



Celebrating the third collaboration with Indonesian Migrant Workers Union in October. Wish us luck! Picture by Tita Salina

## NEWSLETTER IMWU NL

April – June 2014



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.

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## IMWU NEWS



Following up our great news in the last Newsletter which stated that all Indonesian undocumented people have rights to Indonesian passport, this year, after so many years, many of Indonesian undocumented take part in the voting for the Indonesian parliamentarian and presidential election.

It is very important to us to be in possession of a passport as national identification document. Not only that we have rights to an identity but by having a passport, we could vote and therefore our voice is also heard and counted! We can also choose our representative who will sit at Indonesian Parliament and we could vote for our next President! It's a great achievement for us!



Therefore, even though the struggle goes on, we needed to celebrate our achievements. Our little celebration was attended by our Ambassador, Ibu Retno Marsudi and colleagues from Indonesian embassy; Bapak Imam Asari and Ibu Vevi Damayanti. In this opportunity, some of our advisory board members were also present; Ratna Saptari (Univ. Of Leiden), Maria Lainsamputty (Den Haag Wereldhuis), Evelyn Schwarz (Het Wereldhuis Amsterdam), Paul The Gwan Tjaij (SKIN-GKIN). Our Honorary guests from National Commission for Women issues and Prof. Ben White (ISS) also attended our celebration. In addition, all leaders of IMWU NL from big cities in the Netherlands (Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam) took part, attended and contributed to the food.



## EMPOWERMENT



IMWU Amsterdam organised an information night on access to health care and inviting Dokters van de Wereld to give explanation on the rights for the undocumented. Many IMWU members took part and enjoyed the night which was concluded with a dinner. In another city, IMWU Rotterdam held also an information session in collaboration with Dokters van de Wereld. The Hague group has organised this information night at the end of 2013.

IMWU NL in collaboration with the Indonesian embassy, published information books on the rights to health care, education and legal aid. We have distributed the books to more than 10 Indonesian community organisations and to our Dutch networks. On our website [www.imwu-nl.com](http://www.imwu-nl.com), such information booklets could be freely downloaded. The books are also available at our embassy, the Hague Wereldhuis, and Het Wereldhuis Amsterdam to inform all Indonesian migrants particularly the new comers.



We have also organised the information day/night to discuss the information books, to give information on the rights of the undocumented to our members. More than 150 members from Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague were informed. In conclusion, up to now, we estimated more than 1000 Indonesian migrants are already informed on such important basic rights.



IMWU NL had also the opportunity to strengthen its network with PPNI (Indonesian Nurses Association) in the Netherlands. We had BBQ and on this opportunity, we invited also Police officer from Diversity department Amsterdam, Hans Schipper and Sydney Mutueel from the Police Department on national level. They explained on the rights for the undocumented to report or to declare to the police when they are being a victim of exploitation, abuse or another criminal case.

The undocumented could go to the Police and report the exploitation/ abuse which happen to them. They were informed that they should bring some supporting evidence in order to give value to their declaration. The Police will help them without looking at their immigration status. Also, the Police will not arrest the undocumented victim and put them in the detention centre.

However this mission (not a project – stressed by Sydney Mutueel) is still in a development process in other cities. Amsterdam has already a system but the other cities are still working on it.



## VISIBILITY

To commemorate MAYDAY, IMWU NL participated in a volley tournament organised by IOM. Other organisations from the Hague Wereldhuis, Fillipinos organisation LSE, Vluchtelingen werk also took a part in the event. IMWU NL won the first place. The event was held not only to commemorate the mayday and winning the competition but also to strengthen our network internally and externally.



IMWU NL also sent its delegation to participate at a Badminton tournament in Maastricht organized by PPI (Indonesian student association) Maastricht and won the second place of Maastricht Miriam Habibie Cup . The same victory happened for our delegation at Groenscup competition organized by PPI Groningen. We are the 2<sup>nd</sup> place of volleyball and Badminton competition.



Sport is important for us as a positive media to be visible, to deliver our message that we are part of the community, we exist. Not only about our existences, but also to deliver the message that we have skills, we should be recognized and respected.



Furthermore, IMWU NL was taking a part also at Indonesian Diaspora Network Europe Summit on 31 May-1 June 2014 in The Hague. Some representatives from Indonesian Diaspora Germany, Poland, Belgium etc attended the summit. The summit was attended in order to strengthen the Indonesian Diaspora Network at European level and to look for possibilities in working together. For more information please kindly refer to <http://indonesiandiasporanl.wix.com/english>

At the summit, IMWU NL organized a discussion to forward the issues of Indonesian Migrant Workers in EU as general, to share experiences in other countries and to find recommendations of some action plans for the future activities.

IMWU NL was also attending PICUM ([www.picum.org](http://www.picum.org)) General Assembly represented by Hafizh Atfin. This annual event delivered the campaign of terminology to use the word 'undocumented' or 'irregular', instead of using the word 'illegal'. (Picture by PICUM). For the report of Hafizh Atfin, please kindly refer to: [http://www.imwu-nl.com/informasi/Report\\_GA\\_PICUM\\_2014.pdf](http://www.imwu-nl.com/informasi/Report_GA_PICUM_2014.pdf)

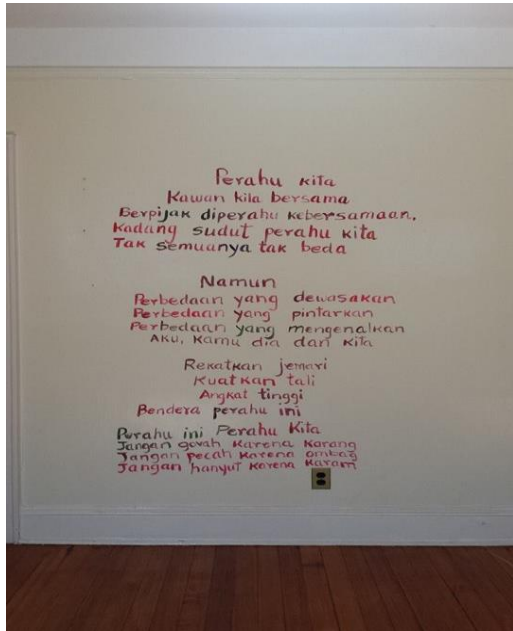


### **MIGRANT (DOMESTIC) WORKERS ISSUE**

IMWU NL had an opportunity to attend ETUC conference on European network for assistance for integration of migrant workers and their families. ETUC has an idea that every country should have an information point for migrant workers and their families. We support this idea since there is a need of information for migrant workers.



Happy international domestic workers day !



Please kindly find our videos <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCsQNUZYCKo> and <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=674822295888509> .

IMWU NL participated in celebrating the International Domestic Workers Day. We participated in Domestic Workers Poetry project by [Mark Nowak](#) on June 15, 2014. The poem by [Ajeng Amoe](#) is written on the walls of a building on Governor's Island in New York City (not far from the Statue of Liberty).

Thank you [Mark Nowak](#), [Marissa Begonia](#) and all [J4dW](#) fellows. In solidarity to all domestic workers in the world!!

Please also refer to <http://culturestrike.net/run-of-the-house>

## UNDOCUMENTED ISSUE

The Alliance of Human Rights for the Undocumented (AHRU) which IMWU NL is part of, organized a discussion day which raised up the theme on 'Is criminalisation of undocumented migrants over, now the proposal of law is off the table?'

Presented at the day, the researcher Tesseltje de Lange and Arjen Leerkens which explained their research about the EU Return directive and the entry ban. There were also discussions on the safe report for the undocumented as the victim of criminal action.



## SOLIDARITY

IMWU NL gives its solidarity to Monthly dinner Den haag wereldhuis and at the summer party of Het Wereldhuis Amsterdam. We cooked great foods!



## ASSISTANCES

IMWU NL gives assistances to Indonesian migrants in particular. We give the first aid such as giving information, references to other organization that is specialized in the case, to the lawyer, doctor/health practitioner, etc. From April-June 2014, the list of assistances is as follows:

| No. | Cases                 | Number of people | Notes                                          |
|-----|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Access to health care | 6                | Inc.payment etc                                |
| 2.  | Return                | 8                | Referring to IOM                               |
| 3.  | Arrest                | 14               | Contacting advocate, giving advices etc        |
| 4.  | passport              | 5                |                                                |
| 5.  | Human Trafficking     | 1                | Undocumented nanny                             |
| 6.  | Undocumented children | 2                | School, kinderpardon                           |
| 7.  | Domestic violence     | 2                |                                                |
| 8.  | Au pair               | 1                | Human trafficking/<br>problem with host family |

At this moment, IMWU NL is campaigning on 'safe report' for the undocumented who became a victim or a witness of human trafficking or other criminal action. We experienced that our fellows, the undocumented, were arrested and deported after they provided report and testimony as a witness in regard on the case that they know of. Please find the article here: <http://www.doorbraak.eu/indonesische-migrantenvakbond-strijdt-voor-arbeidsrechten/> or here in English: <http://www.imwu-nl.com/informasi/razzia.pdf>

## OTHER INFORMATION



Please kindly see our information about au pairs:

<http://www.imwu-nl.com/AU%20PAIRS.pdf>

New documents in our website: <http://www.imwu-nl.com/narative.html>

And our last newsletter: <http://t.co/BqP7HFqDRj>

<http://www.imwu-nl.com/newsletter/Newsletter%20Jan-Mar%202014%20IMWU%20NL.pdf>

Also our Annual report 2013: <http://www.imwu-nl.com/annual.pdf>

(Picture by Yanie septya)

*If you were Umi, what would you do?*

Produced by The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) of Hong Kong, "Harassment" talks about Umi, a young Indonesian migrant domestic worker, who were sexually harassed by her male employer. Umi has a family of more than ten members in Indonesia with a very heavy economic burden. Facing a situation like this, what can Umi do?

Watch the video in English, Cantonese or Mandarin (also available with subtitles in Bahasa Indonesia and Thai): <http://j.mp/1toqBFw>



## MARHABAN YA RAMADHAN

IMWU NL will be off to respect Ramadhan from 28/29 June to 27/28 July 2014.

We wish you to have a great Ramadhan!