



جمعية حماية العمال الوافدين
Migrant Workers Protection Society
[MWPS]

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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QUIET MIGRANT WOMEN FORCE

EVERY DONATION HELPS IMPROVE A LIFE



Thank You!

CASH DONATIONS

- Sri Sathya Sai Global Council
- Layal Humaidan (British Bayan School)
- BMMI
- White Square W.L.L.
- Ms. Sarah Josephine Gillard

IN-KIND DONATIONS

- Blankets: Abdul Rahman Kanoo School
- Lulu gift cards: Yousif & Aysha Almoayyed Foundation
- Dry ration boxes: Y.K. Almoayyed & Sons, Sri Sathya Sai Global Council, Manama Rotary Club, Kids World School, British School of Bahrain, Guru Seva Samithi Trust, Mr Hashim

MIGRANT VOICE

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY
NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 02 | EDITION 01 | JANUARY TO MARCH 2025





EDITORIAL

Stories That Bind Us...

Every morning, as the first light touches Bahrain's skyline, thousands of migrant workers begin their day—not with headlines, but with quiet routines. They move through the city like threads in a larger weave, often unnoticed. This newsletter, *Migrant Voice*, exists to trace those threads, to give shape to lives that might otherwise go unseen.

Take Raju, a construction worker from Bangladesh. His story is not extraordinary—he wakes early, works hard, sends money home. But in its simplicity lies its power. When he shares a meal with co-workers or calls his daughter, he isn't just passing time; he's building a life here, however temporary. These are the moments we aim to capture—not just the struggles, but the ordinary resilience that defines so many.

In this issue, you'll find more stories like his. They may not make the news, but they are the heartbeat of our mission. By listening to them, we do more than report—we remind ourselves why this work matters.

Stories connect us. They bridge gaps, challenge assumptions, and sometimes, even change minds. As the editor, my hope is that *Migrant Voice* doesn't just inform but lingers—that after reading, you see the man serving your coffee, the cleaner in your office, or the carpenter fixing your door a little differently.

Because when we pay attention, the ordinary becomes impossible to ignore.

Happy reading!

RAJI UNNIKRISHNAN

EDITOR - MIGRANT VOICE

LULU GIFT CARDS DISTRIBUTED

MWPS provided 50 Lulu gift cards donated by Yousif & Aysha Almoayyed Foundation to struggling workers in Hidd, Jidaf and Tubli facing unemployment, low wages (as little as BD60/month) or delayed salaries.



RAMADAN READY

MWPS provided 100 dry ration boxes donated by YK Almoayyed & Sons to workers facing unemployment, low wages or delayed salaries during Ramadan.



WINTER CARE

60 winter blankets donated by Abdul Rahman Kanoo School from Diyar and Salmabad were distributed to low-salaried individuals of various nationalities. (PICS ON PG08)



FROM THE CHAIRPERSON...



As we welcome the first edition of Migrant Voice's second volume, I am reminded of the fresh energy a new year brings. These past three months have been a time of renewed commitment, as we continue our work to support and advocate for migrant workers with dedication and care.

Each year offers a chance to reflect on how far we've come and the path ahead. The stories we share in this edition highlight both the challenges and triumphs of the migrant community—reminders of why our mission remains vital. Together, we are building a future where every migrant worker is treated with dignity and respect.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our team, partners, and supporters who make this work possible. Your efforts, big and small, create meaningful change. Let us move forward with hope and determination, knowing that every step we take strengthens our collective purpose.

Here's to another year of progress, solidarity, and raising voices that deserve to be heard.

MONA ALMOAYYED

CHAIRPERSON, MWPS

FOOD DISTRIBUTED FOR WORKERS

On 21 March 2025, MWPS delivered cooked meals to 50 residents of Eker labour camp facing severe hardship. A second distribution followed on 29 March at Um Al Hassam near the health centre. Also, 30 ration boxes delivered to needy workers by Guru Seva Samithi Trust. (PICS ON PG 08)

CARDIAC HEALTHCARE FOR WORKERS

MWPS partnered with Bahrain Specialist Hospital to (BSH) conduct a cardiac health awareness session for Gulf City Cleaning Company workers on 21 February 2025. Over 100 workers attended at the Askar labour camp. A BSH cardiologist led CPR training and discussed heart health, while a nurse checked blood pressure and sugar levels.

The company appreciated the initiative's value for workers. BSH acknowledged MWPS's arrangements for the session. ISKCON Temple Group provided meals, which workers enjoyed. Attendees expressed thanks for the practical health information and care provided.





OUTREACH



From January to March 2025, MWPS handled several cases. Each number represents a worker who walked through our doors seeking help. Behind every case is a person—exhausted, hopeful, determined. This section shares their stories, not to inspire pity, but to show what collective effort can change. The work continues. So does the need for vigilance.

—MWPS Outreach Team

Case 01

A Nigerian national arrived in Bahrain in 2022 after being misled by an agent who falsely promised employment. With no income, he was unable to support himself or his family back home. He was later diagnosed with appendicitis and advised to undergo surgery, which he could not afford. MWPS verified his situation, provided dry rations, and recognised his urgent need to return home. They covered the cost of a one-way ticket, and he flew back to Nigeria on 20 January 2025.

Case 02

An Indian national working in a Bahraini shop for 12 years suffered cardiac arrest and was hospitalised. Doctors recommended immediate pacemaker implantation, but he couldn't afford treatment in Bahrain. Homeless and responsible for two daughters, he faced dire circumstances. MWPS verified his case and funded a one-way ticket, allowing him to return home for medical care and family support.

Case 03

A Sri Lankan domestic worker in Bahrain, without legal documentation, required an urgent CT scan at Salmaniya Medical Complex. She also has a 17-year-old son who lacks proper documentation. MWPS covered the scan costs, enabling her to receive necessary medical treatment.

Case 04

A Sri Lankan national worked as a housemaid for a family of three for 10 months. From the start, she faced harsh conditions. She was given inadequate food—only rice, potatoes, and carrots—and barred from eating non-vegetarian meals, even if she cooked them herself. If she bought chicken or other items with her own money, she was scolded. She also lacked proper clothing, winter wear, and medicines, forcing her to spend her salary on essentials. After repeated requests, her employer provided only basic undergarments.

She eventually left the household, prompting the employer to file a theft complaint. Police dismissed the case for lack of evidence. With no funds for a ticket or visa reinstatement, she sought MWPS's help. Though advised to complete her contract, she refused due to constant mistreatment. MWPS directed her to the Sri Lankan Embassy and Labour Market Regulatory Authority, which secured her passport. MWPS then arranged financial support for her one-way ticket and visa reinstatement.

Case 05

An Indian national has been unemployed since the COVID-19 pandemic. Unable to secure work or return home due to travel restrictions linked to credit issues, his situation worsened when his visa and passport expired. He recently suffered a left-side stroke and was treated at Salmaniya Medical Complex. Discharged from the hospital, he remains bedridden and requires prescribed medication for recovery. Financial support was provided for scans and two weeks' worth of essential medicines.

Case 06

An Indian national rented a car but could not continue payments, prompting the owner to file a case against him. He was detained at a police station but later admitted to Salmaniya Medical Complex after falling ill. While he has arranged most of the settlement amount, he still needed support for payment of penalty to the Immigration Directorate which was provided by MWPS.

(CONTINUED ON PG06)

SUMMER TIP



Stay hydrated—carry a reusable water bottle to beat the heat!



ESSENTIAL AID DISTRIBUTED



On 14 March 2025, MWPS provided support to 410 migrant workers from Asian and African nations facing unemployment, underpayment, or delayed wages. British School of Bahrain students and teachers assisted in distributing essentials at two accessible locations: Um Al Hassam (near New KIMS Hospital) and Hooraa (near GOSI Mall), as requested by both donors and recipients.



RELIEF DELIVERED (PICS ON PAGE 08)

On 5 March 2025, MWPS provided essential supplies to a contracting company's workers affected by six months of unpaid salaries, with support from Sri Sathya Sai Global Council and Manama Rotary Club. Also, 110 dry ration boxes donated by regular supporter Mr Hasim were distributed to unemployed and underpaid workers.



IN FOCUS

DONATIONS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

YOUNG HELPERS SUPPORT WORKERS

On 12 March 2025, Kids World Kindergarten students and teachers prepared and distributed food packets to unemployed and low-paid workers, showing remarkable compassion during the initiative.



OUTREACH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 04

Case 07

An Indian national faced irregular salary payment before his employer cancelled his visa and filed a false theft case against him. After giving a statement at the police station, he sought MWPS assistance to leave the country. He issued power of attorney to an MWPS lawyer to pursue his unpaid wages and handle the police case if needed. MWPS coordinated with the embassy and immigration authorities to complete his travel documents and facilitated his return to India.

Case 08

A Sri Lankan family - parents and three children - entered Bahrain on visit visas. The parents were detained and deported, leaving the children with their grandmother. Without legal status, the children lacked access to education and basic necessities. MWPS intervened to provide financial assistance for the children's tickets.

HEALTH CAMP FOR WORKERS

Labour and Safety Wing of MWPS partnered with the American Mission Hospital (AMH) to run a medical camp on 3 January 2025 at Gulf City Cleaning Company (GCC) labour camp in Askar. The camp provided check-ups for 112 workers. A pharmacy group donated medicines as prescribed by AMH doctors, while an optical shop offered discounted glasses for vision needs. The Sathya Sai Trust supplied meals.





PICTURE COURTESY: IOM

INSIGHT

Crossing Seas: Building Homes

BAHRAIN'S QUIET MIGRANT WOMEN FORCE

Women migrants are the quiet architects of countless success stories, often overlooked but indispensable to the communities they join. In Bahrain, their contributions are everywhere—hospitals, schools, offices, and homes—where skill, dedication, and quiet strength keep daily life moving. This International Women's Day, it's worth pausing to recognise how much of what we take for convenience or care is made possible by their work.

Many arrive alone, navigating new languages and cultures while supporting families oceans away. The distance is measured in more than miles—it's missed birthdays, holidays spent on video calls, and savings sent home instead of spent on themselves. Yet in Bahrain, I've seen how these women adapt without complaint, whether mastering Arabic phrases in the souq or learning the rhythms of local households. Their adaptability isn't just survival; it's a kind of grace.

What's striking is how often their ambition transcends borders. The nurse upskilling through night courses, the domestic worker teaching herself accounting—these aren't exceptions. They reflect a determination to grow despite systems that rarely make it easy. Bahrain's relative stability offers some space for that growth, whether through employers who sponsor training or communities that include migrant women in celebrations like Eid and Diwali. Small gestures, but they signal belonging.

This isn't about heroism. It's about acknowledging that women who migrate for work don't just fill labour gaps—they enrich societies. Their stories intertwine with Bahrain's progress, from Manama's high-rises to its family kitchens. As we mark Women's Day, that's worth remembering: behind every thriving economy are women who dared to cross seas for a better chance, and in doing so, made their new homes better too.

This year's International Women's Day (March 08) theme—*Rights, Empowerment, and Opportunities for Every Displaced Woman and Girl, Everywhere*—finds tangible expression in Bahrain's initiatives. Under royal leadership, institutions like the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) have strengthened protections for migrant workers, while NGOs such as the Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS) provide critical on-the-ground support. When Bahraini employers partner with MWPS to resolve wage disputes or the LMRA streamlines complaint mechanisms, they operationalise what the International Organisation for Migration advocates: solutions shaped by migrant women's realities. The domestic worker who regains her passport through MWPS mediation or the nurse whose contract is enforced via LMRA channels aren't isolated cases—they're proof that systemic change happens when policy meets grassroots action.

RAJI UNNIKRISHNAN

FOND FAREWELL

At the annual general body meeting on March 25, MWPS bid an emotional farewell to two long-serving members, Joseph Daniel Mulleague and Carolyn Anne Lunt-Bell, as they left Bahrain. The event, held at Ramee Grand in Seef, saw Mona Almoayyed, Chairperson of MWPS, presenting them with mementos in recognition of their invaluable contributions and generous support to the organisation.



GALLERY



WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Check out our website for the link to our membership form.

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www.mwpsbahrain.com