



جمعية حماية العمال الوافدين
Migrant Workers Protection Society
(MWPS)

MIGRANT VOICE

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 01 | EDITION 05 | MAY 2024

MISSION STATEMENT

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

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON...

Summer is here. The season, as we know, will soon turn harsh, especially for those working outdoors. My message in this edition of the Migrant Voice is a clarion call to the key players of our labour market—primarily the employers of our expatriate workforce, the men and women who toil under the sun's relentless gaze, and the committed social workers in the kingdom.

To my fellow employers, I would like to point out that the season calls for compassion and safety. On behalf of the MWPS, I implore you to adopt a stance of empathy and vigilance.

Now is the moment to reaffirm our commitment to humane working conditions—ample hydration, suitable protective gear, and flexible scheduling are not just recommendations; they are imperatives to shield our workers from the harsh climes.

Our community in Bahrain is enlightened and aware of the rigors faced by these individuals, and I extend my deepest respect for the measures already in place. Yet, the advent of summer is a reminder to reinforce our efforts.

To the valiant migrant workers, I would like to say that your welfare is of utmost importance. I urge you to prioritise your health: seek solace in the shade, take necessary breaks, and request assistance when the heat becomes oppressive. Your well-being is the cornerstone of our society's prosperity; no duty should compromise it.

To my dedicated colleagues at MWPS, let us continue to champion a culture of care and respect. The labour of our migrant workers is the linchpin of our advancement, and it is incumbent upon us to ensure their well-being.

Together, we can cultivate an environment where every individual's worth is acknowledged and safeguarded.

With warm regards,

MONA ALMOAYYED

CHAIRPERSON

MIGRANT WORKERS PROTECTION SOCIETY

THE EXPATRIATE WORKER DID NOT LAND IN THIS COUNTRY BY PARACHUTE. HE CAME WITH A VISA WHICH WAS ISSUED TO HIM BY OUR GOVERNMENT. IF THERE IS NO NEED FOR HIM, THEN DON'T ASK HIM TO COME. BUT PLEASE DO NOT INSULT EXPATRIATE WORKERS AND HURT THEIR DIGNITY. THEY HAVE COME TO HELP AND ASSIST US.

KHALED ALMAEENA



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DRY GOODS DONATION



The Sathya Sai Seva Trust donated packages of dry goods that were distributed to the unemployed / low-income workers.

SPOTLIGHT

EDITORIAL

MEET THE TEAM

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



#teammwps

A HARMONIOUS SPIRIT

MOHAMED GAYAZ ULLAH
 ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY

From the sandalwood-scented city of Mysore to the pearl-laden shores of Bahrain, Mohamed Gayaz Ullah's journey spans over three decades of cultural immersion and societal contribution. As a devoted family man and father, he embodies the harmonious spirit that Bahrain champions for all its residents.

Professionally, Gayaz heads a leading medical establishment as the Group General Manager. His commitment, however, extends beyond that; he is involved in various organisations and tirelessly working towards societal empowerment through education, motivation, parenting, health, and safety initiatives.

During the Covid pandemic, he coordinated with the MWPS to distribute essential food kits to those hardest hit across Bahrain. Now, as the Assistant General Secretary on the MWPS board, his dedication to administrative excellence and welfare programmes continues unabated.

A champion of educational seminars and a proponent of positive parenting, Gayaz's philosophy is to give back to the community.

In Bahrain's bustling streets and the quiet strength of its communities, there lies an extraordinary network of individuals whose dedication often goes unnoticed. They are the social workers and volunteers, the unsung heroes who form the nerve of this kingdom that is home to a vibrant expatriate population.

With a passion that burns bright, these individuals are ever-present to heed the call of those in need. They are the first responders when donors announce contributions, swiftly organising resources to ensure that help reaches where it's most needed.

Their readiness is not confined to the distribution of aid; they walk alongside those who tread the intimidating paths to police stations, courts, and embassies. They are the bridge between cultures, the translators of pleas, and the carriers of comfort. Their work often extends beyond the call of duty, digging into their pockets to cover expenses and investing their time without a second thought.

Rain or shine, their commitment does not waver. They are the smiling faces in times of distress and the steady hands in moments of uncertainty. Expecting nothing in return, they give everything they have, driven by a profound sense of community and a firm belief in humanity.

As we reflect on the contributions of these remarkable individuals, it becomes clear that they are more than volunteers; they are the lifeblood of the expatriate community, the custodians of compassion, and the very embodiment of the kingdom's spirit of inclusivity and care. They are, indeed, the nerve of Bahrain—a beautiful testament to what it means to be a part of this diverse and welcoming nation.

I dedicate this piece to the volunteers at the Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS), who embody the very essence of selfless service.

Happy reading!

RAJI UNNIKRISHNAN

EDITOR - MIGRANT VOICE



BIRDMAN DIVE

The British Club Llongsteppers cycling group demonstrated their commitment to community service with a generous donation to the MWPS. The funds were raised through their 'Birdman' event, held on Friday, May 3, at The British Club.

Participants donned spectacular costumes and took a leap from a scaffold tower into the club's pool, contributing to the cause.



OUTREACH



CASE 01

An Indian national arrived in Bahrain in April 2022 through an employment agent from India, having paid a fee of ₹75,000 for a carpentry role at a construction firm. After completing his two-year contract, he resigned due to his parents' health concerns, requesting that his visa not be renewed and his pending payments be settled. This included 20 days of accrued salary, end-of-service indemnity, and a return air ticket. Regrettably, the company withheld his entitlements, unjustly threatened legal action, and confiscated his passport. His efforts to resolve the matter through the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) were unsuccessful. The LMRA suggested he report to the police, a step he was reluctant to take without a valid visa (which expired on 20 April 2024). In his predicament, he sought the aid of the Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS), which engaged in dialogue with the employer to address the issues at hand. Following the MWPS' intervention, the employer released the worker's passport and cleared all outstanding dues. Consequently, the individual was able to return to his home country on 5 May 2024.

CASE 02

In September 2023, an Indian national arrived in Bahrain on a visit visa, obtained through an intermediary who pledged to secure a mason position with a work permit for him. Unfortunately, he discovered that he had been deceived; the intermediary absconded with his funds, amounting to ₹200,000, along with 45 days' worth of his salary. After five months, he found himself in dire straits, unable to secure employment or

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UNHEARD VOICES

INSIGHT

ADVOCATING MENTAL HEALTH FOR EXPATRIATES

"It takes a whole orchestra to play the symphony of life." - H.E. Luccock

In May, we tune into the silent struggles of those who face challenges with mental health, a vital part of our societal harmony. This aspect is crucial with expatriates, as they face cultural shocks, language barriers, and separation from loved ones, which can lead to mental health issues impacting entire communities.

Expatriates and migrant workers' mental health is crucial for their societal contributions. Isolation is a common challenge, but community support and accessible mental health resources in their languages can offer healing.

A healthy society's mental health requires a collective effort.

Employers, governments, and NGOs must create inclusive policies and support systems.



The Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS) is instrumental in Bahrain, advocating for rights, providing support, and ensuring access to healthcare, helping the expatriate community to thrive. As Mental Health Awareness Month ends, we recognise the resilience of expatriates and migrant workers. Their mental health is our shared responsibility, and by supporting them, we strengthen our global community. Let's commit to prioritising mental health for all.

sustain his basic living requirements. His visa expired on December 4, 2023, and since then, he has been sporadically employed as a day labourer, frequently without pay. MWPS assisted him with procedures at the Indian Embassy, and also provided him with dry rations and subsidised his return airfare home.



IN FOCUS

MEDICAL CAMP FOR WORKERS

The MWPS Labour and Social Welfare Committee took the initiative to sponsor and coordinate a multi-faceted medical camp, for approximately 170 workers from the Gulf City Cleaning Company. Held at their labour camp in Sanad on May 31, the event was a collaborative effort featuring medical check-ups and consultations by a team from the American Mission Hospital (AMH). Gulf Pharmacies contributed medical supplies, while Vision & Style Opticals provided vision tests along with the discounted cost of eyeglasses.

The comprehensive health services included height and weight measurements, BMI calculations, blood sugar and blood pressure monitoring, and consultations across various specialties—general surgery, ENT, internal medicine, and ophthalmology—complemented by free laboratory tests. MWPS volunteers were instrumental in managing the event's logistics.



The Indian Religious and Social Group (ISKCON) in Bahrain offered cooked food packages and water bottles for all the labourers and volunteers, adding a touch of warmth to the occasion.

The success of the medical camp is a testament to the incredible impact of collective efforts, showcasing how the synergy between different organisations and community volunteers can significantly enhance the quality of life for lower-income workers.



WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Check out our website for the link to our membership form.
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www.mwpsbahrain.com