

How to join HomeNet International and why



Home-based workers from around the world are coming together to raise visibility and gain recognition for home-based workers globally. Photo: Members of SADHNA in India; credit: HNSA

HomeNet International: Building a Global Movement

The home-based workers' movement has a long history. The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in India started organising home-based workers (HBWs) in the 1970s and even coined the term "home-based workers".

An important milestone was the adoption of the ILO Home Work Convention (C177) in 1996. Led by SEWA, HBWs' organisations, trade unions and supportive NGOs came together to advocate for a convention. They participated in the discussions at the International Labour Conference (ILC), voicing their issues and demands. They decided to initiate an international network of HBWs to promote the organising of HBWs and for the ratification of C177. While this dream could not be realised, seeds were sown for regional organising in South Asia, South East Asia and in Eastern Europe.

2000 to 2011 was spent organising and strengthening the regional networks in Asia. 2012-2018 saw an expansion of organising and network building in Eastern Europe & Central Asia, Latin America and Africa. In 2015, a global conference of HBWs was organised, with representatives from 60 networks, associations and trade unions from 24 countries spread across five regions. At the conference, the Delhi Declaration was adopted.

In an Action Plan, HBWs expressed a vision for a global network.

In 2018, representatives of HBWs from five regions met in Stockholm, Sweden along with WIEGO. They unanimously decided to take concrete steps to set up a global network of HBWs. An Interim International Working Group with one representative and an alternate from each region was established to steer the process over a two-year period that would culminate with the launch of HomeNet International in 2020.



In preparation for the launch of HNI in October 2020, the Working Group is inviting eligible home-based worker organisations to apply for provisional affiliation (to be confirmed after the launch), and to fully participate in the road to creating a vital global network.

What is HomeNet International?

HomeNet International (HNI) is a proposed global network of membership-based organisations representing HBWs from, Africa, Eastern Europe & Central Asia, Latin America & the Caribbean, South Asia and South East Asia.

The **VISION** of HNI “is for greater visibility and recognition of home-based workers, and a strong, united and representative voice on global platforms, where they effectively engage and challenge those who have power over their working lives, such as governments and employers”.

Key **FUNCTIONS** of HNI will be:

- to build a strong and democratic global organisation to protect, raise visibility and gain recognition for home-based workers globally
- to organise and build solidarity amongst HBWs around common issues at the global level
- to work with regional groups to develop effective mechanisms to improve the livelihoods and working conditions of HBWs
- to use the power of a global voice to influence government and employer policies and practices, that involve HBWs, on global, regional, national and local platforms
- to advance and work towards HBWs’ rights and policies, including the ratification and implementation of ILO Convention 177 and ILO Recommendation 204.

Who can join HNI?

- A. Democratic, accountable membership-based organisations of HBWs including trade unions, cooperatives, associations, self-help groups and HBW producer owned companies
- B. Membership-based federations, networks, or alliances of HBWs
- C. Multi-sector, membership-based organisations where HBWs are a part, and where affiliation to and representation in HNI are based on the HBW section only



HomeNet International is a proposed global network of membership-based organisations representing home-based workers. Photo: Maria Janet Uribe of SINTRATEDO in Chile; credit: L. Morillo

- D. All the above potential MBO affiliates should also meet the following criteria:
- work at local and/or national/country level
 - have a written constitution/rules
 - have a governing body elected by the HBW worker members
 - produce regular financial reports
 - be independent of political and/or religious bodies and employers
 - have a minimum number of fifty (50) HBW members, or the minimum number specified by the regional networks to which they are affiliated, whichever is more
 - are or become a member of the relevant regional network, where it exists.

What are the benefits of being an HNI Affiliate?

Affiliation will:

- help strengthen the voice and create visibility for HBWs globally and your organisations locally and nationally
- allow you to learn from and exchange knowledge with organisations of HBWs from different regions
- provide solidarity and support from HNI members and other allies
- ensure your organisation is aware of, and represented in, global dialogues or negotiations around home-based work and workers
- create solidarity to influence global organisations that affect home-based work and the lives of HBWs
- ensure your organisation is part of global campaigns to improve the lives and livelihoods of HBWs, especially around the ratification and implementation of ILO Convention 177 and policies for home-based workers, including implementation of ILO Recommendation 204.

What is the cost?

There is no cost to apply right now. Members will be expected to pay an annual fee once HNI is launched. The amount will be agreed upon by the Congress, where affiliates will have a voice and a vote.



*Join HomeNet International today to fully participate in the road to creating a vital global network.
Photo: Thipphanan Singthong of HomeNet Thailand;
credit: Paula Bronstein/Getty Images Reportage*

How do we apply for Membership?

If your organisation meets the criteria and wants to become an affiliate of HNI, please request an application form from a representative of the Interim International Working Group:

- **AFRICA** - Vanessa Pillay: Vanessa.Pillay@wiego.org; Edwin Bett: bett@kefat.org
- **EASTERN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA** - Violeta Zlateva: violetazlateva@gmail.com
- **LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN** - Laura Morillo: laura.morillo@wiego.org
- **SOUTH ASIA** - Janhavi Dave: janhavi.hnsa@gmail.com
- **SOUTH EAST ASIA** - Suntaree H. Saeng-ging: sunnewomen@gmail.com

Upon submission of the application form and the requested documents, the decision on your affiliation will be taken by the Working Group prior to the launch; thereafter, affiliation decisions will be taken by the Executive Committee of HNI.

**Help build
HomeNet International
APPLY TO JOIN
TODAY!**

*Then be ready for the
LAUNCH CONGRESS
in October 2020!*

*Photo: B. Stefanova of AHBW in Bulgaria;
credit: V. Zlateva*

