



Picture by Matthijs de Bruijne

NEWSLETTER IMWU NL OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2013



IMWU NL is a self-founded organisation, established by and for the Indonesian Migrant Workers in the Netherlands. IMWU NL aims at promoting the labour rights for all workers particularly Indonesian, both documented and undocumented, in the Netherlands. We determine to eliminate human trafficking, jobs trade, abuses and various forms of human rights violation and discrimination against all workers particularly the Indonesian workers in the Netherlands.

Nieuwe Herengracht 20, 1018 DP, Amsterdam

Paardenberg 1a, 2572 XH, Den Haag

contact number: +31685006458

email: imwu_nl@yahoo.nl / info@imwu-nl.com

facebook account: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000822359009>

facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Indonesian-Migrant-Workers-Union-Netherlands-](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Indonesian-Migrant-Workers-Union-Netherlands-IMWU-NL/249827881709642)

[IMWU-NL/249827881709642](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Indonesian-Migrant-Workers-Union-Netherlands-IMWU-NL/249827881709642)

Twitter: [@IMWUNetherlands](https://twitter.com/IMWUNetherlands)

Website: www.imwu-nl.com

KVK. 54442796

IMWU NL

IMWU NL was visited by one of our advisory board members, Mr.Surya Tjandra, from Trade Union Rights Centre, Indonesia. Mr Tjandra and his fellow PHD students, Mr.Fachri, Mr.Joko Ismono, a Judge of the Indonesian Industrial Relation Court, Mr.Hari Nugroho from the University of Indonesia visited to support our movement and to celebrate the Decent work day.



LOBBY & CAMPAIGN

The Issue of Domestic Workers in the Netherlands



In commemorating Decent work day, IMWU NL and all self organisations such as UMDW, Otradela, Migrante, Care, Pasaway, etc attended the meeting of Domestic Worker with the Vice of Minister Asscher from Social affair. The meeting is organized by FNV Bondgenoten. The Domestic Workers demands that the domestic work should be recognized and the ILO Convention 189 should be ratified.

Check also the video from Coring, the Leader of Netherlands Domestic Workers
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HzrqgaLfijY&feature=share>



Picture by Coring de Los Reyes



Domestic Workers Netherlands have a new board member at FNV Bondgenoten. We welcome Ms. Ashna Kamta as our new board. We wish for the movement of domestic workers campaign to be recognized and protected, and that it will be more visible and achieve more goals.

We will be missing our previous organizer and board, Ms. Rebeca Pabon and Mr. Mari Marten. We send our best gratitude for them as it was a great journey we had together. But we know they will always support us, our campaign is in their heart.

Picture by Ashna Kamta

Just like Coring who has shown us that the support is always there for us, from Lot van Baaren, the person that brings domestic workers into FNV, Katrien Depuydt, the first organiser in FNV Bondgenoten. Virgie Tonogan, supporter of United Migrant Domestic Workers (UMDW), and Marijke Bijl as well as Matthijs de Bruijne. Our great appreciation for them.

Picture by Coring de Los Reyes.



Domestic Workers in Action!

On 2 November 2013, at last, the Domestic Workers has increase the visibility in public. FNV Bondgenoten organized an action which all groups of domestic workers took part of.¹

And kindly find the News and more pictures and video here:

<http://www.at5.nl/artikelen/114592/boze-schoonmakers-protesteren-op-museumplein>

https://www.facebook.com/imwu.nl/media_set?set=a.582802825090457.1073741837.100000822359009&type=1

<http://vimeo.com/82231705> from Matthijs de Bruijne



In regards to the domestic workers, The Netherlands is considering to follow the Belgium system by proposing to use a paycheck for the payments to domestic workers.

http://www.telegraaf.nl/dft/21950985/PWC_Subsidie_op_huishoudelijke_hulp.html

Would this system be the best?



In any case, FNV Bondgenoten gave a media training for the domestic workers and in such training we formulate our message:

Wij maken huizen schoon en passen op kinderen van mensen, zodat zij kunnen werken. Die mensen vertrouwen ons. We hebben zelf hun huissleutel.

Wij doen belangrijk werk voor Nederland. Daarom willen wij dezelfde bescherming als alle andere werker in Nederland. Dus de regering moet ons werk legaliseren en erkennen als een echt werk, wij willen verzekerd zijn als we ziek worden, maar we willen ook gewoon belasting betalen, wij er gewoon bij horen.

From the message above, it's clear that the contribution we make is attached to the employers. The campaign to ratify the ILO Convention 189 is not only the campaign of domestic workers but also should be considered as a campaign of the domestic employers. We are here because the employers need us. Therefore, for the 3rd times, the FNV Bondgenoten organized an employer's gathering.

The event aims at providing a forum for employers to discuss all their concerns in connection to collective agreement (Collective Arbeids Oveerenkomst) to work vis-a-vis the interests of domestic workers. The discussion will be focusing partly on the possibility of regulating domestic work in the Netherlands based on ILO Convention - 189.

Moreover, the event is an opportune time to develop a good and strong relationship with the group of domestic workers. The meeting will also provide a momentum for a possibility of establishing an association of employers in the Netherlands which is, in the long run, necessary for their own benefits to have a strong voice in the thriving cleaning industry.





In the middle of the great moment of Domestic Workers Netherlands, our best leader, Coring de Los Reyes, must return to Philippine after more than 15 years in the Netherlands due to her family concern due to the passing away of her mother. Her lost is our lost too. But gratefully she could meet her mother before she died. Our great leader is now in Philippine, but we must move on and go on. Coring is now busy re-integrating in her country. She's busy with some investments and businesses that she prepared here in the Netherlands before she went back home. We really miss you in the movement, ate Coring. We will meet again!

Domestic Workers at International Level

International Domestic Workers Confederation is established! Find more information in IDWN website: <http://www.idwn.info/news/idwn-congress-our-new-federation-born> . Our leader Coring was chosen as the representative in Europe.

Domestic Workers at European level



IMWU NL attended the event of Domestic Workers' Rights – Two years after the adoption of the ILO Convention organised by European United Left (GUE/NGL).

<http://www.guengl.eu/news/article/events/domestic-workers-rights-two-years-after-the-adoption-of-the-ilo-convention>

Workers issue

Domestic workers Netherlands and IMWU NL took part in an action organized by FNV demanding to end up the financial crisis in the Netherlands. A lot of people are jobless because of the budget cut from the government. It gives implications also to the domestic workers. A lot of domestic workers have less work since the employers are dismissed from their job.



Migrant workers issue

IMWU NL and PICUM attended a very important event, the 1st European Conference of Trade Union Service for Migrant which was organized by ETUC which was held in Brussels. It is important that the trade union develop more services to the migrant workers.

In this opportunity in Brussels, we met Mr. Ludovicus Mardiyono, the president of JOCI (International Young Christian Workers). JOCI has an extensive working experience with Indonesian migrants in Hongkong and now they are based in Brussels and would like to have a connection and collaboration to IMWU NL. We really hope that a great collaboration could be made in the future with JOCI.



EMPOWERMENT

On Tuesday, 12 November, IMWU NL in collaboration with PASAWAY, Migrante Den Haag and Filmis organised training on access to health care with Dokters van de Wereld (NL). Around 30 participants were there and the information given was on the practical information focusing on the things 'to do' when you fall sick, if you want to go to doctor, midwife, dentist, and also how is the payment while you don't have any insurance!



The next empowerment program by IMWU NL has a principle to invest knowledge to the members so that if they return to Indonesia, they have the knowledge to develop a business or to do investment. We congratulate our leaders Mr. [Tjan Juleo](#) and [Maria Ulva](#) who completed the training on business and investment for migrants against poverty from [Seva Network Foundation](#). Similar to this program, The Filipino group has also training with LSE in the Hague.

FNV Bondgenoten provides also a media related training in which some members, including our leader, Faisol, follow the training. Beside joining a training or information night, we encourage our members to give and share they knowledge to each other. It has been done by Faisol by sharing his knowledge and experience to other migrants organized by het Wereldhuis Amsterdam in schoonmaak training/ training on cleaning.

Furthermore, some of our members are involved in PEER research, a research on: COUNT US IN: THE HEALTH NEEDS OF UNDOCUMENTED PEOPLE IN TWO DUTCH CITIES (ROTTERDAM AND THE HAGUE), organized and hold by Institute of Social Studies. Our members involve themselves are researchers who conduct interview, transcription and translation.

VISIBILITY



The making of 'Luister naar ons' (Listen to us),
photo by Tita Salina



IMWU NL participated in the art project by Irwan Ahmett and Tita Salina in collaboration with KUNCI Cultural Studies Centre (made in common project) at which the exhibition took place in Stedelijk Museum Bureau on 30 Nov 2013 - 26 Jan 2014 :<http://www.stedelijk.nl/en/exhibitions/sm>

Irwan ahmett and Tita Salina brought the issue of Indonesian migrant workers in the Netherlands up to the surface by making a project titled 'Merah Putih Membiru', showing the expression of the migrant workers (Listening of our expression), sounding our voices (Listen to us), and screening us (migrants in the eyes of people). It was a great visibility to us as a minor and vulnerable group.



Listen to us, was sounding also in Indonesian embassy in The Hague. Photo by IMWU NL

HEALTH CARE ISSUE

IMWU NL attended the meeting to improve the system of dentist for the undocumented organized by St. OKIA and Dokters van de Wereld. We delivered the messages from the situation in the field, the obstacles faced by the undocumented in relation to the issue of tooth-care problems. Dokters van de Wereld and the network will approach dentists to assist the undocumented. We are happy of this effort and we really appreciate this effort.

Another news from our family doctor in Amsterdam, she is taking pension and returning to Indonesia. We will miss her and especially her great assistances. However we stress to the members that every doctor in the neighborhood could be visited if anyone is sick.

SOLIDARITY



Happy migrant day! IMWU NL in solidarity cooked the Christmas dinner for the Wereldhuis the Hague and contribute Indonesian traditional dance for the Hague Wereldhuis Amsterdam.



IMWU NL in solidarity against the death penalty particularly to our fellow in Malaysia (Wilfrida), please sign this petition to support her. <http://www.change.org/id/petisi/pengadilan-malaysia-bebaskan-wilfrida-dari-hukuman-mati-najibrazak>
http://www.change.org/id/petisi/pengadilan-malaysia-bebaskan-wilfrida-dari-hukuman-mati-najibrazak?share_id=IbnXNYMHfL&utm_campaign=twitter_link_action_box&utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=share_petition



UNDOCUMENTED ISSUE



Kindly find our article: "Who wants to be undocumented?" (in Bahasa) , following our campaign to get passport for Indonesian undocumented. <http://t.co/0FzMvEeObV>.

Indonesian over stayers have no right to an Indonesian passport. Instead of providing them with passports, our government provides travel document in lieu of passport (SPLP) which can only be used to return to Indonesia. A lot of Indonesian people remain without ID because of such regulation. Therefore, when there is a receiving country which accept and regularize the undocumented people, there would be a chaos in completing documents. It happened in Saudi Arabia where they regularize the undocumented and thousands Indonesian people suddenly went to the Indonesian embassy to process their document (SPLP). As a result, chaos happened and many of the undocumented could not be regularized and was detained including woman and children. Please refer to: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/182409751/Press-Release-TKI-Overstay-pdf> , http://www.change.org/id/petisi/presiden-sbyudhoyono-ribuan-tki-menunggu-anda-di-saudi-ribuanmenunggusby?share_id=JupVnpltKc&utm_campaign=twitter_link_action_box&utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=share_petition and <http://t.co/jXWXYAFc>. It would not have happened if the regulation of providing ID (passport) is not overly complicated. IMWU NL with other Indonesian network under the Indonesian Diaspora network gives support and call the Government to urgently take an action to protect the people: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/182409668/Pernyataan-Pers-MWTF-IDN-06-Nop-2013-pdf>

A positive news for Indonesian undocumented from our embassy, saying that SPLP could be used as an ID to transfer money to Indonesia via SURI CHANGE (www.surichange.nl).

However in the other hand, the Dutch government stated about the quota to arrest and return the undocumented people up to 4000 people in 2014. Please refer to: <http://www.nu.nl/politiek/3604974/kamer-wil-af-van-illegalenquotum.html>

Therefore, it is important to keep the contact of our immigration lawyer **Mr. Robert Seth Paul**, phone **020-5287705, 0616214926**.

Advocacy / List of Cases & Assistances IMWU October-December 2013

No.	Cases between Oct - December 2013	Number of reports & assistances
1.	cases of arrest	3
2.	access to health care	13
3.	return	7
4.	woman & Children	6
5.	Employment relationship	2
6.	sharing information/others	3

OTHER NEWS

We are proud of our fellow Said Iqbal, the leader of Indonesian labour movement who organize thousands of workers to achieve the equality of social justice. The documentary is produced by FNV Mondiaal: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMn7ZATlawg> (in Bahasa)

Please kindly find our last newsletter : <http://t.co/u7JGcgy5eX>

ANNOUNCEMENT: Next year will be the election of the new Indonesia President, therefore, IMWU NL would remind all members about our policy related to the politics, political pat, etc. Please find our policy : <https://www.facebook.com/notes/imwu-netherlands/pernyataan-sikap-imwu-nl-terhadap-keterlibatan-anggota-dalam-organisasi-politik/182867548448799>

Kindly find also our report on one day seminar on labour migration, labour market and labour rights : <http://t.co/Yd6RRqgUnX>

Our secretary General , Yasmine Soraya, was also interviewed and please find her profile here: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10202792106913885&set=a.1905609490076.2115261.1536941127&type=1&theater>

Last but not least, IMWU NL ends the year with the leaders meeting, WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2014.



a soul never been old, a soul never been sick...
In memoriam of Slamet Heri Soetardjo 2 march 1981-24 November 2012
Our friend, our brother and our previous chairperson

http://www.majalahsedane.net/2013/01/2-tahun-imwu-nl-mengenang-sosok-slamet_5.html