



جمعية حماية العمال الوافدين  
Migrant Workers Protection Society  
[MWPS]

# MIGRANT VOICE

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 01 | EDITION 06 | JUNE 2024

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

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## SPIRIT OF GIVING



Saajtech general manager and team members extended a generous donation to fund the journey home for a stranded migrant.

## COMMUNITY CARE

The Bahrain Netball League generously donated essential food items, aiding both the Haitian community and others enduring tough times in Bahrain.

## FROM THE CHAIRPERSON...

As the summer sun ascends, it brings with it a sweltering reality for our migrant workforce –the challenge of working under the scorching heat. The GCC countries have long recognised the perils of summer labour and has instituted work bans to protect our workers from the harsh conditions.

The importance of these bans cannot be overstated. They are not just a relief from the heat but a crucial safeguard against the health risks associated with heat exposure. It is a matter of human dignity and workers' rights.

I am proud that the Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS) has been at the forefront of advocating for the rights and welfare of our migrant community. And this year, I am happy to announce that the MWPS has launched a campaign to extend the summer work ban to three months in Bahrain, aligning with the practise in other GCC countries.

Our goal is simple: to ensure that every worker in Bahrain can labour in conditions that respect their health and well-being. We believe that an extended work ban is a significant step in this direction, and we are committed to making this a reality.

We call upon your support and solidarity as we push for this change. Together, we can voice the concerns of those who build our cities and tend to our needs. Let us stand united for a summer that prioritises the safety of every individual.

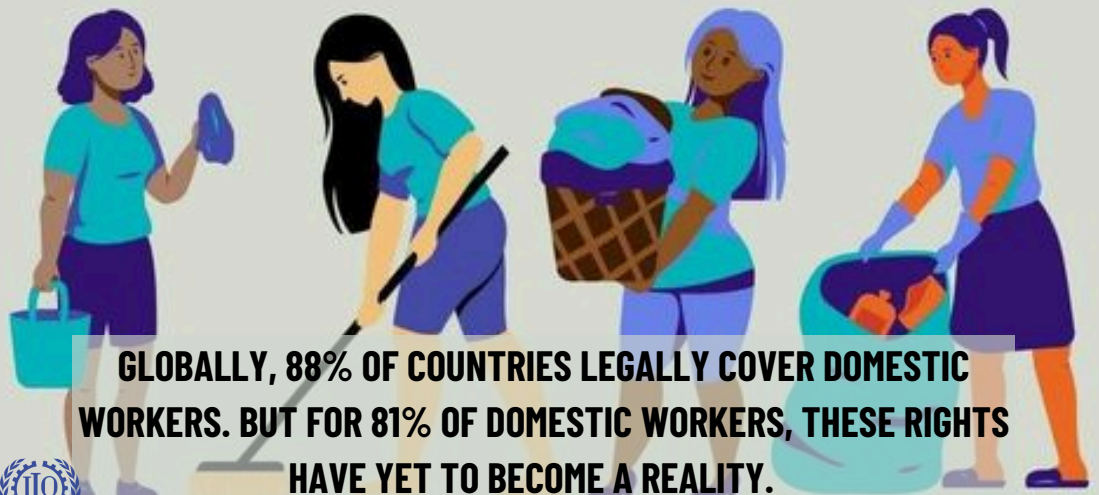
With warm regards,

**MONA ALMOAYYED**

CHAIRPERSON

MIGRANT WORKERS PROTECTION SOCIETY

## JUNE 16 - INTERNATIONAL DOMESTIC WORKERS' DAY



**GLOBALLY, 88% OF COUNTRIES LEGALLY COVER DOMESTIC WORKERS. BUT FOR 81% OF DOMESTIC WORKERS, THESE RIGHTS HAVE YET TO BECOME A REALITY.**

## SPOTLIGHT

## MEET THE TEAM

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



#teammwps

HEARTFELT  
ADVOCACY

DANIEL AMBROSIO

Daniel Ambrosio is a man of compassion and action. Originally hailing from Brazil, he relocated to Bahrain seven years ago and immediately became involved with the Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS), driven by a deep-seated faith and a desire to aid those who are voiceless and hopeless.

As the head of an international educational exchange program, a social worker, and a football coach, Daniel has dedicated over two decades to serving those in need. His efforts extend back to his time in Brazil, where he worked tirelessly to support individuals abused by society's malevolent elements.

Despite his love for Bahrain, Daniel recognises that, like in any country, there are many who require assistance. He plays an integral role in the MWPS action committee and takes great pride in the team of volunteers committed to noble causes.

At home, Daniel is a family man, blessed with two incredible children and the amazing support of his wonderful wife.

We see you. We hear you. We care.

Thus says, the Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS), as the summer sun scorches the skies of Bahrain, by championing a cause that resonates with the core of human empathy—the #extendtheshade campaign. This initiative seeks to extend the summer work ban from the current two months to three, a much-needed respite for the countless migrant workers who toil under the relentless heat.

The campaign is not merely about adding days to a calendar; it's about adding dignity to lives. Every additional day of the ban is a day of safety, a day away from the sweltering heat that can sap the strength of even the hardest souls. It's a day that says, "We see you, we hear you, and we care."

In a world where the plight of migrant workers often goes unnoticed, the #extendtheshade campaign stands as a testament to MWPS's commitment to the well-being of these vital members of our society. It's a call to action for policymakers, a plea for employers, and a rallying cry for the community at large.

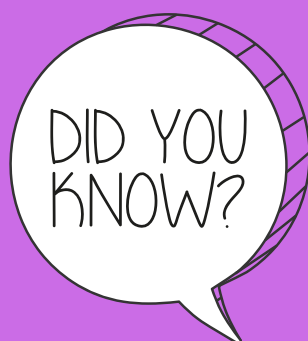
As I pen this editorial, I am reminded of the stories that unfold every day—the silent struggles and the unspoken hardships. The #extendtheshade campaign is more than just advocacy; it's a narrative of compassion, a journey towards a future where the shade of humanity extends far beyond the shadows of buildings, reaching out to touch the lives of all who labour in hope for a better tomorrow.

Let us stand together with MWPS in this noble endeavour. Let us #extendtheshade, not just in policy but in our hearts and minds, creating a canopy of care that shelters all who contribute to the growth and prosperity of Bahrain.

Happy reading!

**RAJI UNNIKRISHNAN**

EDITOR - MIGRANT VOICE



Did you know that in the GCC, the sky-high skyscrapers and bustling cities are largely built by migrant workers who, in some countries, make up to 90% of the entire population? That's like having almost everyone in town coming from somewhere else! (ecdhr.org)





## OUTREACH

In June, the MWPS addressed numerous cases, including three poignant stories: a Nigerian visitor deceived by visa promises, an Indian housemaid denied her settlement, and another Indian national caught in a legal tangle over unpaid wages and false accusations. These are but a snapshot of the ongoing advocacy and support provided by MWPS.

### Case 01

A Nigerian national, seeking employment opportunities, arrived in Bahrain with the promise of a work visa. Unfortunately, he became a victim of visa fraud by an unscrupulous agent. With only a visit visa in hand, he found himself stranded and eventually overstayed by 14 months. During this challenging period, the MWPS stepped in to provide much-needed assistance. They offered guidance on documentation and legal procedures, helping him through his complex situation. Thanks to the support, he was able to resolve his visa issues and safely return to Nigeria.

### Case 02

MWPS is actively involved in a case concerning an Indian domestic helper who has dutifully completed her two-year contract. Despite fulfilling her obligations and signing the final settlement document, she has not received the promised settlement from her employer. Her repeated attempts to claim her rightful settlement have been met with resistance. In an unfortunate turn of events, her sponsor has filed a runaway case against her with the police and the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), leading to her being blacklisted by immigration authorities. Currently, she finds herself in a precarious position, unable to secure new employment or obtain a visa due to the unresolved accusation. This has severely limited her opportunities and freedom to move forward. The MWPS is providing support to her while advocating for her rights and seeking a fair resolution to the dispute.

### Case 03

MWPS is aiding yet another Indian domestic aid worker in Bahrain who endured mistreatment and irregular salary payments from her sponsor during her 19-month-long tenure. After an incident of physical abuse, she sought refuge with the police, leading to legal disputes over runaway and theft allegations. Despite the return of her belongings and passport and the withdrawal of the initial runaway case, she has not been paid one month's salary. Further complications arose when her sponsor filed another runaway case, demanding compensation. The housemaid's pursuit of justice has led her through a seven-month legal struggle involving the LMRA and the Justice Ministry, incurring additional legal fees. Currently blacklisted, her ability to work in Bahrain is at a standstill, with the case remaining unresolved.

### SPIRIT OF GIVING



Year 12 IB students from St. Christopher's School have exemplified the spirit of community service by spearheading a backpack drive for MWPS. Their initiative, which involved rallying support from younger students, was a resounding success, culminating in the collection of over 55 backpacks and 40 bags of dry rations.

MWPS welcomed these young philanthropists and their teachers at its office. The visit provided a wonderful opportunity to discuss the impactful work of MWPS and the broader needs of migrants.



## IN FOCUS

## #EXTENDTHESHADE


**Campaign to extend the summer work ban in Bahrain**

## SAFER SUMMER

The Migrant Workers' Protection Society (MWPS) has launched the #ExtendTheShade campaign, a crucial initiative aimed at extending Bahrain's summer work ban from two months to three. This extension, proposed to span either from June 15 to September 15 or June 1 to August 30, is a significant step toward safeguarding outdoor workers from the extreme summer heat. Since 2007, Bahrain has enforced a work ban during the hottest hours of the day, reflecting a commitment to labour welfare. However, as the only GCC country with a two-month limit, Bahrain's policy falls short compared to its neighbours' three-month bans. The campaign, powered and driven by education and advocacy, seeks to align Bahrain with international standards and regional practices. It's a call to action for all stakeholders to contribute to a movement that extends beyond mere policy change, to ensuring a humane working environment for all.

## STRENGTHENING SUPPORT

MWPS hosted representatives from various African embassies and communities. This pivotal meeting, orchestrated by the action committee, focused on addressing the pressing challenges faced by their nationals in Bahrain. The dialogue opened with distressing accounts of the hardships encountered by migrants, underscoring the urgent need for:

- Emergency shelter facilities for those in immediate need due to vulnerability, illness, or while awaiting repatriation.
- Assistance with passport and documentation issues, including paperwork and translation services to bridge communication gaps with authorities.
- Increased awareness campaigns to educate migrants about their rights, labour laws, and minimum wage entitlements.
- Enhanced support for domestic workers, who are especially susceptible to exploitation and abuse, necessitating stronger ties with entities like the LMRA.

Members also met with the Ghanaian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, during his visit to Bahrain. The productive discussion centered on collaborative strategies to aid Ghanaian nationals in distress.



WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Check out our website for the link to our membership form.  
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[www.mwpsbahrain.com](http://www.mwpsbahrain.com)