

Global March Against Child Labour South America

Declaration on Proposed ILO Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers

Child labour is one of the worst violations of children's rights in the 21st Century. According to the ILO's 2010 Global Report on Child Labour, in Latin America 14.1 million children work and, of them, 9.5 million work in hazardous conditions. Of these, a significant number work in the homes of others, often without respect for the legal minimum age of employment, usually away from their families in hazardous and exploitative conditions. Prolonged working hours do not allow them the time to attend school. They receive negligible wages and work without social and legal protection. Girl child domestic labourers are denied their rights to study, to play, to health, to be together with their families and friends and to be protected from sexual abuse.

We welcome the efforts of the International Labour Organization to prepare for the adoption of a Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers at the next International Labour Conference (ILC) to be held in June 2011 and that this will include efforts to eliminate child domestic labour and protect adolescent workers performing this type of activity.

In this context, the South American Region of Global March Against Child Labour appeals to all governments, workers' and employers' organisations and participants at the ILC in June 2011 to consider the following:

1. It must be made explicit in the Convention that ILO member States should respect the legal minimum age for admission to employment in force in the legislation of respective countries in the hiring of domestic workers under the age of 18.
2. The Convention should clearly indicate that it shall be *sine qua non* for a domestic worker below the age of 18 and above the legal minimum age for admission to employment that work would not be carried out in hazardous conditions.
3. To ensure that domestic work is not hazardous, member States must protect adolescents, making a work contract compulsory and therein explicitly stating the conditions and working hours in line with national standards.
4. Member States should commit themselves to ensure the right to education for adolescents who work in other people's homes, specifically to complete their school education and have access to technical and vocational training.
5. Member States should take all necessary measures to ensure social security for adolescents that perform this type of work.
6. Member States should ensure the registration of adolescent girls to ensure their legal protection.

Finally, we call upon all civil society organisations, particularly children's rights and domestic workers' organisations, to join in this proposal and to be aware of the need to demand protection for domestic workers from exploitation, abuse, sexual harassment and all forms of violations of their rights.

