

# How to join HomeNet International and Why



Home-based workers from around the world have come 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

On 23-24 February 2021, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, HomeNet International was launched. The home-based workers' movement has a long history. The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in India started organizing 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' organizations, 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 democratic, membership-based HBWs' organizations to promote the organizing of HBWs, and for the ratification of C177. While this dream could not be realized, the seeds were sown for regional organizing, culminating in the formation of HomeNet International 25 years after the adoption of C177.

2000 to 2011 was spent organizing and strengthening the regional networks in Asia. 2012-2018 saw an expansion of organizing and network building in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and Africa. In 2015, a global conference of HBWs was organized, 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.



The VISION of HomeNet International is for greater visibility and recognition of home-based workers.  
Photo: Agnes Mugabe of Ngalo in Uganda; Credit: L. Vryenhoek

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. The plan was to launch HomeNet International in 2020.

But, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Working Group to propose a change of plan. A physical congress in October 2020 was no longer possible. Instead, HomeNet International's founding Congress was held virtually in February 2021, with 36 affiliates from 20 countries representing more than 600 000 home-based workers. A transitional committee (International Working Committee) was appointed by Congress to lead HNI until elections can be held.

HomeNet International invites eligible home-based workers organizations to join home-based workers from around the world, to add strength, solidarity and power to our global movement.

## What is HomeNet International?

HomeNet International (HNI) is an international network of membership-based organizations, federations, networks or alliances representing HBWs from different countries in Africa, Latin America and 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” (HNI Constitution).

### Key Objectives of HNI:

- to build a strong and democratic global organization to protect, raise visibility and gain recognition for HBWs globally
- to organize and build solidarity amongst HBWs around common issues at the global level
- to work with regional organizations 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
- to work in partnership with allies



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

## Who can join HNI?

A. Democratic, accountable membership-based organizations 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 organizations of which HBWs are a part, provided that the affiliation to HNI is based only on the number of HBWs in the affiliate, and that representation in HNI is from the HBW section only.

D. All the above potential MBO affiliates should also meet the following criteria:

- be registered as a membership-based organization of HBWs or (if not yet registered) function as such, *and*
- work at local and/or national/country level
- have a written constitution/rules
- have a governing body elected by the HBW worker members
- have regular financial reports
- be independent of political and/or religious bodies as well as employers
- have a minimum number of fifty (50) HBW members, or the minimum number specified by the regional bodies to which they are affiliated, whichever is more
- become a member of the relevant regional organization, 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 organizations locally and nationally
- allow you to learn from and exchange knowledge with organizations of HBWs from different countries
- provide solidarity and support from HNI members and other allies
- ensure your organization is aware of, and represented in, global dialogues or negotiations around home-based work and workers
- create solidarity to influence global organizations that affect home-based work and the lives of HBWs
- ensure your organization is part of global campaigns to improve the lives and livelihoods of HBWs.



Join HomeNet International today to participate in raising the voice and visibility of home-based workers across the globe.

Photo: Thipphanan Singthong of HomeNet Thailand; credit: Paula Bronstein/Getty Images

## What is the cost?

On affiliation to HNI your organization will pay a joining fee of \$50 USD.

In the following year you will pay an annual affiliation fee, depending on the size of your membership. This will be payable, preferably in the first quarter of the year. The annual fee, adopted by the founding Congress, is:

- \$25 per annum for affiliates with 50-500 members
- \$50 per annum for affiliates with 501-1000 members
- \$75 per annum for affiliates with more than 1000 members

This fee is subject to change by decision of the Executive Committee in consultation with affiliates.

NOTE: The date of implementation for payment of joining and annual fees has been delayed due to the hardships faced by organizations during the pandemic.

## How do we apply for Membership?

If your organization meets the criteria and wants to become an affiliate of HNI, please request an application form from a representative of the International Working Committee/Executive Committee or download from our web site at: [www.homenetinternational.org/about/hni](http://www.homenetinternational.org/about/hni)

- **AFRICA** - Vanessa Pillay: [Vanessa.Pillay@wiego.org](mailto:Vanessa.Pillay@wiego.org); Edwin Bett: [bett@kefat.org](mailto:bett@kefat.org)
- **LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN** - Laura Morillo: [laura.morillo@wiego.org](mailto:laura.morillo@wiego.org)
- **SOUTH ASIA** - Navya D'Souza: [navya.dsouza@hnsa.org.in](mailto:navya.dsouza@hnsa.org.in)
- **SOUTH EAST ASIA** - Suntaree H. Saeng-ging: [sunnewomen@gmail.com](mailto:sunnewomen@gmail.com)

Upon submission of the application form to your regional coordinator (as above) and the requested documents, your regional network/organization will provide a recommendation to the International Working Committee/Executive Committee, which will take the final decision on your affiliation to HNI.

**Help build  
HomeNet  
International**

**APPLY TO  
JOIN TODAY!**

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



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