Recommendations for International Domestic Workers Day (16 June 2015)

16 June is International Domestic Workers Day. The purpose of the day is to recognize the plight of domestic workers in terms of labour protections. In Cambodia, domestic workers have been excluded from the protection of labour laws, despite the great contributions they make to the home and national economy.

On 16 June 2011, the International Labor Conference adopted ILO convention C189 concerning decent work for domestic workers. This convention is fundamental for ensuring the rights and benefits of domestic workers are protected. Although the convention has been adopted and implemented as international law, it hasn’t been ratified or implemented at the country level by most of the countries around the world, including Cambodia.

In recognition of International Domestic Workers Day, LSCW has released a set of recommendations for the government of Cambodia and general public in order to ensure that domestic workers are able to enjoy decent working conditions.

During this International Domestic Workers Day, we appeal to the government of Cambodia and the public to:

- Recognize domestic work as work and treat domestic workers as equal to all other workers
- Provide for one day off for domestic workers per week
- Ratify ILO C189 and bring national laws and enforcement into alignment, including extending the Cambodian Labor Code to cover domestic workers
- Establish effective monitoring mechanisms for greater accountability and transparency in the recruitment, placement, and employment of domestic workers
- Ensure effective access to redress, legal remedies and grievance procedures in Cambodia for victims of rights violations and abuse, both in Cambodia and abroad
- Provide enhanced skills training to domestic workers at the pre-departure and reintegration stages of migration, as well as improved access to vocational skills training in other employment sectors for women in Cambodia
- Work through regional mechanisms to adopt a binding ASEAN Regional Framework Instrument on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers that includes minimum standards for domestic workers