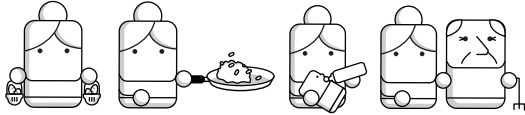
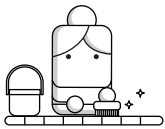


10 FACTS ABOUT Domestic Workers in Asia Pacific

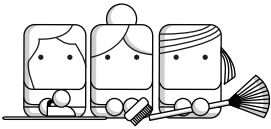
1 Domestic workers are employed in others' private homes for pay. They provide services such as cleaning, laundry, shopping, cooking and caring for children and the elderly.



2 Employment as a domestic worker is one of the main reasons women migrate within Asia Pacific; millions of domestic workers in the region are from the Philippines and Indonesia.¹



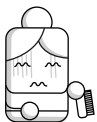
3 Globally, one in every 25 female wage earners are employed in domestic work.² Of the estimated 67 million domestic workers worldwide, 35 per cent are in Asia Pacific.³



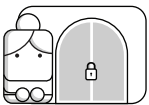
4 Out of the 16 million victims of forced labour, at least 3.8 million were exploited for domestic work. Females make up 61 per cent of victims of forced labour in domestic work, males make up 39 per cent.⁴



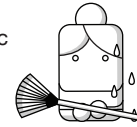
5 Live-in domestic workers who have experienced exploitation have reported low pay or no pay at all, excessive working hours (such as being on call for 24 hours a day), no weekly day off, living in poor and unsafe conditions, inflated agency fees, debt-bondage, forced labour and forced confinement.⁵



Severe forms of exploitation include deprivation of food and water, sexual abuse, rape, denial of health care services, being surveilled by cameras, having to ask to use the bathroom, and physical and psychological abuse.



6 Female migrant domestic workers face a triple vulnerability to exploitation: being a woman, a migrant and a domestic worker.⁶ Lack of rights, the extreme dependency on an employer and the isolated and unprotected nature of domestic work add to their vulnerability.⁷

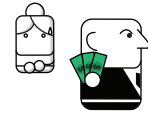


7 Migrant domestic workers, especially those who are live-in, often go into debt to their employer or recruitment agency to cover the cost of travel and/or the recruitment fees. They are expected to work off this debt, which can often take up to a year or longer.⁸

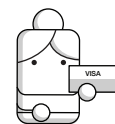


During this period, most or all of their salary is kept by their employers or goes directly to the agency. This debt and lack of money makes domestic workers more vulnerable to exploitation.

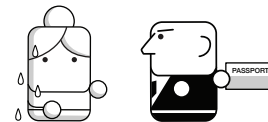
8 Illegal annual profits generated from forced labour in domestic work in Asia Pacific amounts to over US\$6.3 billion. This means that about US\$3,300 (about 60 per cent of their wages) is being withheld from each exploited domestic worker every year.⁹



9 Domestic workers are frequently expected to work longer hours than other workers and, in many countries, they do not have the same rights to weekly rest. Additionally, in some countries visas for domestic workers are tied to their employers, meaning if migrants leave their employer their visas become invalid.



10 Many employers confiscate their domestic workers passports and immigration documents.



This may seem like a reasonable way to keep important documents safe and ensure that domestic workers do not run away but in fact keeping your own documents is each person's right and contributes to a positive relationship of trust and open communication.

¹International Labour Organization (ILO). 2013. *Domestic Workers Across the World*

²International Labour Organization (ILO). "Who are domestic workers?"

Available from: http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/domestic-workers/WCMS_209773/lang-en/index.htm (accessed 20 April 2017)

³International Labour Organization (ILO). 2017. *Transnational Migration of Domestic and Care Workers in Asia Pacific*

⁴International Labour Organization (ILO). 2014. *Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour*

⁵Andrevski, H. and Lynneham S. (Australian Government). 2014. *Experiences of exploitation and human trafficking among a sample of Indonesian migrant domestic workers. Trends & Issues in crime and criminal justice. (471)*

⁶International Organization for Migration (IOM). 2014. *IOM Thailand Migration Report*.

⁷International Labour Organization (ILO). 2013. *Domestic workers across the world: Global and regional statistics and the extent of legal protection*.

⁸Malay, M. and Axelrod N. 2015. *Indonesia's Migrant Workers: Dreams and Tears. The Diplomat. 16 March.*

⁹International Labour Organization (ILO). 2014. *Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour*

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