



جمعية حماية العمال الوافدين
Migrant Workers Protection Society
(MWPS)

MIGRANT VOICE

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 01 | EDITION 12 | DECEMBER

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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FROM THE CHAIRPERSON...

As we conclude one more year of service at the Migrant Workers Protection Society, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude.

First and foremost, I acknowledge the strength and determination of our migrant community. We at the MWPS, have seen the challenges you face, the sacrifices you make, and the invaluable contributions you make to the fabric of our society.

This past year has been a period of continuous learning and growth. We have actively sought to understand your needs, address your concerns, and provide meaningful support. We hope we did justice to you.

This would not have been possible without the dedication and tireless efforts of our incredible volunteer team. I would want to acknowledge them, next. Their compassion, empathy, and commitment have been the heart and soul of our work at MWPS. Also, I acknowledge the support of our donors, who definitely made a big difference.

Last, but not least, we extend our sincere thanks to Bahrain government for their continued support and collaboration in our efforts to improve the well-being of migrant workers.

Looking ahead, we are committed to this cause. We will continue to tirelessly advocate for migrant rights, work towards improving their living and working conditions, and nurture a more inclusive and respectful environment for all.

Together, we can build a future where every migrant worker in Bahrain feels valued, respected, and empowered.

MONA ALMOAYYED

CHAIRPERSON, MIGRANT WORKERS PROTECTION SOCIETY

International Migrants Day

*In the burden of their lives, migrants bear
the resilience of untold stories, the weight
of aspirations woven into each step.*



INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY DECEMBER 18

International Migrants Day, observed on December 18th, is dedicated to celebrating the contributions and resilience of migrants worldwide. This day is an opportunity to recognize the hard work of migrants, acknowledge the challenges they face, and appreciate the cultural diversity they bring to our societies. It serves as a reminder of the importance of protecting the rights and dignity of all migrants, regardless of their status. International Migrants Day is a powerful occasion to reflect on the significance of migration and to advocate for policies that support and protect migrant communities around the globe.

SPOTLIGHT

EDITORIAL

MEET THE TEAM

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



#teammwps

A VISIONARY LEADER

SANTANU CHOWDHURY

Santanu is a seasoned mechanical engineer and the managing director at Saaj Technical Mechanical Contracting (SAAJTECH), a company in Bahrain's industrial and construction sectors since 2011.

Beyond his professional achievements, Santanu is deeply committed to community service. He is an MWPS executive committee member, where he tirelessly advocates for the rights and well-being of migrant workers. Additionally, he plays an active role in Bongiyu Samaj Bahrain and is a dedicated member of the Bahrain Association for Parents and Friends of the Disabled.

Santanu's dedication to personal and professional growth is evident in his continuous efforts to build meaningful connections through heartfelt communication. As a managing director, he is resolute in his support for his team, promoting a work environment that prioritises the welfare and development of his employees. His commitment to serving and supporting migrant workers further underscores his compassionate and inclusive leadership style.

Every migrant carries a unique story shaped by personal experiences, cultural heritage, and individual dreams. However, at the heart of these diverse narratives lies a common thread: the pursuit of opportunities, safety, and a sense of belonging. Whether it is a worker seeking economic stability, a family fleeing conflict, or an individual chasing his/her academic dreams, the underlying emotions resonate universally.

This is the sentiment that I would want to share, as I pen this last editorial for the year. December is a poignant month for migrants globally, especially those who are working with and for migrants. The world marks International Migrants Day on December 18, a day that is a reminder of the shared aspirations and challenges that unite migrants across the globe. While the journeys and backgrounds of migrants may differ, the core sentiments remain strikingly similar—hope for a better future, the quest for dignity, and the desire for acceptance in their new communities.

At MWPS, we witness firsthand the determination of migrants who wade through the complexities of adapting to new environments. Their contributions to our society are invaluable, enriching our cultural fabric and driving economic growth. Yet, these same individuals often face significant challenges—language barriers, discrimination, and the struggle to secure their rights.

International Migrants Day is an opportunity to reflect on the collective efforts needed to support migrants in their journey. It is a day to honour their contributions, advocate for their rights, and create an inclusive environment where everyone can thrive. Our initiatives at MWPS are aimed at providing the necessary support, from legal assistance to educational workshops, ensuring that migrants feel valued and protected.

As we celebrate this day, let us remember that the sentiments of every migrant, regardless of their origin, are anchored in the universal desire for a life of dignity and respect. Let us continue to work together to build a world where these aspirations are met with empathy, understanding, and unwavering support.

In this spirit, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all migrants for their resilience and strength. We are committed to standing by you, advocating for your rights, and celebrating your invaluable contributions to our society.

RAJI UNNIKRISSHAN

EDITOR - MIGRANT VOICE



New Year, New Moments to Treasure!

As we step into 2025, let's continue to collect moments of joy, compassion, and togetherness.

Every experience enriches our lives and strengthens our community. Wishing you all a year filled with meaningful connections and cherished memories.

Warm wishes from the Migrant Workers Protection Society!



OUTREACH

In December, MWPS took on numerous cases to support and advocate for the rights of migrant workers in Bahrain.

As always, we distributed essential goods, organised awareness workshops, and worked closely with international organisations.

Highlights include four cases, which involved two Sri Lankan nationals, one Kenyan and one Pakistani.

Case 01

A Kenyan national was detained for five months for illegal stay without a valid visa. Her former sponsor, who allegedly abused her during her employment, filed a runaway case against her and was withholding her passport. A new sponsor had expressed willingness to employ her on the condition that she should pay for the visa which she did. In the meantime her daughter passed away in her home country and she wanted to go back. MWPS coordinated with the immigration authorities, and arranged a one-way air ticket. She returned to her home country on December 18, 2024.

Case 02

A Sri Lankan female employee working at a hotel in Bahrain had been working for over a year without receiving her salaries regularly. Despite her visa having expired, she was forced to continue to work without pay. When she demanded her salary, the employer asked for her immediate resignation and refused to pay her dues. MWPS intervened and referred the case to a lawyer. Consequently the employer paid two months' salary to the employee.

Case 03

A Sri Lankan male employee working in a hotel in Bahrain was not receiving his salary regularly. His visa had expired, and he was forced to continue to work. When he asked for his pending salary, the employer asked for his immediate resignation. Although MWPS referred the case to a lawyer the employee returned to Sri Lanka without issuing power of attorney to the lawyer. MWPS is coordinating with him on issuing a power of attorney in Sri Lanka and getting it legalised so that the lawyer would be able to file a case against the hotel once he receives the power of attorney.

Case 04

A Pakistani delivery boy in Bahrain was involved in an accident while working late at night when his motorcycle tyre slipped due to mist. The individual he collided with took him to a private hospital for immediate medical attention. The hospital recommended surgery for a fractured vertebra. He was transferred to Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC) who confirmed the need for surgery. MWPS paid the charges to carry out the surgery.

BULLETIN

IOM BAHRAIN MARKED INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

The International Organisation of Migration (IOM) in Bahrain celebrated International Migrants Day with hundreds from the migrant community on December 20 at the Ramee Grand Hotel, Seef. Partnering with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority on the Working Together initiative, the event honoured migrants' contributions and emphasized their rights. The day featured cultural performances, free health check-ups, and awareness sessions, fostering friendships and a sense of community. The celebration highlighted Bahrain's diverse migrant traditions, with music and dance uniting everyone.





DONATIONS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

MOVEMBER AWARENESS



MWPS collaborated with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) Bahrain on "Movember" awareness activities, engaging students and staff throughout the month. The collaboration culminated in a donation letter handover on December 3, attended by representatives from all RCSI departments. The event, held at the Atrium Reception, included a group photo to commemorate this meaningful partnership.

COMMUNITY GENEROSITY

The Bahrain Netball Team and DHL Express made generous monetary donations to the MWPS. Additionally, several organisations contributed in-kind donations. The Bahrain Netball League, Vitol Bahrain, and Rugby Club Bahrain provided dry rations, while Abdul Rahman Kanoo School, Diyar conducted a blanket drive.



SUPPORTING WORKERS IN NEED



In December 2024, the distribution of essential items to support workers in need was conducted across several locations. On December 7, at Gulf City Cleaning Company's labour camp in Askar, dry ration bags were distributed to 232 workers. On December 13, in Manama, 55 workers from various nationalities, including Haiti, Nigeria, Kenya, India, and the Philippines, who are jobless or low-paid, also received dry ration bags. Additionally, on December 27, 24 workers were provided with blankets. Student interns from various schools participated in the packing and supporting during the distribution.



Volunteers from AMH and NEC Church at the "Women's Health Checkup" event at Zwemer's Clinic, American Mission Hospital, Manama. The event provided essential healthcare services, including general medical checks and breast cancer screenings, for unemployed and low-income domestic workers.

WOMEN'S HEALTH IN FOCUS



WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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



www.mwpsbahrain.com