



Asian Migrants' Coordinating Body 亞洲移居人士聯盟 (AMCB)

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Submission to the Panel on Manpower Panel of the Hong Kong Legislative Council on the report of the Standard Working Hours Committee 20 June 2017

The Asian Migrants Coordinating Body (AMCB) urges the Manpower Panel of the Hong Kong legislative council to include foreign domestic workers (FDWs) in the statutory working hours.

We believe that FDWs are workers and as such, any labor regulation that is aimed to apply to all workers must also be made application to FDWs. Regulation on working hours is a needed policy on all members of the labor sector.

Secondly, the live-in regulation implemented to FDWs also make it imperative to regulate working hours. Contrary to opinion that the live-in employment arrangement is a stumbling block to working hours regulation for FDWs, it actually makes it incumbent to have such a regulation as its absence lead to abuses and exploitation that labor policies and standards should prevent.

The lack of regulation on working hours for FDWs also deprives FDWs of much needed rest and sleep to perform our duties. It can lead to serious health problems as well as pose danger to our physical body as we do our work. Coupled with unsuitable accommodation arrangement that we are in, the lack of regulation on working hours put much strain on our general health and overall wellbeing.

It should also be noted by the panel that regulation on working hours is also provided as a must by international labor standards. In particular to domestic workers, the ILO Convention No. 189 carries stipulations on working hours for the domestic work sector.

In this regard, the AMCB calls for:

- 1. Legislate a working hours regulation for all workers;**
- 2. Introduce a particular working hours system to domestic workers, especially live-in domestic workers, for both local and migrant domestic workers; and**
- 3. Implement a continuous 11-hour rest periods between two consecutive workdays plus meal breaks for live-in domestic workers.**