

# WRC-ILO-PRS/STRIDE PROJECT



**National Consultation Workshop in Promoting ILO C 87, C 98 for Construction and Domestic Workers and Advocacy on Ratification of C189, C190**

**Date : 22 August 2022 ;**

**Venue: Hotel Asia & Resort, 34/7, Topkhana Road, Dhaka**



নির্মান ও গৃহ শ্রমিকদের জন্য শোভন কাজ বাস্তবায়নে আইএলও কনভেনশন-৮৭, ৯৮ এর সুষ্ঠু বাস্তবায়ন এবং কনভেনশন-১৮৯ ও ১৯০ অনুমোদনের জন্য এডভোকেসি কৌশল নির্ধারণ শীর্ষক

**জাতীয় কর্মশালা**

**National Consultation Workshop on Promoting ILO C-87, C-98 for Decent Work for the Construction and Domestic Workers and Advocacy on Ratification of C-189, C-190**

**Date: 22 August 2022; Venue: Hotel Asia & Resort, Topkhana Road, Dhaka.**

**Organised by: Workers Resource Centre (WRC)**  
**Supported by: International Labour Organisation (ILO) & ILO/Japan Multi-bilateral Programme**



## BRIEF REPORT :

### Introduction:

Workers Resource Centre (WRC) organized a National Consultation Workshop in promoting ILO C-87, 98 for construction and domestic workers and advocacy on ratification of C 189, C190 on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2022 at the Hotel Asia, Dhaka.

The Workshop was presided over by the WRC Chairman Mr. Anwar Hossain and was moderated by Ms. China Rahman, Vice Chairman, WRC.

The Programme was supported by the ILO/Japan Multi bilateral Programme.

### **Objective of the workshop**

The objectives of the workshop are mainly threefold:

- a) Identify the existing issues and challenges that the domestic and construction workers face in relation to the application of C87 (Freedom of Association and Protection of the Rights), C98 (Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining), define the advocacy points to address these issues and discuss on the awareness raising strategy.
- b) Discuss and agree on the action plans for the advocacy activities by the construction and domestic workers' organizations towards the ratification of C189 (entitlement of decent works for the domestic workers), and C190 (work free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment) based on the existing ILO's strategy.
- c) Introduce the ILO's advocacy materials for the relevant conventions and discuss the dissemination plans among the construction and domestic workers' organizations

### **Expected Outcome of the workshop**

The workshop will bring the following expected outcomes:

- a) Participants from the stakeholders shared the understanding of the existing challenges that the domestic and construction workers faced in relation to the application of C87 and C98 and agreed on the advocacy points to address these issues and the awareness-raising strategy.

- b) Participants from the stakeholders understood the existing ILO's strategy for C189 and C190 and agreed on the action plans for the advocacy activities by the construction and domestic workers' organizations towards the ratification.
- c) Participants from the stakeholders are introduced to the ILO's advocacy materials for the relevant conventions and agree on the dissemination plans among the construction and domestic workers' organizations

The workshop is expected to come up with the finding and recommendations for the long-term action plan, especially on points a) and b). After the workshop, the finding and recommendations are going to be discussed internally in the WRC management as a preparatory activity for the review workshop. In the review workshop which is planned one month later, the finding and recommendations will be discussed for fine-tuning and completion as a formally agreed action plan

### **Guest Speakers:**

Dr. Hameeda Hossain, Convener, SNF(Sramik Nirapotta Forum) was the Honourable Chief guest while Mr. Jamil Ansar, National Programme Officer, SDIR Project, ILO, CO, Bangladesh attended as special guest. In their speech, they have expressed their heartfelt solidarity with the programme issues.

Dr. Md. Mosleh Uddin Sadeque, National Consultant, ILO, PRS/ STRIDE Project presented the Highlights of the ongoing WRC Project: Promoting Decent Work and Women's Rights in the Backdrop of COVID-19.

Mr. Shusuke Oyobe, CTA/Programme Manager, PRS/STRIDE project joined the event over Zoom and presented the Present and Future Perspectives of PRS/STRIDE Project.

### **Key Note presentation & Brief on the WRC**

In the workshop Mr. Chowdhury Ashiqul Alam, Convener of the WRC Sustainability and Project Implementation Sub-Committee has presented the Key Note Paper of the Workshop. In his presentation he has explained the situation of the Informal workers especially the Domestic & Construction workers situation during COVID-19 pandemic

in Bangladesh. He also mentioned about the vulnerability of those poor working class people and their hard lock of getting stimulus or relief support. After the key Note paper presentation by Mr. Chowdhury a PPT was presented by Mr. Khandoker Abdus Salam, Manager, WRC. In his ppt presentation he briefly mentioned about the PRS-STRIDE Project activities and way forward.

### **Panel Discussion:**

After these 2 presentations, following designated discussant talk on the workshop concept and explain the need and priorities of the Trade Union Movement to proper implementation of the ratified ILO Convention C-87 & C-98. They also emphasis the need to ratify ILO C-189 & C-190 by the Bangladesh Government. The designated discussant took part as panel discussant with their selected issues to the event as follows:

1. Ms. Nazma Yesmin, Director, BILS discussed on the ILO C87 (Freedom of Association and Protection of the Rights) C98 (Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining) and Situation of the Domestic Workers in organizing TU : Challenges & way forward.
2. Ms. Chayanich Thamparipattra, ILO, CO, Dhaka discussed on the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) and Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) : principles under the Conventions and their importance
3. Mr.Rashadul Alam Raju, G.S. Secretrary, IBC, discussed on the Situation of the Domestic workers during COVID situation: Challenges of organizing & way forward.
4. Mr. Shakil Akter Chowdhury, Member Secretary, NCCWE discussed on The situation of the Construction Workers during COVID-19 and Status of Trade Union Organizing: Challenges & Way Forward.

### **Open discussion session:**

In this session, 13 veteran Trade Union Leaders from NCCWE, IBC, Construction Workers Union and Domestic workers network took part in the discussion and raised some issues and recommendations to the workshop. The Leadership were (1) Mr. Feroj Ahmed (JSL),(2) Mr. Towhidur Rahman, (BAWF), (3) Ms. Hena Chowdhury (JSJ), (4)

Mr. Shahidullah Badal(BMCGTW), (5) Zakir Hossain Litu(BLF), (6) Abdur Razzaque(JSJB) (7) Amirul Haque Amin(NGWF), (8) Mr. Saifuzzaman Badsha (JSJB), (9) Mr. Ruhul Amin (BFWS), (10) Mr. Kutub Uddin Ahmed (BCEF) (11) Naimul Ahsan Jewel(JSJB), (12) Nur Mohammad (BFTUC), (13) Mr. Abdul Aziz(INSAB), qand (14) Ms. Arifa S. Alam(NGWF).

At the end of the workshop the following recommendations were adopted.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Need to prepare Database of the Construction, Domestic and other informal workers.
2. Construction, Domestic and other informal workers should bring under social safety net to tackle any unexpected situation like COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Domestic Workers should be recognize as 'Worker' in the labour Law.
4. Labour Law & Rules should be framed in the light of the Domestic Worker Protection Policy-2015.
5. All informal workers should be allowed to form & join Trade Union and be given right to collective bargaining as per ILO C-87 & 98.
6. Trade Union Registration process should be easier for registering Union for the informal sector workers and for that the present labour law need to be amended.
7. Introducing Rationing system for the most vulnerable informal workers at subsidized rate by the Government.
8. Ensuring safety of the Construction workers by enhancing strong monitoring by the DIFE & other Govt. mechanism.
9. Held up Insurance schemes for the construction workers need to be restarted with fair & proper accountability.
10. Database preparing and issuing smart card for Construction workers should be restarted immediately (stopped in 2017 after issuing 500 smart card) for their proper employment in abroad to earn more remittance for the country.
11. To stop violence & harassment at workplace and to ensure proper Justice for the victim Domestic workers, Special court and legal service should provide by the Government.

12. All returnee migrant construction and domestic workers should be reintegrated in the country's economic main stream by providing them Financial, Technical and Skill development support.
13. Returnee victim domestic migrant workers should be provide social and moral support to lead their normal life.
14. To establish decent work at all level, the present labour law should be amended according to the ILO Core Conventions especially C-87 & 98.
15. Government should ratify ILO Convention 189 to protect life and job of the Domestic workers in the country and abroad.
16. All embassies of Bangladesh in the labour hosting countries should take care & responsibility of the Migrant workers, especially to the Construction and domestic workers.
17. Trade Unions must work together to strengthen campaign, advocacy & other activities to ratify ILO C-189 & 190.
18. National Trade Union should enhance cooperation with the International Trade Union movement to create pressure to ratify ILO C-189 & 190.
19. Trade Union movement should analyses the labour laws of labour hosting countries and create alliance with those countries Trade Union Movement for the safety of Migrant workers and ratifying ILO C-189.
20. Skill development training for the Construction, domestic and other informal workers should provide.
21. Workers should be aware by providing training on their rights by the Trade Union organization.
22. Youth & Women Trade Union activists should be trained to improve their leadership quality.
23. Trade Unions capacity building training need to be continue.
24. Trade Unions Advocacy on different labour issues need to be more collective and strong.
25. Trade Unions should make their short, mid and long term plan to improve labour situation by implementing decent work agendas and establishing labour rights.

26. Create greater alliance among the other organisations those who are working for the workers interest.

At the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the workshop, the above recommendations were adopted and submitted to the Trade Union-ILS (International Labour Standard) committee of the WRC to consider the relevant recommendation in their labour law reform report.

In the Second session of the workshop the Trade Union-ILS committee have discussed the recommendations and put their valuable comments which will be discussed further in the Review workshop under this project activity.

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