



**DOMESTIC
WORKERS
UNITED**



WE HAVE A DREAM THAT ONE DAY, ALL WORK WILL BE VALUED EQUALLY

Domestic Workers United Newsletter, October 2012

GET INVOLVED!

Attend a meeting.

Learn more about your rights as a domestic worker.

Become a member and access free trainings, workshops, and legal services.

Spread the word

Reach out to fellow domestic workers and let them know their rights!

Who We Are...

We are an organization of nannies, housekeepers, and elderly caregivers in New York City organizing for power, respect, fair labor standards, and to help build a movement to end exploitation once and for all.

DWU provides educational workshops and training programs for all domestic workers! We especially work with exploited workers to win justice. We believe that unity is power and we organize together in unity to make change for all of us. We recently won basic rights and protections for domestic workers in the state of New York.
Know your rights!

GOVERNOR BROWN CAN VETO A BILL, BUT HE CAN'T VETO OUR MOVEMENT!

On Sunday September 30, we were shocked and deeply saddened by Governor Brown's veto of AB 889, the Bill that would have provided overtime pay, meal breaks, and other basic labor protections to California's estimated 200,000 domestic workers. By denying workers state protections, Governor Brown plays a hand in continuing the unfair and sometimes exploitative situations that so many workers encounter in their daily lives.

At DWU we have, since passage of the New York Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights, been helping those whose rights have been violated to access legal representation. Through implementation of our free monthly legal clinic, we have helped domestic workers win over \$700,000 in compensation for unpaid wages and other violations! These efforts have greatly ameliorated the domestic work industry in New York by providing basic rights and recognition.

In New York, we are still grieving Governor Brown's unfortunate decision. DWU Board member Jennifer Barnard who fought for passage of the New York Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights said:

"I personally felt devastated when I heard the news. As a domestic worker who journeyed to Albany several times when we were campaigning, our mission was not only to implement state rights for workers in New York. Our mission was to pave the way for all other states to provide similar protections."

DWU member Ann Marie expressed similar sentiment:

"California is one of the states where exploitation is rampant. There are so many immigrant workers who don't speak English. Having that language barrier makes workers much more vulnerable to exploitation. This is a state that desperately needs a Bill of Rights for the domestic workers that so many families that depend on."

**10 West 37 Street, Suite 4W, New York, NY 10018
212-481-5747**

**Email us: dwuinfo@domesticworkersunited.org Visit our website:
www.domesticworkersunited.org and www.knowyourrights.org**

Do you know your rights?

In 2010 we helped win domestic workers working in New York:

- Overtime pay of 1.5x hourly wage after 40 hours of work in a weekly pay cycle (after 44 hours for live-in workers)
- One day of rest per week, and overtime pay of 1.5x hourly wage if the worker agrees to work on her day of rest
- 3 paid days off per year, after one year of working with the same employer
- Protection against workplace discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, marital status, and domestic violence victim status
- Protection against sexual harassment by employer
- Protection against harassment based on gender, race, national origin, and religion
- Temporary disability benefits for part-time and full-time workers
- The Department of Labor was instructed to conduct a study by Nov 1, 2010 to determine the feasibility of organizing to collectively bargain within the domestic work industry!

Congratulations Household Management 101 Graduates!



JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MEETING

When: Saturday November 17, 2012, 4-6PM

Where: 85 South Oxford Street, between Fulton & Lafayette

Directions: Any train to Atlantic Ave – Pacific Street, or C train to Lafayette, or G train to Fulton

**ORIENTATION BEGINS AT
3PM**

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