

Home Work not Homework

Every year, the 16 days of activism campaigns represent an opportunity to shed light and focus on at least one of the issues women are still fighting against. Today, millions of women and girls around the world turn to domestic work as one of the few options available to them in order to provide for themselves and their families. Instead of guaranteeing their ability to work with dignity and free of violence, governments have systematically denied them key labor protections extended to other workers. Domestic workers, often making extraordinary sacrifices to support their families, are among the most exploited and abused workers in the world.

In the majority of Arab countries, domestic workers are not covered by the labor law, they provide labor services in a workplace where rights are not clearly defined by law or in practice. Domestic work is treated as a duty rather than work with rights. This is due to entrenched Patriarchal norms that never recognized women's caring roles as "work" and suggest household chores and caregiving are women's "duty."



Fe-Male in partnership with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) and the International Domestic Workers Federation, launched an online regional campaign on the rights of domestic workers from a labor and feminist perspective. **“Home Work not Homework”** campaign portrayed and showed the realities domestic workers live in the MENA region, while inducting conversations around the topic that shift the narrative, to finally, call for and introduce recommendations and reforms to ensure the protection of domestic workers’ rights.

CAMPAIGN KEY MESSAGES

- Domestic work is work.
- Domestic workers are systematically discriminated against due to domestic work being traditionally seen as women’s work.
- Domestic work has been historically devaluated and exploited by both the patriarchy and capitalism.
- Both feminist and labor movements have the responsibility to keep women domestic workers among
- There are international conventions and legal frameworks that can uphold the labor rights of domestic workers which states must use/comply with to improve the working conditions of domestic workers in the region.

CAMPAIGN PRODUCTS

Backstage video: This video sheds light on the realities and aspirations of migrant domestic workers from different nationalities and backgrounds and documents the process of developing a collective “Cover Letter”.



Collective Cover Letter: Based on a collective discussion with domestic workers, asking them what would they have written in a job cover letter if they had to write one, we wrote a cover letter addressed to the employers, highlighting the domestic workers’ skills, motivation, and aspirations for pursuing domestic work in different countries in the region and including demands for rights and a call to action.



CHECK THE COVER LETTER

Visual Content: Within the campaign, we produced and disseminated a series of still and animated posts that shed more light on the working conditions of domestic workers and their rights, in addition to suggested reforms and actions, based on facts and research.



VISIT OUR INSTAGRAM TO CHECK ALL VISUALS



Historical Overview Video: The history of domestic work and how it turned to become women's work is not common knowledge. We made this video to deep dive into the role of existing patriarchal norms and structures in dictating responsibilities between women and men, and therefore leading to the "feminization of care work". The video also provided an overview on the legal status of MDW in the MENA region, focusing specifically on the Kafala system and the impacts of a lack of legislation on migrant domestic workers lives and rights, while suggesting practical reforms and ways forward.



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO](#)

How can you support?

Understand more about domestic workers' realities in the region and their rightful demands;

Share information about the campaign to build the movement and spread the word;

Act by calling for reforms in this regard.

