Rights and Protection of Women Domestic Workers in the times of COVID-19

In the absence of a National Policy for Domestic Workers in India thus far, domestic workers do not enjoy status as registered workers; and are unable to secure rights, and access benefits. In the context of COVID-19, they are staring at possible job loss, non payment of their salaries during lock-down period and harassment on account of non-payment of rents and increased DV in addition to high risk as front-line workers.

**Critical Questions and Points of Discussion**

- What is the range of issues faced by the domestic workers in today’s context?
- What has been the response of Central and State Governments?
- What are the ILO Standards relevant to Domestic Workers and COVID-19? Are they being implemented?
- How can 'employers' be made accountable to continuing to ensure wage protection and support their workers? (e.g. in Delhi, Can RWAs be involved in meaningful dialogues?)
- How can CSOs and Domestic workers' unions address this issue and plan recovery interventions?
- What are some local, national and international strategies that have worked?

**Moderator:** Shruti Batra, Jagori

**Voice from the field:** Hirawati, Nari Ekta Shakti Sangathan

**Panelists:**

- **Aya Matsuura**, Gender Specialist, ILO
- **Geeta Menon**, Social Activist and Co-Founder of Stree Jagruti Samiti, Bangalore
- **Meeta Rajiv Lochan**, Member Secretary, NCW
- **Mewa Bharti**, Founder of Rajasthan Mahila Kamgaar Union
- **Nalini Nayak**, General Secretary, SEWA, Kerala
- **Shalini Sinha**, India Country Representative, WIEGO