act, the reprisals faced by Domestic Workers when they enquire about their National Insurance and the inability to seek recourse in instances of dismissals.

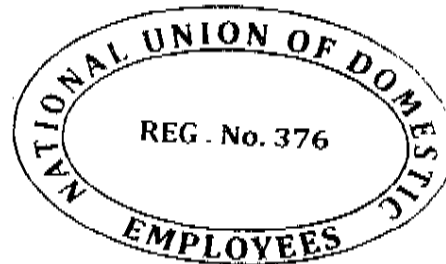
These are some of the pertinent issues we brought to the international table and what informed the ILO Convention and Recommendation of which our Union was in the forefront with our International Network in consultation with the ILO and other International bodies who were all integral in getting the Convention and Recommendation for Domestic Workers.

We therefore want your assurance that domestic workers will be on the legislative Agenda for the new term in Parliament and whether or not you have brought it to the Cabinet and if not when. We would also appreciate if you would inform us of the process between now and Ratification so that we can ensure that Domestic Workers are aware of what is happening in their interest.

In the Service of the Working Class,



IDA LE BLANC
General Secretary



Cc Leaders of all Trade Unions
President of FITUN
President of NATUC