
Advocating for domestic workers rights in the US during the pandemic

The intersection of immigrants and workers' rights

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Presentation overview

1. Overview of the domestic workers' legal situation in the US
 2. The pandemic: hitting the already precarious workers
 - a. Pandemic as 'a chance to reform' narrative
 3. Advocacy efforts of the organizations
 - a. Pushing for inclusion of the domestic workers in the relief measures
 - b. Advocacy around the 'essential worker' status
 - c. The (essential) workers rights & immigration issues nexus
 4. Re-opening and beyond. Vigilance
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1. Legal situation of US domestic workers



- Exclusion from national labor law (NLRA) until 1974 along with other work categories populated by immigrants and formerly enslaved people
- Continuing carveouts in Fair Labor Standards Act (governs minimum wage and overtime) and Occupational Safety and Health Act for “casual” care services and workplaces with fewer than 10 employees
- Ten states and 2 cities have passed Domestic Workers’ Bills of Rights; current campaign for federal bill

2. Pandemic impacts on precarious workers

- Because of stay at home orders, many DWs were either suddenly out of work or else required to go to work, possibly at longer hours and in dangerous conditions
 - Lack of PPE, lack of medical insurance
 - Undocumented workers excluded from federal and state relief measures
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3.a. Pushing for inclusion of the domestic workers in the relief measures

Major federal initiatives:

- General relief bills: Families First, CARES, or HEROES acts.

State level (examples):

- Include domestic workers in the state health and safety regulations, by California Coalition of Domestic Workers
 - Protesting against ending the eviction moratorium in Massachusetts by the Massachusetts Coalition of Domestic Workers
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Artwork by [sam.kirk](https://www.samkirk.com). Tribute to Essential Workers Mural, Chicago, 2020

3.b. Advocacy around the 'essential worker' status and public health argument



- Federal level: Pushing for the passing of the Essential Workers Bill of Rights
- State level (MA): using the essential work frame to leverage while advocating for:
 - PPE access
 - Driving licenses for all (An Act Relative to Work and Family Mobility (HD. 448 SD. 237))
 - Vaccination campaign by Matahari *early in the vaccination roll out.*

DRIVING
FAMILIES
FORWARD



3.c. The (essential) workers rights & immigration issues nexus



STOP MASS EVICTIONS & FORECLOSURES

WEEK OF ACTION
MON 10/5 - SUN 10/11

LINK FOR MORE DETAILS:
WWW.BITLY.COM/HFAMASS

Join a local action, organize an event, or take action on your own!

HOMES FOR ALL MASSACHUSETTS HOGARES PARA TODOS

AND PASS THE HOUSING STABILITY ACT



4. Re-opening and beyond

- **Organizations as shock absorbers**
 - **Back to business as usual? Who bears the costs?**
 - **Changing the narrative:**
 - **Care as infrastructure**
 - **'American Jobs Plan'.**
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WORKERS' RIGHTS & SAFETY TOWN HALL

What does the latest change to COVID-19 requirements mean for worker safety and rights?

Join this town hall to find out!

interpretación al español | interpretação para portugues
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MON. 6/14
6PM
ON ZOOM



MASSACHUSETTS
PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION



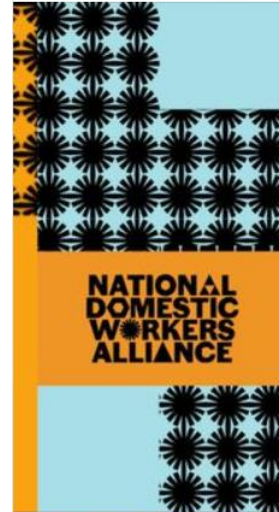
National Domestic Workers Alliance celebrating the International Domestic Workers Day and the anniversary of the ILO C189

Home
Athen Poo
Yesterday at 3:22 AM · 🌐

Domestic workers are incredible. Today in NJ, domestic workers took to the streets in support of the NJ Domestic Worker Bill of Rights -- a bill that would help workers fight wage theft, ensure safe working conditions, and secure paid sick time.

We are also celebrating the 10 anniversary of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention where domestic workers fought for and WON a groundbreaking treaty to create global standards to guarantee domestic workers equal protections as other workers. Since then, 32 countries have ratified Convention 189 -- but there is more work ahead. 36% of domestic workers across the world are still excluded from labor laws.

We will keep organizing, caring, and winning. It's what we do. #InternationalDomesticWorkersDay



**Domestic
worker
rights are
human
rights.** 

