



NEWSLETTER IMWU NL

January – March 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 are determined to fight for the elimination of human trafficking, jobs trade, abuses and various forms of human rights violations 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-IMWU-NL/249827881709642>

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

Website: www.imwu-nl.com

KVK. 54442796

Great News!

We opened the first quarter of the year with a lot of great achievements.



Indonesian Undocumented are allowed to get new passports to replace their expired ones!

Finally, after years, the undocumented Indonesian migrants in the Netherlands can get a new passport to replace their expired ones. Before this, the Indonesian Embassy could only issue a travel document which was aimed to push for the return of the undocumented to Indonesia. Such travel document

could hardly be used as an identity card, therefore, a lot of undocumented Indonesian migrants faced difficulties to identify themselves when they had to go to the hospital, school or to send money via western union or money gram etc.

Since its establishment, IMWU NL has struggled to allow the provision of a passport for the Indonesian undocumented. The issuance of travel document is not in line with the official regulations. After some intense dialogues, lobbies to the embassy in The Hague and the government in Jakarta, and with all support and also good intentions from various sides including from our Ambassador, finally, last February, the Directorate General of Immigration issued a circular letter approving the issuance of passports for ALL Indonesian citizens including those who are undocumented in other countries.

For this struggle see the following websites:

<http://www.majalahsedane.net/2012/08/kemerdekaan-yang-semu-passport-sebagai.html>

<http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:http://www.majalahsedane.net/2013/10/sia-pa-sih-yang-mau-jadi-undocumented.html>

<http://picum.org/en/news/blog/35627/>

New Advisory Board Members of IMWU NL



IMWU NL is honored to have Mr. Paul The Gwan Tjai and Ms. Maria Lainsamputty as its new advisory board members. Mr. Gwan Tjai and Ms. Lainsamputty have a lot of experiences in working at International environment and in the matter of rights for the (undocumented) migrants. For other members of our advisory board, please find at: <http://www.imwu-nl.com/structure.html>

UNDOCUMENTED ISSUE

UNDOCUMENTED IS NOT CRIMINAL!

Another great news!! Finally, the proposal to criminalize the undocumented is 'out of the table'. The political parties VVD and PVDA agreed to withdraw the proposal to criminalise the undocumented. We hail this decision with much joy and happy tears. No one wants to be undocumented. We are not criminals!

It's a great achievement for us all. Even though so, the struggle goes on. In practice, the undocumented are still treated as criminal. We need the consistency of the decision above and the implementation on the field.

Find more news: <http://m.nos.nl/artikel/630578> , <http://www.hartvannederland.nl/top-nieuws/2014/illegaliteit-wordt-niet-straftbaar/> , <http://www.volkskrant.nl/vk/nl/2686/Binnenland/article/detail/3626235/2014/04/01/Strafbaarstelling-illegaliteit-van-tafel.dhtml>

DOMESTIC WORKERS ISSUE



Last January, Domestic Workers Netherlands (Alfa hulp, thuiszorg, home cleaners) from FNV and RESPECT met with the Kalsbeek Commission from the Ministry of Social Affairs to discuss the position of domestic workers in the Netherlands and the proposal to ratify ILO Convention 189. And last March, the report was finally out.

Find the full report here:

<http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten-en-publicaties/kamerstukken/2014/03/28/aanbiedingsbrief-rapport-commissie-dienstverlening-aan-huis.html>

The report and the advice are aimed to improve the position of domestic workers particularly the alfahulp / home cleaner and child care at home. The Commission shows in the report the consequences for the government in giving more protection to these workers as well as when they ratifying the ILO Convention. The advices include also to use of the paycheck system (Belgian system) or the tax deduction system if Netherland want to ratify such convention. At the end of the advice, the

commission also suggests to have a public debate to discuss further on this issue.



Meanwhile, the struggle goes on! Together with the cleaners FNV Bondgenoten, Domestic workers were doing actions. The Alliance of Human Rights for the Undocumented (AHRU) which IMWU NL is part of, organized also performances for the employers of domestic workers.

IMWU NL also gives its solidarity to the struggle of domestic workers in Indonesia:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=625932967444109&set=vb.100000822359009&type=2&theater>

We call everyone to sign the petition for Indonesian government to ratify ILO Convention 189 and adopt the Law to protect the domestic workers: <http://t.co/k2EZra6ij6>

VISSIBILITY



On 18 January, IMWU NL was involved in the event organized by the Indonesian Diaspora Network (IDN NL):

<http://indonesiandiasporanl.wix.com/english> .

We had 2 sessions and we were inviting Michiel AI from FNV Bondgenoten to discuss the importance of trade union for migrant workers, and Richard de Fretes & Simon RIriassa to discuss the need/ demand of Indonesian workers to work in Europe/the Netherlands.

Our vice chairperson, Faisol Iskandar, gave also a presentation also on the access to health care for the undocumented.

IMWU NL was also involved in the PASAR MALAM Amsterdam which was organized by Amsterdam Production House and Stichting Nusantara. The event was a success. A lot of visitors came, and IMWU NL obtained contributions from the organizers . Thank you !



IMWU NL was invited also in a public dialogue with the Indonesian vice President, Mr. Boediono, in the Hague.

Mr.Boediono came to the Netherlands to attend the Nuclear Summit and it's great honor for usto have opportunity to attend this public dialogue.



EMPOWERMENT



IMWU NL organized an information night on legal rights of the undocumented. Our lawyer, Seth Paul, gave explanations, as well as tips on what to do and what NOT to do in case of arrest.

Furthermore, the women members of IMWU NL began also to be involved in some activities of the Wereldhuis in the Hague to empower themselves. We are really proud of them!

And in commemorating Women's International Day, IMWU NL had the honor to be invited and gave presentation on Indonesian Domestic Workers in the event of Stichting DIAN, Indonesian women organization in Amsterdam.



We support also the campaign against abuse and torture to women and all migrant workers in the world: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=634579649912774>

ORGANISING AND MOBILISING

Early this year was the time for IMWU NL to gather and to come together with its members. In this opportunity, we collaborated with the Indonesian election committee and held gatherings in Rotterdam, the Hague and Amsterdam.



The election committee (PPLN) gave explanations regarding the elections on April 5 and July 9, the undocumented could also give their voice by showing the valid Indonesian passport/ travel document. The undocumented is only in the eyes of Dutch government, but for Indonesian government, we are their citizens. LONG LIVE INDONESIA! Further info: <http://ppln.nl/>



SOLIDARITY AND ASSISTANCE



IMWU NL gave their solidarity to Erwiana, an Indonesian domestic worker in Hongkong. The employer of Erwiana abused her and tried to send her back home to Indonesia. Fortunately, one of the Indonesian fellows met Erwiana at the airport and gave assistance directly until her return in Indonesia. Such injustice and unacceptable action from her employer brought a lot of responses from all domestic migrant workers. Our fellows in Hongkong organized a demonstration and we gave our solidarity from the Netherlands.

Another case that grabbed our attention is the case of our fellow Indonesian domestic worker in

Saudi Arabia, Satinah. She was accused of killing her employer. She would be executed last 3 April if she could not pay 5 million Real. The migrant organizations and activists lobbied the Indonesian government to pay the money and protect Satinah since she did the crime to defend herself. IMWU NL also sent some contribution to support Satinah. And we thank God, Satinah is now free from dead execution.

http://www.amnesty.org.au/action/action/34223/?utm_source=int2014&utm_medium=email-sf&utm_content=take+action



IMWU NL gives also solidarity to the World House (Wereldhuis) the Hague, by cooking for the information night on Care for the Undocumented (thuiszorg for the undocumented).

Assistance:

No.	Cases	Number of people	Notes
1.	Access to health care	22	Inc. access to payment etc
2.	Return	8	
3.	Arrest	12	
4.	others	1	Housing

IMWU NL give assistances to its members. The assistances include the access to health care , return, legal access in case of arrest etc.

SRINGATIN WAS IN TOWN



Sringatin, the Chairperson of IMWU Hongkong and vice coordinator of Task Force of Migrant Workers Indonesian Diaspora Global came to the Netherlands last March. In her very short visit she had an opportunity to join AHRU Meeting, and sharing her experiences about the undocumented migrant domestic workers in Hongkong. She met also IMWU NL leaders, Mr. Ebed Litaay, the chairperson of Indonesian Diaspora Network the Netherlands and Mr. Imam Asari and Ms. Vevi Damayanti , the counselors from the Indonesian embassy. We were very happy with her visit, we learned a lot and became more united!



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>

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



IMWU NL, supported by the Indonesian Embassy in the Netherlands, published information books for Indonesian migrants in the Netherlands. The books are divided into 3 subjects: 1. Information on access to health care, 2. Information on access to education in the Netherlands, 3. Information on legal aid.

These books can be accessed online via our website: www.imwu-nl.com or please contact info@imwu-nl.com. IMWU NL will also distribute these books to its networks and members and organize information nights to discuss the information included in the books.

NEXT AGENDA

AHRU INFORMATION MIDDAY 10 MAY 2014 on 14.00 – 17.30 at ISS den Hague which will discuss on the entry ban and freely report to the police by Tesseltje de Lange and Arjen Leerkes as well as Sidney Mutueel .