

# Presentation to the Asian Migrant Domestic Workers' Assembly

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# Introduction

- For more than a century, the labor movement has come a long way in changing the working conditions of the working class and in advancing and defending workers' and trade union rights
- But the labor movement has yet to alter the inequitable social structures that leads to poverty and powerlessness for the working class.
- Why?

# The need for workers' power!

- We need to have enough power to change the social structures (economic, political and even cultural structures in every country).
- Workers can only have power if they are organized. It is only through solidarity that workers can succeed in forcing powers that be to listen and to change their policies!

# Why we need to empower the migrant workers?

- Because they are workers!
  - It took a long time for trade unions to start working with migrant workers. Why?
    - Because it is a male dominated (macho) organization!
    - Because workers are threatened by migrant workers
    - Because the labor movement is under extreme attacks from the employers
  - Organizing migrant workers will not only reinvigorate the labor movement, it will also force the movement to help advance gender equality.

# Why we need to empower the migrant workers?

- Migrant workers have potential to build autonomous workers' power!
  - Positive and negative impressions of migrant workers about the things they learn from the host country.

# The need for social transformation

- The struggle to better the working conditions of the migrant workers goes beyond fighting for rights.
- There is a need to take part in the over-all efforts to change society.
- The main instrument, as far as possible, is by building unions!