



جمعية حماية العمال الوافدين  
Migrant Workers Protection Society  
(MWPS)

# MIGRANT VOICE

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 01 | EDITION 04 | APRIL 2024

## MISSION STATEMENT

**TO CREATE A COMMUNITY  
WHERE EXPATRIATE  
RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED  
AND TO RAISE AWARENESS  
OF THESE RIGHTS AND  
RESPONSIBILITIES**

## CONTENTS

- **SPOTLIGHT** - MEET THE TEAM
- **BULLETIN** - CAP ON RECRUITMENT COSTS FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS
- **OUTREACH** - CASES IN MARCH
- **IN FOCUS** - A CHRONICLE OF COMPASSION

Migrant workers have helped build our roads, homes and offices. We cannot stand and watch them be homeless.

**SONU SOOD**



## FROM THE CHAIRPERSON...

In this note, I wish to once again address a topic close to our hearts—the wellbeing of our expatriate community. But this time I would want to focus on the unusual weather patterns.

In the past month, we've witnessed an array of unexpected weather changes, from unseasonal rains to sweltering heat. Such fluctuations can be more than just an inconvenience; they can impact our health, our work, and our spirits. Yet, it's during these trying times that the strength of a community is truly shown.

At MWPS, we've stood as a steadfast pillar of support, offering assistance and guidance to those affected by these changes. Whether it's providing shelter during a storm or ensuring access to cool water and medical aid in the heat, we've been there. Our commitment to the well-being of every expatriate is firm.

We also understand that it's not just about physical health. The emotional toll of being away from home, coupled with environmental stressors, can be challenging. That's why our doors are always open for anyone needing a listening ear or a helping hand.

As we move forward, let's remember that we are more than just individuals; we are a community united. Together, we can weather any storm and emerge stronger.

Stay safe and connected.

With warm regards,

**MONA ALMOAYYED**

CHAIRPERSON

MIGRANT WORKERS PROTECTION SOCIETY

## GOOD JOB!

### ACCOLADES TO TEAM MWPS

Officials at the Nationality, Passport and Residence Affairs (NPRA) recognised the outstanding efforts of the MWPS with an accolade.



MWPS vice president Evone Bhaskaran had the honour of receiving the certificate of appreciation on behalf of MWPS, from NPRA Under-Secretary Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa.



## SPOTLIGHT

## EDITORIAL

### MEET THE TEAM

Get to know the exceptional individuals behind the MWPS scenes in this segment.



#teamwps

## ARCHITECTING CHANGE

KAVITHASREE SUVARNA  
TREASURER

Kavithasree Suvarna, is an experienced and certified architect, a mother of two, and a humanitarian by heart. She is a proud member of the MWPS family and has donned the cap of a member of the board of directors and serves as treasurer. Currently pursuing her master's degree in architecture at the University of Bahrain, Kavithasree hails from Bangalore, India. She believes in creating harmonious and eco-friendly spaces and extends her dedication to advocating for the welfare and rights of migrant workers through her role in MWPS. As a board member, she plays a crucial role in shaping the organisation's strategies and initiatives, ensuring effective advocacy for voiceless migrants.

As treasurer, Kavithasree demonstrates dedication and accountability in managing the society's finances, ensuring resources are utilised wisely to support MWPS's mission. She actively participates in workshops and seminars focused on empowering migrant rights and the impact of climate change on human mobility and utilises the knowledge to empower migrant workers.

Through her multifaceted contributions to MWPS, Kavithasree showcases the power of professional expertise and a deep passion for social causes. Her efforts are instrumental in fostering a more inclusive future for migrant workers.

In the past month, the Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS) has been the fortunate recipient of an outpouring of community support. Yes, as you browse through the pages of this newsletter, you will get to see. The numerous donations and dry rations provided have not only filled storerooms but also the hearts of many with hope and gratitude.

The thoughtfulness of the community serves as a testament to the spirit of solidarity that binds us all. In times when the world seems fragmented, these acts of kindness remind us that humanity still thrives on compassion and collective effort.

The contributions have ranged from essential food items to personal care products, each item signifying more than just material aid; they represent a message of unity and a shared responsibility towards the well-being of every member of our society, especially those who are far from home.

As we reflect on this wave of generosity, it's important to recognise that each donation, no matter how small, contributes to a larger narrative of inclusivity and support. It's a narrative that the MWPS and other organisations strive to foster every day, and the community's response has been nothing short of inspiring.

Let us continue to support the MWPS and the migrant community, not just with our donations but with our time, our voices, and our ongoing commitment to ensure that the rights and dignity of every worker are upheld. Together, we can make a difference, one thoughtful act at a time.

Happy reading!

**RAJI UNNIKRISSHAN**

EDITOR - MIGRANT VOICE

Gulf Hotels Group chief executive Ahmed Janahi made a generous donation to MWPS, which was graciously accepted by the MWPS chairperson, Mona Almoayyed, furthering the organisation's mission to support migrant workers. The gesture highlights the group's commitment to social responsibility and community support.





## OUTREACH



### CASE 01

In a challenging turn of events, a seaman from India faced a series of hardships during his time in Bahrain. Despite holding a valid work permit, his employer failed to pay his salary for three months due to insufficient catch and demanded that he pay the visa fee of BD228 and leave the country. Seeking assistance, he approached the concerned authorities, but to no avail, as his employer remained unresponsive.

Amidst this ordeal, his father fell critically ill and passed away, which led to his employer finally returning his passport and partially settling his dues (BD85). However, without the means to return home, the man found himself in dire straits. It was then that the Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS) stepped in, providing not only essential supplies and financial aid for his transportation (a financial subsidy of BD50 to cover his local transportation costs and return airfare) but also support in navigating the bureaucratic processes. Thanks to the intervention, the expat worker was able to return to India, departing on March 25.

### CASE 02

A nurse assistant from Cameroon, faced a harrowing ordeal while working in Bahrain. After suffering mistreatment from her employer, she was hospitalised, her condition so severe that she fell into a coma. During this critical time, the Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS) stepped in. MWPS members visited her in the hospital, advocating tirelessly on her behalf to secure the release of her passport from her employer. Thanks to the intervention of MWPS and her indomitable spirit, she made a full recovery. With her passport finally in hand, MWPS continued to aid, handling the necessary formalities to ensure her safe return to her home country.

### CASE 03

A seven-year-old boy found his way back to Sri Lanka from Bahrain after an unexpected, prolonged stay in the country. He came to Bahrain in the pursuit of a brighter future along with his parents in mid-2022 on a visit visa. However, he could not return as planned, and his stay got extended far beyond what was intended. Tragically, his father was compelled to return to Sri Lanka, having fallen victim to deceitful promises of employment that cost him financially. In this hour of need, the Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS) stepped in and dealt with the complexities of paperwork and permissions, ensuring the boy's safe passage home, all while working closely with the immigration authorities to waive any visa penalties.

The boy is united with his father in Sri Lanka, while his mother continues to work in Bahrain, providing for her family from afar.

## BULLETIN

Bahrain's Shura Council is on the verge of implementing a landmark decision that could set a precedent in the recruitment of domestic workers. With a significant majority, the council members have signalled their approval for amendments to the Labour Market Regulatory Law, which may introduce a cap on recruitment costs.

The decision comes after a second round of voting, overcoming initial concerns about the amendment's completeness. The proposed changes, spearheaded by five council members, aim to regulate the fees charged by manpower agencies, ensuring they adhere to a maximum rate set by the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), with the flexibility to offer discounts but not exceed the established cap.

LMRA's CEO, Nibras Talib, has requested additional time to finalise solutions in collaboration with the Foreign Ministry and other relevant entities. He emphasised that recruitment costs are determined by various factors, including the worker's personal attributes and additional expenses such as travel and agency fees.

The move towards capping fees aligns with regional trends, as neighbouring countries have already implemented similar measures, resulting in more standardised and often reduced costs for hiring domestic workers from various nationalities.



# IN FOCUS

# A CHRONICLE OF COMPASSION

*In a world where every helping hand counts, the past month has seen a remarkable display of community spirit and generosity. Our newsletter page is dedicated to celebrating the thoughtful contributions that have made a difference in the lives of many.*



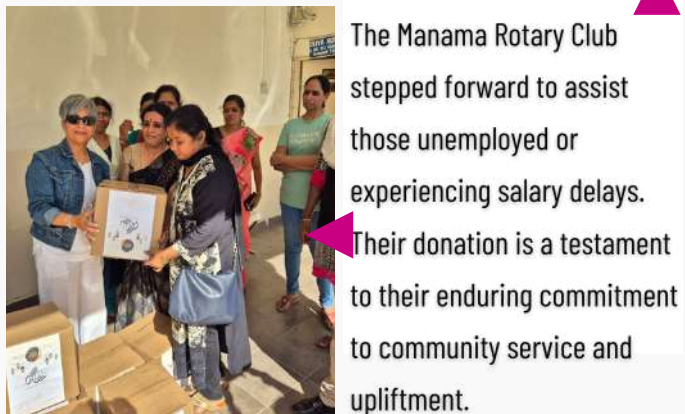
**CHILDREN LEADING BY EXAMPLE**



**ROTARIANS IN ACTION**



Students at Kitsworld Kindergarten School gathered dry rations, transforming them into care packages for distribution among the jobless. Their small hands carried big hopes, delivering not just food, but also a message of solidarity.



The Manama Rotary Club stepped forward to assist those unemployed or experiencing salary delays. Their donation is a testament to their enduring commitment to community service and upliftment.



**EXTENDING A HELPING HAND**

Luchie Gregoria's contribution reached out to a labour camp in Um Al Hassan, as well as domestic workers and labourers affected by salary delays. These rations were more than just meals; they were lifelines during trying times.



**INDIVIDUAL IMPACT**

Valentina's personal donation to low-income domestic workers and labourers is a powerful reminder that one person's initiative can spark a wave of change and bring comfort to those in need.

# SILENT GENEROSITY

Throughout April, anonymous donors quietly made their mark, providing dry rations to expatriates grappling with unemployment or delayed salaries.



# INSIGHT

The Bangladesh Embassy in Manama, hosted a special awareness-raising mobile consular camp in collaboration with various Bahraini government agencies and international organisations at Al Eslah Society Hall in Muharraq. The seminar aimed to inform Bangladeshi expatriates about Bahrain's regulations, traffic and road safety laws, procedures for correcting status irregularities, penalties for illegal residency, workers' rights and workplace safety, and general health advice.



# EMPOWERING EXPATS



Representatives from the ministries of Labour & Works, Labour Market Regulatory Authority, General Directorate of Traffic, International Organisation for Migration and the World Health Organisation delivered their presentations and speeches during the seminar.

## SUPPORT ACROSS BORDERS

The Sai Sathya Seva Trust extended its benevolence to Haitian nationals stranded in Bahrain, offering rations amidst the turmoil in Haiti. Their act of kindness transcends geographical boundaries and unites us in humanity.



# IN FOCUS

cont'd from pg 4

**WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

Check out our website for the link to our membership form.  
Tel: 00973 17827895 Email: mwpsbah2@gmail.com



www.mwpsbahrain.com