

# ***CARAM Asia Task Force on Migrant Workers Rights (MWR)***

## **Introduction of the Task Force**

The Migrant Workers Rights Programme seeks to address the absence of legal protection, rights to redress and access to justice for migrant workers. The abuse, exploitation and discrimination faced by migrant workers are compounded by the fact that migrant workers are often viewed as temporary cheap commodities to meet the destination countries' production and domestic needs. The situation is made worse with the rising costs of migration that force many poor workers to migrate through unofficial channels resulting in them becoming undocumented migrant workers. Some exploitative employers refuse to renew work permits and pay wages, majority of employers keep passports and/or traveling documents in their own custody which force migrant workers to become undocumented too. However, CARAM Asia views the lack of documentation as an administrative issue which should not deny undocumented migrant worker's human rights. Through advocacy with various stakeholders, CARAM Asia has been consistently lobbying for comprehensive legal protection measures to be made available for all migrant workers regardless of their immigration status.

The Foreign Domestic Workers (FDW) program of CARAM Asia area focuses on the recognition of domestic work as an economic activity and to have it included under national employment act or labour laws in both origin and destination countries. Key activities include advocacy, utilizing appropriate international instruments (SDG, Domestic Workers Convention 189, Core labour standards of ILO, CEDAW Convention Recommendation NO. 26, and Migrant Workers Convention) public campaigns and awareness programme. Building regional cooperation with other networks, trade unions and organizations to strengthen the response towards protecting and promoting labour and health rights of foreign domestic workers. CARAM Asia has initiated the formation of the United for Foreign Domestic Workers Rights (UFDWRs), a coalition of regional and international groups to advocate for foreign domestic workers' rights. Due to lack of recognition and protection under labour laws, foreign domestic workers experience rights violation as well as violence, abuse and exploitation by employers, recruiting agents and other involved actors. The FDWs stay at employer's houses in isolation without any social protection and freedom to mobility which puts them at risk of sexual and physical violence. CARAM Asia addresses this issue and provides legal services to the survivors of violence under this task force.



### ***Task Force Key Priority***

- 1. Women Migrant Workers with a focus on Foreign Domestic Workers***
- 2. Access to justice/ legal framework***
- 3. Undocumented migrant workers (addressing modern day slavery)***

## MWR STRATEGIC PLAN (2025-2027)

Strategy	Objectives	Activity	Output (Tangible) and Outcome (Intangible)	Impact Indicator
1. Undertaking Participatory Action Research (PAR) & related activities in knowledge creation and dissemination for the advancement of migrant workers' rights	1. Enriching with knowledge through Participatory Action Research (PAR) and other research related activities	<p>1.1 Produce research reports or evidence-based data on 'New form of slavery and supply of workers'</p> <p>1.2 Collection of evidence-based data on member's case management specifically on arbitration and mediation &amp; produce a report for advocacy</p> <p>1.3 Engagement with opportunities on discourse around like Convention C189 &amp; C190</p> <p>1.4 Desk research on implementation of Kafala system in the destination countries</p>	<p>1. Knowledge from various sources is obtained which can be implement in the future for MWs</p> <p>2. The relevant stakeholders and authority in charge obtain current knowledge on issues face by MW like new form of slavery, Kafala system etc via research</p>	1. Valid and quality research reports and data are available to be used for advocacy and awareness
2. Undertaking advocacy activities both at the national, regional and international levels for the advancement of migrant workers' rights	1. Protect and promote migrant worker's rights by addressing issues faced by MWs	<p>1.1 Actively engage with Government, national and regional bodies like (ASEAN), &amp; INGOs (ILO, IOM) for advocacy</p> <p>1.2 Collaboration with UN</p>	1. Knowledge of Member organizations' & Migrant workers on addressing migrant's rights is enhanced	1. Laws and policies are in place for MWs

## CARAM Asia Strategic Plan (2025-2027)

		<p>network and other groups on migration related work</p> <p>1.3 Review the existing resources and monitor the practices</p> <p>1.4 Engage with regional platform like CP, ADD, GFMD, GCM, BHR</p>		
<p>3. Undertaking relevant capacity building initiatives depending on the needs of the identified stakeholder (e.g MWs, CSOs, etc)</p>	<p>1. Increase capacity of the members to improve their advocacy</p>	<p>1.1 Organize regional training for members on the use of International Instruments to address migrant's right to stay and redress with focus on receiving countries</p> <p>1.2 Conduct capacity building program for partners and develop IEC materials for issues that are being addressed like new forms of slavery, Kafala system, etc.</p> <p>1.3 Conduct a capacity building to partners of national partners (stakeholders) to development of new policy, laws and other legal reforms.</p>	<p>1. Ability to engage actively with influential bodies from national to international is improved</p> <p>2. Partners have greater visibility in advocacy bodies</p>	<p>1. Recommendations made by partners are adopted</p>

**CARAM Asia Strategic Plan (2025-2027)**

		1.4 Conduct Training on Digital Security to MWs and their family members		
4. Undertaking media, campaigns and related publicity initiatives for the advancement of migrant workers' rights	1. Increase awareness and grab attention of the relevant stakeholders and government	<p>1.1 To develop campaign to raise awareness on labor rights violation of migrant workers</p> <p>1.2 Develop campaign to Support Foreign Domestic workers (FDWs) rights including abolishment of Kafala System</p> <p>1.3 Raise awareness on social protection and</p>	<p>1. Awareness regarding labor rights violations and the exploitation of migrant workers, especially Foreign Domestic Workers (FDWs)</p> <p>2. Maintain focus on the abuses of the Kafala system.</p>	<p>1. Decrease migrant vulnerability to Migrant workers labor rights violations and exploitation</p> <p>2. Improve working conditions</p>
5. Promoting access to services for migrant workers such as to legal services, health services and any related services	<p>1. Expand migrant worker's access to Services</p> <p>2. Social &amp; Digital security</p>	<p>1.1 Develop Referral systems within countries and across borders among CARAM members</p> <p>1.2 Providing legal support, including referral services, paralegal services, filing cases in relevant courts, and developing an online case referral system for MWs</p>	<p>1. MWs received legal assistance in solving injustice or conflicts faced by them in the destination countries and upon return</p> <p>2. Regional referral system (especially on Health) is developed, and the available network is strengthened</p>	1. MWs able to receive assistance in both origin and destination countries

**CARAM Asia Strategic Plan (2025-2027)**

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## TASK FORCE MEMBERS (2025-2027)

No	Name	Organization	Country	Email
1	<b>CONVENER:</b> Mr. Brahm Press	MAP Foundation	Thailand	brahm.press@gmail.com
2	Ms. Linda Mustafa Hussein Alkalash	Tamkeen	Jordan	lalkalash@gmail.com
3	Ms. Manju Gurung	POURAKHI	Nepal	grgwomen@gmail.com
4	Mr. Binoy Krishna Mallick	Rights Jessore	Bangladesh	rights Jessore@yahoo.com
5	Mr. Shariful Islam Hassan	Brac	Bangladesh	shariful.hasan@brac.net
6	Mr. Anisur Rahman Khan	IMA Research Foundation	Bangladesh	anisur.ima@gmail.com
7	Ms. Nazma Akter	AWAJ Foundation	Bangladesh	awaj@dhaka.net
8	Mr. Abdullah Al Mamun Nasim	OKUP	Bangladesh	program.manager.okup@gmail.com
9	Ms. Rosidah Romlah	ATKI	Hong Kong	rosidahrom@gmail.com
10	Ms. Jeanne D'arc Hobeika	MSD	Lebanon	j.hobeika@e-msd.org
11	Ms. Armayanti Sanusi	Solidaritas Perempuan (SP)	Indonesia	armayantisanusis@solidaritasperempuan.org
12	Mr. Sakiul Millat Morshed	SHISUK	Bangladesh	ed.shisuk@gmail.com
13	Ms. Nedal AlSalman	BCHR	Bahrain	nedal@bahrainrights.org
14	Mr. Andrew Samuel	CDS	Sri Lanka	avsamuel@gmail.com
15	Mr. Zia Ahmed Awan	LHRLA	Pakistan	lhrla@cyber.net.pk
16	Ms. Glorene Amala	Tenaganita	Malaysia	glorene.a@tenaganita.net