



NEWSLETTER IMWU NL

October - December 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 to finalize the documentary film project

In this year, as a notion to present real living condition of Indonesian migrant, IMWU aims to make a documentation telling about the bad and good sides of being migrant in Europe. The continent, where many countries offer a number of opportunity for people to get a good job and earn more money, is considered to be a dreamland for migrant to pursue their dream to find a better living condition. However, the reality is much different from the nice story and beautiful promise they got before they go to Europe. Their life is far from the term of nice and comfort living, but they have to fight hard to stay alive in this very strange social and culture environment. Moreover, most of them are undocumented migrants who want to do anything to get a piece of euro. Thus, it is not something surprising when they have to face exploitation and intimidation from their employer because of the undocumented

status. Sometime, they face difficulties when they have to deal with legal problem and administration system such as health service. Realizing that living in other country is not as easy and beautiful as they previously heard, their tears will drop with no end if they still lament their life condition. Keep struggling and never give up seem to be the motivation words to continue the life. One interesting point that they hold is that they are quite willing to do it for their family's happiness.

Taking the Netherlands as a country where many Indonesian migrants lives there, IMWU collaborating with Irwan Ahmett present the story about real struggle of migrant to improve their welfare and economic status as well as to give happiness life to their family. Coming to the Netherlands without adequate skill and document makes their life here is not going to be easy, but many constraints they should face along their effort to earn their living. Until now, they still battle for their lives and their rights as the worker in the Netherlands and want to be acknowledged their existence in giving contribution to the Dutch social and economics aspects.

Supported by many organizations, the film entitled "Dispereert Niet" is presented as the campaign movie to stand up for live of Indonesian migrant workers in the Netherlands. This film is also intended to raise public awareness and consciousness as well as government concerning this issue. Conducted intensively from 2013, in this year, the movie hopefully can be finalized and presented to public. More information is available on this link <https://dispereertniet.wordpress.com/>.

A very big gratitude we present to the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Mamacash, Gereja Katolik Indonesia Netherlands (GKIN), Garuda Indonesia, the Dutch NGOs and lawyer as well as Indonesia Diaspora for support and contribution in the making of this film. This documentary film will show another form of human life in the country where the social and cultural condition is truly different. This is *Dispereert Niet*, do not despair.

A Big Gratitude to Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia

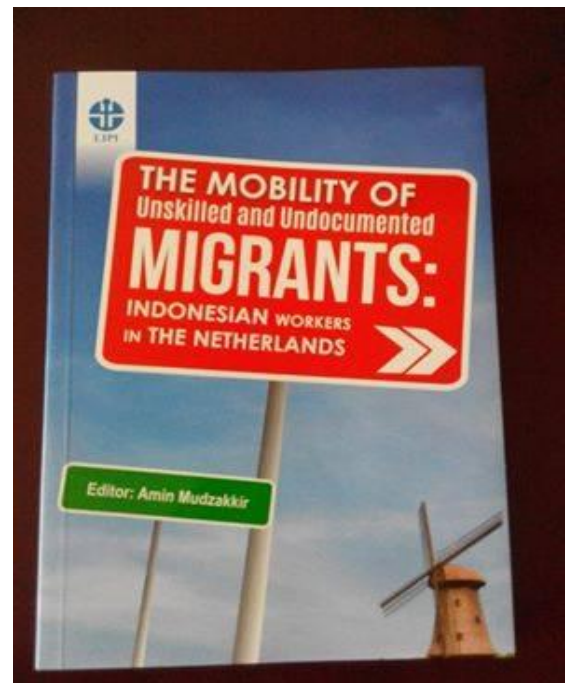


A gratitude to KBRI Den Haag, Bpk. Imam As'ari dan Ibu Vevie Damayanti, for a good intention and support to Indonesian migrants. This is part of IMWU effort to improve the capability and range in giving protection and assistance to all Indonesian migrant workers in the Netherlands.

Our Action is in the Book

LIPI (Indonesian Institute of Science) published the book to be a narrative report about the mobility and the life of Indonesian migrant workers in the Netherlands. The book will contain many aspects that are occurred in the everyday live of migrant workers to earn their living. Interestingly, the book not only talks about the social living itself but also highlight the political influence in attracting many migrants come to the country.

In the context of Indonesia, the book also tries to depict this phenomenon as the social and political issue that Indonesian government should put deep attention. A brief overview of this book is available on this page http://www.pdii.lipi.go.id/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/The-Mobility-of-Unskilled-and-Undocumented-Migrants_-Indonesian-Worker-in-the-Netherlands.pdf



EMPOWERMENT

Monthly Dinner and Information Sharing Night



Monthly dinner & information night on Vreemdelingenrecht organised by Den Haag Wereldhuis. As a part of IMWU mission to give knowledge to all Indonesian migrant workers, the info night program is held to give opportunity for migrant workers about the living system in the Netherlands. The dinner time is also provided to improve our togetherness and hospitality among others. It is nice night moment to share experience.

Let's learn Dutch language

Back to learn. To intensify member's skill in Dutch language, IMWU starts to provide and organize Dutch language course in every Sunday and Monday night. This is intentionally the mission of IMWU to improve migrant's capability so that they can adapt to native culture and society.



Pocket Book

As IMWU commitment to give protection and assistance to all Indonesian migrant workers in the Netherlands, proudly, IMWU present pocket book containing much useful information such as health service and advocacy. Generally, this book is sort of first aid for migrant workers when they face

'common-daily' problem in their everyday activity. The book is obliged to all migrant workers hence they will be more confident in doing their activity in the country where the culture is quite different with Indonesia.

Many thanks to Yasmine Soraya, Muhafidah Janariyah and Ajeng Amoe, and also Joss Wibisono and Koes Kome for the contribution in editing and issuing this book.

Understanding the Rights

A discussion with Seth Paul, advocate about the rights of undocumented migrants. This good moment has widely opened migrants' knowledge about the rights that they have as the worker in the Netherlands.



VISIBILITY

The Story



The phenomenon of the mobility of Indonesian migrant workers takes serious attention to LIPI (Indonesia Knowledge and Research Organization). They hold a discussion to deliver this issue to Indonesian public in order to draw awareness and consciousness that there is a bitter struggle for Indonesian to get a better living outside the country. The book entitled The Mobility of Unskilled and Undocumented Migrants: Indonesian Workers in the Netherlands

presents deep overview about the issue as well as depicting another real portrait of Indonesian living in European country. For more information, it is available on this link <http://interseksi.org/report/undocumented-migrants-cerita-orang-indonesia-di-luar-negeri/>

Financial Literacy

IMWU Netherland together with BNI Belanda, providing assistance for all Indonesian worker in the Netherlands to keep and send their money to Indonesia. Previously, many undocumented migrant worker keep their money under the bed or inside the socks because they have no complementary to open bank account in Dutch banks. Thus, the presence of BNI Belanda ultimately has overcome the problem faced by many migrant workers to manage their money. This partnership will give many advantages to also Indonesian people who live in the Netherlands.

Many thanks IMWU gives to BNI, Surichange and Ria-finance, and also especially Dessy Irawati-Rutten in facilitating this financial matter.



MIGRANT (DOMESTIC) WORKERS ISSUE

Domestic Worker Campaign and Participation



Involve in demonstration DomesticWorkers Netherlands FNV Bondgenoten on 19 November 2014 in front of Tweede Kamer in The Hague. Here, IMWU Participation is also intended to support domestic worker in all countries to have their rights as the workers.

PRT Tidak akan Diam (Fight for Domestic Worker)

We will consistently support all domestic workers to get their rights and their protection from any kind of exploitation behaviour because of undocumented status.





SOLIDARITY

Deep Condolence to

Deep condolence of Sarah van Walsum, Associate Proffesor Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Thank for all your help to us.

See <http://www.vu.nl/nl/nieuws-agenda/nieuws/2014/okt-dec/in-memorial-sarah-van-walsum.asp>

In Memoriam of Slamet Heri Sutardjo, the founder of IMWU NL, the 1st Chairperson of IMWU NL, Our beloved Brother. We will continue the struggle. You will always be missed.



Cooking Time

To release our tension in doing work everyday and to join the choir of happiness of end year 2014, The Hague office held cooking time as a party to enjoy our togetherness in 2014. Have a nice meal.

ORGANISING & MOBILISATION

Competition



To improve our fellowship among Indonesian migrant workers, IMWU holds a photo competition about the work of migrant worker. Apparently, this competition is such a way of sharing knowledge to get to know others' activity to obtain solidarity and empathy among Indonesian workers in the Netherlands. On the other hand, this competition is also aimed to increase personal confidence to domestic worker to not to be low self-esteem, but they have to be glad to.

Kontes foto. "Ini Kerjaku!" Be proud of your work!

New Year is Coming

KUMPUL TAHUN BARU IMWU NL & Workshop dari Mark Nowak, Pemenang penghargaan puisi dari Amerika.



NEW YEAR PARTY & WORKSHOP BY Mark Nowak, an award-winning American poet, as well as cultural critic, playwright and essayist, from Buffalo, New York.

AMSTERDAM, Sunday/Minggu 4 January 2015, at 15.00-18.00 in Nieuwe Herengracht 20, Amsterdam

DEN HAAG, Friday/Jumat 9 January 2015, at 19.00-21.00 in St.Yasmin, Brouwersgracht 2a, den haag

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For the New Year, IMWU has different style to celebrate it. The event is not only to have fun in party but also to have a workshop by Mark Nowak, an award-winning American poet, as well as cultural critic, playwright and essayist, from Buffalo, New York. While having fun, IMWU members obtain also delightful knowledge to stimulate the sense of art within their routine activity. It can be a good way to balance the mood as the motivation to work. All members are free to make some poems as the delineation of their feelings and emotion.

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 Oct-Dec 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	9	Referring to IOM
3.	Arrest	2	Contacting advocate, giving advices etc
4.	Passport	3	
6.	Work issue	1	School, kinderpardon
7.	Domestic violence	1	
8.	Others	4	Education, marriage, housing

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

And our last newsletter: http://www.imwu-nl.com/document/newsletter/Newsletter_2014_Jul-Sept.pdf

Justice for Ms. Erwiana (7 Dec 2014) (see <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Justice-for-Erwiana-and-All-Migrant-Domestic-Workers-Committee/644008498993582?pnref=story>)

It is our big solidarity and cares to strike out any kind of slavery to all domestic workers. This big support is intended to Ms. Erwiana who gets extreme abuse from her employer in Hong Kong.

IMWU is with you.





= HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015 =

WISHING YOU ALL BEST

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