

Press Release (October 2023)

## Community members help repatriate Sri Lankan woman

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By Naman Arora Sat, 28 Oct 2023



Ms Kumaraththy, centre, with volunteers and embassy officials

Community members came together to help repatriate a Sri Lankan migrant worker, who had lived in Bahrain for almost four decades, after she had an accident and had to be hospitalised.

The Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS) worked with the Sri Lankan embassy to help Kurusumuthu Kumaraththy, 76, get back to her home country.

The undocumented domestic worker had overstayed her work visa for the last 11 years and due to mental health challenges as well as an expired passport, was reluctant to seek help. According to the MWPS, Ms Kumaraththy suffered a severe fall several months ago, resulting in serious hip and leg fractures. “She was unable to walk, which led her to Salmaniya Medical Complex, where she underwent two essential surgeries to address her injuries and was in recovery for almost 80 days,” a spokesperson added. “Her rehabilitation will require more time and relies on support for sitting and walking.”

More than BD2,000 of repatriation expenses were covered by generous donors across Bahrain and coordinated by the MWPS. The funds raised covered Gulf Air tickets to send Ms Kumaraththy home by stretcher, accompanied by a medical assistant. Sri Lankan embassy officials, led by Ambassador Wijaratne Mendis and second secretary Anusha Jayawardana, worked with immigration officials to facilitate her passage back home.

“We are delighted to have been able to facilitate the safe return of Ms Kumaraththy to her home country,” MWPS chairperson Mona Almoayyed told the GDN. “This case highlights the importance of social workers and volunteers working together to support and protect migrant workers in need. “We remain committed to our mission of advocating for and assisting workers in Bahrain.”



MWPS vice chair and action committee head Evone Bhaskaran, who initiated the case, and volunteer Kavithasree Suvama, who made all the final arrangements, worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth transition. They were supported by MWPS volunteer Sudheer Thirunilath, who co-ordinated with the hospital and Gulf Air.