

2ND HOMENET INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

April 25-28, 2023

Kathmandu, Nepal



WE ARE MANY
WE ARE UNITED
WE ARE HOMENET INTERNATIONAL

Acknowledgements

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With appreciation to the HNI Secretariat and guest collaborators who made possible this report:

International Coordinator: Janhavi Dave

Advisor and former HNI Working Committee member: Chris Bonner

Communications and Media Officer: Laura Revelo

Programme Coordinator: Sarbani Kattel

Digital Communications Officer: Eduardo Derrico

Communications Support Officer: Veronica Robledo

Finance & Administration Coordinator: Srujana Banala

Administrative Officer: Kripa Awale

Layout and Design: Lesther Morales

Editor: Jenny Grice

Table of Contents

I.	HNI Vision	4
II.	The guiding words of Ela Bhatt	5
III.	The Congress, according to the HNI Constitution	6
IV.	About the Congress: An occasion of many “firsts”	7
V.	History: Looking back, to move forward	11
	a. South Asia: Coining the term ‘home-based worker’	11
	b. Fighting for ratification of ILO Convention 177 - the Kathmandu Declaration.....	12
	c. Southeast Asia: Building HBW organisations in the region	13
	d. Latin America: Learning to love each other despite their differences.....	14
	e. Eastern Europe and Central Asia: HNEE and CA’s journey towards HNI	15
	f. Africa: HomeNet Africa the “fastest growing region”.....	15
VI.	Reporting back - HNI’s work from 2021 to 2023	16
	I. Developing HNI Governance and Operational Structures	16
	II. Strengthening Organisations of HBWs and Building Solidarity	17
	III. Recognition and Visibility of HBWs	17
	IV. Improving Livelihoods and Working Conditions	18
VII.	HNI’s new governing body	19
	a. The credentials list	19
	b. Elections.....	20
	c. The first HNI Executive Committee.....	21
VIII.	Discussions on the priority areas for HBWs	25
	a. Organising	25
	b. Social Protection.....	28
	c. Occupational Health and Safety	29
	d. Access to Markets and Social and Solidarity Economy.....	30
	e. Climate Change.....	32
IX.	Celebrating cultural diversity and the work of HBWs	33
X.	The home-based workers bazaar	37
XI.	Field visits: Understanding the nature and challenges of Nepal’s HBWs	38
XII.	HNI’s common voice: Our first declaration and resolution	46
	a. Our first declaration	46
	b. Our first resolution	48
XIII.	Way Forward	49
XIV.	Messages of solidarity from around the world	50
XV.	Together, we shall overcome	57
XVI.	Appendices	59

I. HNI Vision

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

II. The guiding words of Ela Bhatt



“I am very proud of all of you who are working hard to build a global movement of home-based workers. It is not easy to build a global network as we all come from different cultures, histories, political context[s], [and] economic structures and speak different languages. But we must always remember that home-based workers around the world face the same issues. This builds solidarity amongst our sisters. When we have a Congress, we should focus on building solidarity amongst home-based workers around the world.”

Sister Ela Bhatt



“Home-based workers around the world face the same issues,” said Ela Bhatt at the HomeNet International Founding Congress, on February 23, 2021.

These were the guiding words that Sister Ela Bhatt, the founder of the home-based workers’ movement and the largest informal economy trade union of women workers (SEWA) in India, shared with HomeNet International during the HNI Founding Congress held virtually on February 23, 2021.

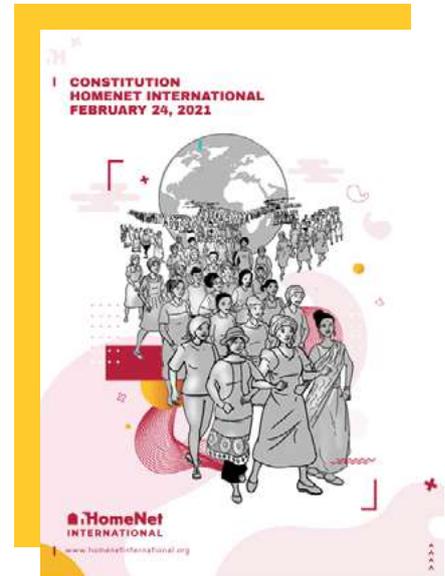
HNI made sure to embrace her advice and make **organising** and **solidarity-building** the two core themes of its second Congress.



III. The Congress, according to the HNI Constitution¹

The Congress is the highest decision-making body of HomeNet International and its functions are:

- a. Considering and approving reports from the Secretariat and President.
- b. Considering and approving financial reports.
- c. Holding an election of the Executive Committee, including the Office Bearers, which consist, of a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, and an International Coordinator. The Executive Committee and Office Bearers must be composed of at least 75% women.
- d. Adopting and making amendments to the Constitution.
- e. Making decisions on policies and resolutions submitted by affiliates or the Executive Committee.
- f. Considering other issues as approved by the Executive Committee.



Congress will be composed of:

- a. The Executive Committee, including the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and International Coordinator (ex-officio) as detailed in Clause 9.2. (a) to (c).
- b. Delegates from affiliates, based on size of membership. Delegates will be entitled to speak and vote. The number of delegates will be determined as under:
 - I. Affiliates with 50-500 members, entitled to one delegate.
 - II. Affiliates with 501-1000 members, entitled to two delegates.
 - III. Affiliates with above 1000 members, entitled to three delegates.
- c. The five electoral regions, being Africa, Eastern Europe/Central Asia, Latin America, South Asia, and SouthEast Asia, will be represented. Regional Coordinators (or a representative from a region where no coordinator is yet in place) will be entitled to participate in the Congress to represent the views of the region. They will have speaking but no voting rights.
- d. Staff members may attend Congress as decided upon by the Executive Committee and will have speaking rights only.
- e. Non membership-based organisations working with home-based workers and other allies may be invited by the Executive Committee to participate as observers.

¹ Constitution HomeNet International, February 24, 2021, <https://www.homenetinternational.org/about/constitution/>.



At the start of the Congress, delegates from 31 countries walked onto the stage waving their countries' flags proudly.

IV. About the Congress: An occasion of many “firsts”



A traditional Nepali Jatra procession with live music and masked dancers in traditional outfits overflowed the conference hall. A Jatra procession symbolises the start of an auspicious occasion – this time it was the holding of HNI's 2nd Congress from April 25 to 28, 2023, at the Yak & Yeti Hotel in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The Congress in numbers

205 total Congress participants

127 HNI delegates from **71** affiliate organisations were present

31 countries were represented

Interpretation was held in **15** languages

A beaming crowd made up of more than 200 congress participants including 127 HNI delegates, representatives from sister organisations, as well as funders and members of the local press² gathered around the Nepali dancers. They made way for delegates representing 31 countries, who walked onto the stage waving their country flags proudly.

With a warm welcome from HomeNet International Coordinator, Janhavi Dave, on behalf of the HNI Working Committee members³, the congress began.



This vivacious opening ceremony set the mood of celebration and solidarity for what would be four days of an eventful and multicultural Congress.

Pronouncing the Congress slogan for more than 200 enthusiastic participants that travelled to Kathmandu from around the world, Apsara Dangol, a home-based worker leader and the chairperson of Sabah Nepal, opened HomeNet International's 2nd Congress with a warm welcome:

*"Namaste everyone. **We are many. We are united. We are HomeNet International!** Let us work for home-based workers' rights so their voices may be heard across the world...We would like to heartily welcome you to the country which hosts the highest summit in the world, Mount Everest, on behalf of all home-based workers in Nepal, on behalf of SABAH Nepal, and from myself."*

Janhavi Dave, HNI International Coordinator and the Chair of the Congress during the first two days, reminded participants who were meeting for the first time:



"As you know, this is not our first Congress, even though it feels like it is. We had our first Congress virtually because we couldn't meet each other due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As our first Congress was virtual, some key agenda items were postponed and are taking place in this second Congress, such as the elections of the Executive Committee", she added.



Janhavi Dave, International Coordinator of HomeNet International, chairing during the first day of the 2nd HNI Congress.

² Appendix 1: List of participants

³ International Working Committee of HomeNet International, February 24, 2021, <https://www.homenetinternational.org/about/international-working-committee/>



HNI membership & its rapid growth

In February 2021, 36 HBW membership-based organisations from 20 countries became the first affiliate members of HNI.

Today, HNI is made up of **75 affiliates** from **33 countries** from Latin America, Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

We now collectively represent over 1.2 million home-based workers, of which approximately **95 per cent are women**.

75 Affiliates from
33 Countries

95%
Women

This map is for illustrative purposes and does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of HomeNet International concerning the legal status of any country or territory or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries⁴.

⁴ Google. (n.d.). World Map. Retrieved August 22, 2023, from <https://www.google.com/maps/>

This historic second Congress in Kathmandu, welcomed 127 delegates from HNI's 71 of its 75 affiliate organisations to a four-day event in Kathmandu. Delegates flew in from all corners of the world. For some this was the first time in a South Asian country, for others it was the first time outside of their own country.

The Congress also welcomed supporters, sister organisations and major allies from organisations such as Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), StreetNet International, International Alliance of Waste Pickers, International Domestic Workers Federation, Netherlands Trade Union Confederation (FNV), Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), Nepal Trade Union Congress (NTUC), General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (GEFONT), Joint Trade Union Coordination Center (JTUCC), Ford Foundation, amongst many others. All extended their messages of solidarity and support.



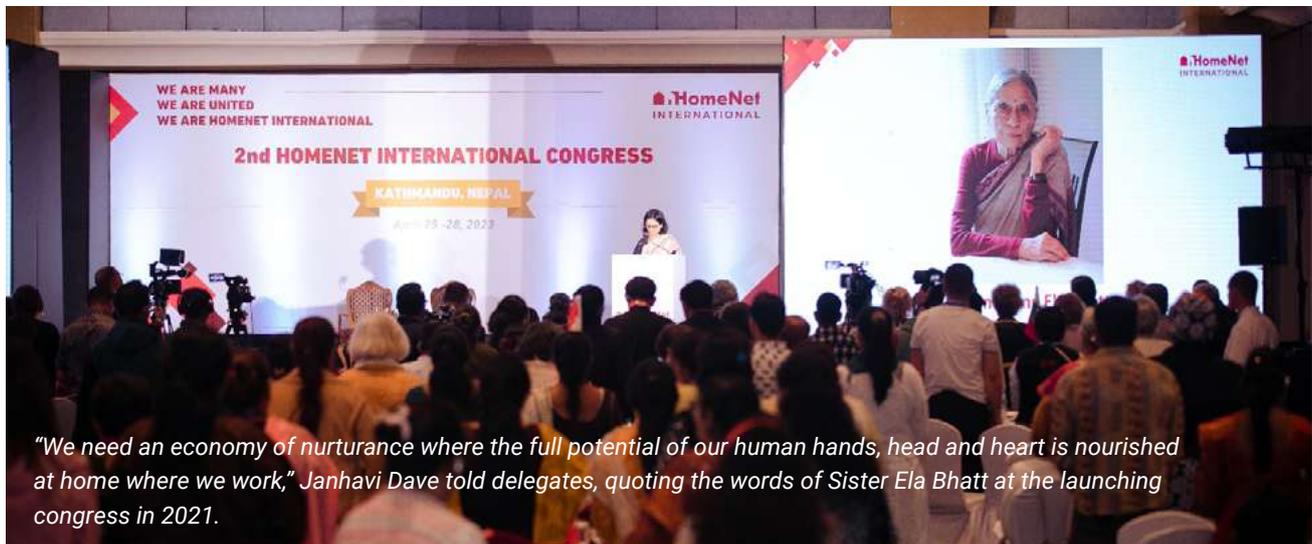
This was a Congress of many “firsts”, it was the first time that HNI delegates met in person to elect a new governing body (the new Executive Committee and its Office-bearers), discuss their priority areas of work, showcase their products in a vibrant HBWs Bazaar and deepen the solidarity and unity that were built by HNI during the pandemic’s online activities.

The four-day programme⁵ was filled with exciting events and activities. Highlights included a series of thematic discussions that emphasised many of the emerging issues that home-based workers face, primarily their struggle to organise. A plenary discussion on organising took place where different organising models were explained.

Also, the Congress split up into three groups and thematic discussions were held on the three issues that were identified by the regions in the past two years as a priority: the lack of access to markets, Social Protection and the impact of climate change on home-based workers’ lives.

⁵ Appendix 2: 2nd HNI Congress Programme

V. History: Looking back, to move forward



Congress participants spent time hearing from members of the HBW movement who have been struggling, some for more than four decades, to gain visibility, recognition and rights for home-based workers. We have all learnt many lessons from the process and from our mistakes.

As Janhavi continued setting the context during the session on the history of the HBWs movement, she paused and asked Congress to remember the founder of the movement, the one who started it all, Sister Ela Bhatt. She requested a minute of silence and then echoed some of Ela's words from the virtual HNI Congress held in 2021:

"The means are as important as the goals. We must change the economy more than it changes us. We need an economy of our own making and not one where we struggle in the role assigned to us. We need an economy of nurturance where the full potential of our human hands, head and heart is nourished at home where we work. We need an economy that recognises women's leadership and promotes cooperation, sharing and trust. We need an economy that is diverse, local and sustainable."

a. South Asia: Coining the term 'home-based worker'

Renana Jhabvala, Chairperson of SEWA Bharat and HomeNet South Asia, went back in time - more than four decades - to the days when she worked alongside Ela Bhatt at SEWA. At that moment in time SEWA had around two hundred members. Today it has around 2,5 million informal economy women workers as members.

Renana told of how she began at SEWA working on a study of women stitchers who had come to Elaben for help. They were working more than eight hours a day, sometimes up to twelve, and earning less than half of the minimum wage.

They approached employers and the Labour Department and asked them to pay the women the minimum wage, but they had one answer: They are not workers, they are women doing something in their time of leisure.



"I learned it is not easy to run an international network... Business is international, but workers remain in their small, small homes, so we must learn to be international, keep together, you may fight amongst yourselves, it's okay, but keep being together."

Renana Jhabvala, Chairperson of SEWA Bharat and HomeNet South Asia

"They were not considered workers because they were not in factories or had an official employer. Also, by working in their homes, they were invisible. To address their invisibility and to speak out properly about who they are, they were given a name - home-based workers.

So, we organised the stitchers, got better wages for them, we started their cooperative, then we organised the cigarette rollers (beedi rollers), so we found that it is possible to organise home-based workers. They want to be organised, but they face many problems," added Renana.

Renana continued by sharing how the home-based workers movement flourished, how they came to know home-based workers and their organisations across borders and continents,

how they networked and advocated with international trade unions and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). She touched upon the struggle for the ILO Convention 177 and the early formation of the first HNI and why it didn't work the first time around.

"I learned it is not easy to run an international network. I want to tell you, you are the future, but to be the future, you must learn to stay together. You are so different, somebody may be from Chile, from Thailand, how do you work together when you can't speak together, when you have different hearts and thoughts. Business is international, but workers remain in their small, small homes, so we must learn to be international, keep together, you may fight amongst yourselves, it's okay, but keep being together."

b. Fighting for ratification of ILO Convention 177 - the Kathmandu Declaration

Chandni Joshi, founder and enforcer of HNSA, described what was done behind the scenes to achieve two major milestones for the HBWs movement: the ILO Convention 177⁶ and the Kathmandu Declaration.

In 1995, while working at the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) as its regional director, Chandni Joshi told delegates she got a call from Ela Bhatt. This call changed the course of her life and her work in strengthening the home-based workers movement began. Ela Bhatt asked her to take the agenda of home-based workers to Geneva to lobby and advocate for an ILO Convention.



Chandni Joshi, founder and enforcer of HNSA, detailed their strategy to change the views of government officials of 15 Asia Pacific countries who were against ratification of ILO C177.

⁶ International Labour Organization "C177, Home Work Convention" June 20, 1996, https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C177

Their work was a success. A year later the ILO adopted C177. But it was not enough. Individual governments needed to ratify it as well. Most governments “were not in favour of C177”, said Chandni, so she wrote to officials in the Ministries of Labour of 15 South Asian Pacific countries that stood against the ILO Convention. She brought them together in a meeting in Bangkok to raise awareness on women HBWs and she shared the strategy they used in this meeting to bring government officials round to their view.

“We had a small corner of home-based workers to showcase [them] because we didn’t have any firm decisions or definitions of who a home-based worker was. We got a shoemaker from Thailand. We asked her to bring her pots and pans, her cooking tools, to bring her breast-feeding child, all her equipment of shoe making and be there in the corner and just do what she does at home.

So, she did that, showing the ministers what she did all day – she’s breastfeeding, she’s cooking, she’s cleaning, she’s also making her shoes – the triple burden that she’s doing at the same time, the caring burden, the nursing job that she does all the time.

So, whenever the discussion would go astray, or they would call them “entrepreneurs” we would say, “just a minute, let’s get this together. You are talking about these people, we are not talking about entrepreneurs, these are informal workers, another category.”

That’s how we got all the ministers together and we got Ela to come and sit with them and introduce the Convention, read through every clause. It was more like convincing the governments and clearing the doubts and the results showed. Among the 15 ministers that we lobbied for in that ministerial conference that we had organised, there were only two who abstained.”

She continued, telling Congress delegates how the Kathmandu Declaration⁷ came to be and how those involved strategized to get key players in the room. The Kathmandu Declaration was adopted in 2000 by representatives of five governments (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). This led to the formation of HomeNet South Asia which had a diverse group supporting and endorsing it: SEWA, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), researchers, women’s movements, women’s groups, senior secretaries of the Ministry of Labour, amongst others. She explained the importance of having all these groups put the document together.

The declaration was a victory, but the challenge was that a structure was needed to ensure that the declaration would be implemented. “How to do it in South Asia: [it’s] very diverse, each country, no-one is like another. It’s very difficult to just put oranges and apples in the same basket – what kind of institution do we need at regional level, at country level?”

And that’s how HomeNet South Asia was formally registered in 2006.

c. Southeast Asia: Building HBW organisations in the region

Strengthening HBW organisations nationally in the Southeast Asia region was top priority initially, Rakawin Leechanavanichpan, founder of HomeNet Thailand and chairperson of the Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion, told congress delegates.

⁷ Kathmandu Declaration, October 18-20, 2000.

<https://hnsa.org.in/sites/default/files/Kathmandu%20Declaration%202000.pdf>

The formation of HomeNet Southeast Asia

“HomeNet Southeast Asia came together in 1996 after concluding an ILO project which focused on rural home-based workers in the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand. During the first few years, the network’s priorities were to strengthen the organisation at the national level.

The priority issues of the network seemed to be quite common to all the countries involved. The issues were: organising, strengthening livelihoods, data collection, recognition, occupational health and safety, labour rights and social security.

Each country created its own platform and pushed for its own agenda according to their target groups. HNSEA supported them with knowledge and resources as much as we could. The major difficulties of those days were the lack of studies on the informal economy and home-based workers.

HNSEA also played a great role in supporting the policy agenda of the national, regional and international networks by collecting data, doing research and resource mobilisation.”



Rakawin Leechanavanichpan, founder of HomeNet Thailand, explained that uniting around common concerns helped to bring HNSEA into being

d. Latin America: Learning to love each other despite their differences

Patricia Coñoman, former HNI Working Committee member and coordinator of Conatrado Chile, briefly shared how the HBWs movement in Latin America came to be.

“Most of us are textile workers. I am a textile worker. We have seen how an economic model put an end to our industries and brought us into our homes. We have travelled and met other fellow women workers. At the ILO we met many of the worker leaders mentioned today, and we began to build this bond of unity that gets stronger every day. Besides that, we’ve made a major commitment to work in Latin America and the Caribbean. That is how we’ve met our fellow workers from Uruguay, Brazil, Argentina and Peru. We all became sisters in suffering.



“Unity, respect, coordination and lots of love for what we are doing,” are the key ingredients for building a successful organisation - Patricia Coñoman, coordinator of Conatrado Chile

This unity we’ve built in Latin America and the Caribbean enabled us to do our own Congress at Latin America and the Caribbean level at the height of the pandemic. We had to learn to use social media. We also had to learn to move in other spaces. We had to learn to love each other despite our differences. We didn’t agree on many occasions, but there is only one road that shows us what our predecessors have said: unity, respect, coordination and lots of love for what we are doing. Today we stand here with pride to say we are here, and that we will continue this path.”

e. Eastern Europe and Central Asia: HNEE and CA's journey towards HNI



When HBW organisations from across the region worked together, it was their first step to joining the global network - Violeta Borisova Zlateva, regional coordinator HNEE and CA

Violeta Borisova Zlateva, the regional coordinator of HomeNet Eastern Europe and Central Asia and president of the Union of Self-employed and Informal workers (Edinstvo) in Bulgaria, described how the regional organisation was built out of small beginnings in Bulgaria.

"The organisation of home-based workers was first established in Bulgaria in 2000. Working during that time was challenging, but thanks to WIEGO, we were able to establish the Balkan Union. It included Bulgaria as well as Romania, Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, and Montenegro.

In the beginning, acting together, we created HomeNet Eastern Europe. However, our partners from Georgia and Kyrgyzstan joined us when the first international festival and rally of home-based workers took place in Bulgaria, during which we openly announced that we had such a network.

In 2014, the first HomeNet Congress for members from those countries was held. Svetlana Balalaeva from Kyrgyzstan then put a lot of effort into bringing together organisations from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan that worked with home-based workers, leading to the establishment of HomeNet Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Our first Congress as HNEE and CA was held in 2019. Then we decided that we would all join the global network."

f. Africa: HomeNet Africa the "fastest growing region"

HBWs in HNA, the fastest growing region, began to come together way back in 2009-2010. Edwin Bett, regional coordinator for HNA, detailed its history. But first he asked Juliana Mutinda Kikuvi, a home-based worker from HomeNet Kenya, to lead the African delegates and Congress into chanting their slogan:

**HomeNet Africa
Hey ah hey!
Solidarity, Unity and Power!**

HNA's story starts way back in 2009-2010 when WIEGO initiated a programme: organising HBWs in Africa. Later during 2012-2015, together with the Organization and Representation Programme, they identified organisations and women's groups of HBWs.

From 2018-2021, work focused on organising HBWs and institution building at local and national levels in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and South Africa. At the regional level, this led to the formation of the African Regional Platform, which further developed into HNA in 2022.



Juliana Mutinda Kikuvi, a home-based worker from HomeNet Kenya, chants HNA's slogan to the congress delegates

VI. Reporting back - HNI's work from 2021 to 2023

Congress is all about taking stock of what has been done since the previous congress. Janhavi and the regional coordinators from the five regions presented a two-year detailed report⁸ that summarised each region's history and spelt out the organising work of HNI at the regional and international levels since its launch in 2021.

The Congress held in February 2021, identified four priority areas:

- I. Developing HNI Governance and Operational Structures
- II. Strengthening Organisations of HBWs and Building Solidarity
- III. Recognition and Visibility of HBWs
- IV. Improving Livelihoods and Working Conditions

Some key accomplishments for each priority area are the following:

I. Developing HNI Governance and Operational Structures

- The International Working Committee met virtually every month after the virtual congress. Participants exchanged knowledge and paved the way for a strong and united HomeNet International.
- HNI set up a lean structure for the Secretariat to function properly.
- It formed sub-committees: Affiliation Committee, Finance Committee, and committees pertaining to HNI's 2nd Congress. These provided Working Committee members with an opportunity to take leadership roles and guide HNI's activities in detail.
- HNI's registration was identified as one of the steps towards formalisation and autonomy. HNI hired a consultant to conduct a feasibility study of 26 countries where HNI could be registered. The process for registration is currently ongoing.



HomeNet International Working Committee and Secretariat during an IWC meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal, October 2022.

⁸ HomeNet International 2021 - 2023.

English: <https://www.homenetinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/HNI-2021-2023.pdf>

Spanish: <https://www.homenetinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/HNI-2021-2023-ES.pdf>

Portuguese: <https://www.homenetinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/HNI-2021-2023-PT.pdf>

Russian: <https://www.homenetinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/HNI-2021-2023-RU.pdf>

II. Strengthening Organisations of HBWs and Building Solidarity

- HNI conducted webinars on multiple subjects to build solidarity, share knowledge, create partnerships and strengthen organising. Most webinars were attended by over 200 participants made up of members of HNI affiliates, HBWs from emerging affiliates, trade unions and sister organisations. Language interpretation was provided in up to 8 languages.
- Home-based workers got into the habit of meeting online thanks to the many webinars and meetings held. This created space for HNI to build capacity online on reporting, crowdfunding, and linking HBWs to the WIEGO School.
- HNI members celebrated important dates online through Zoom meetings, e.g., on International HBWs Day, International Labour Day and HNI's first anniversary.
- Networking linked HNI with other social movements
- The ILO recognised HNI and as a result HNI representatives from affiliates attended the general discussions on Social Protection and Social Solidarity Economy (SSE) at the International Labour Conference in 2021 and 2022.



Edileuza Guimarães, Executive Committee member and President of Atemdo Brazil, addresses the ILC Plenary sitting on June 8, 2022.

III. Recognition and Visibility of HBWs

- Thanks to the very participative International Working Committee members and home-based worker leaders from all the regions, HNI represented HBWs and their demands in more than 30 events throughout the past 2 years. Some of the key events were: Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 65, CSW66 and CSW67 parallel events, 109th and 110th sessions of the International Labour Conference, amongst others.
- Two of HNI's main aims are to increase global visibility and recognition of home-based workers. By using different channels of communication it spread awareness about home-based workers through clear and effective communication via its website and social media platforms.
- HNI and its affiliates have been featured in several news articles. We proactively look for opportunities to make HBWs visible in the media.
- Communication with the affiliates is key and we do so through different channels: quarterly newsletter, In Solidarity Google Group and WhatsApp groups.

IV. Improving Livelihoods and Working Conditions

HNI has focused on improving livelihoods and working conditions through four key programmes with an aim to reduce vulnerability, enhance self-reliance and build a set of necessary skills for HBWs:

- **Social Protection Programme in Asia** - HNI worked with HomeNet South Asia and HomeNet Southeast Asia along with their affiliates in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, and Thailand to advocate for improved and increased access to Social Protection for HBWs at the national level through policy advocacy and public education. This project was further extended to the regions of Africa and Latin America where a series of webinars were conducted on the issue.
- **Emergency Relief Support for COVID-19** - During the Covid-19 pandemic, HNI provided much-needed emergency relief support of USD 100,000 to HBWs and their families across five regions. They were provided food and essential material during health emergencies caused by Covid-19.
- **Access to Markets** - A webinar series on Access to Markets was held throughout 2022 and 2023 to share different models of organising, to understand the needs of HNI affiliates in accessing markets for the products made by home-based workers and to collectively plan on what HNI and affiliates can do locally, nationally, regionally and globally to increase HBW organisations access to markets.
- **Social and Solidarity Economy** - Two webinars were held to create a better understanding on SSE and three short case studies were developed to share knowledge about different SSE organising models. Additionally, HNI advocated for SSE and HBWs at the 110th session of the ILC and spoke at HNSEA's webinar dedicated to the subject.



Emergency relief support for COVID-19 in Thailand

VII. HNI's new governing body



Any democratic organisation must ensure that the process to elect its new office bearers is democratic and that delegates present are eligible to vote. The Credentials Committee and Elections Committee were tasked with ensuring that all the procedures were followed for a democratic election.

a. The credentials list

As stated in the HNI Constitution an Executive Committee and Office-bearers (President, Vice-president, and Treasurer) shall be elected during the Congress. For this to happen, the first thing needed is to make sure that the delegates who are present at Congress are legitimate and are eligible to vote. Those delegates who are eligible to vote must be a part of an affiliate organisation that is up to date with HNI's affiliation fees.

To ensure the eligibility of delegates, a Credentials Committee was established and approved by the Congress. This Committee was made up of the five regional coordinators (Suntaree Saeng-ging - Southeast Asia, Sristi Joshi Malla - South Asia, Edwin Bett - Africa, Laura Morillo - Latin America and Violeta Borisova Zlateva - Eastern Europe and Central Asia). The Credentials list⁹ was presented to Congress, demonstrating that 127 delegates were present, representing 71 affiliate organisations. All

⁹ Appendix 3- Credentials list

HNI affiliate organisations - 75 in total - including those who did not send delegates to the Congress, paid their joining fees, making all of the delegates eligible to vote.

b. Elections

The HNI Constitution states that an Election Committee is responsible for supervising the election process of the new Executive Committee members. In 2022, the International Working Committee appointed a three-person committee of representatives of Global Union Federations (GUF) and international federations of workers in the informal economy with experience in holding democratic elections. (See below)

The Elections Committee



Barbro Budin was the Gender Equality and Projects Officer at the global union federation, IUF, based in Geneva. She has spent most of her working life working for the IUF.

Crecentia Mofokeng is a unionist working for the Building and Wood Workers International – BWI as the Regional Representative for Africa and Middle East Region since 2001.



Elizabeth Tang is the General Secretary of the International Domestic Workers Federation. Prior to IDWF, Elizabeth was the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions.

(Unfortunately, Elizabeth Tang was unable to attend the HNI Congress in person)

Months before the Congress took place, the five regions held their own democratic elections or nominations process, resulting in two proposed Executive Committee members from each region. On April 26, on day 2 of the HNI Congress, these elected or nominated Executive Committee members were approved unanimously by the delegates.



Delegates raise their badges in unanimous approval of HNI's first Executive Committee

Thereafter, the Office-bearer elections took place from among the 10 Executive Committee members. The results of the elections were announced on April 27, on day 3 of the HNI Congress, where the first Office-bearers of HNI were welcomed with applause, drum beating and whistles.

c. The first HNI Executive Committee.



"Together, we can overcome all the challenges faced by home-based workers. With trust, respect, and love, I pledge to exercise the role as President with a collective and participatory leadership approach...quoting Hellen Keller, -"Alone I can do so little, together we can do so much!"

"Mabuhai! We are many, we are united, we are HomeNet International!"

President Josephine Olive Parilla is currently the President of HomeNet International and PATAMABA - Workers in the Informal Sector Enterprise (WISE). She was also HomeNet Southeast Asia's Regional Coordinator and holds key positions within HomeNet Philippines, including serving on the Executive Committee and as the Secretary of HomeNet Producers Cooperative.

"The most important issues to address for HNI are the voice, visibility and validation of the home-based workers and ensuring ratification of ILO C177 ... Empowering women is crucial for a fair global economy. Let's join hands across borders, advocate for social security, and build a strong network. Together, we can ensure visibility, validation, and integrated growth."



Vice-President Manali Shah is the Vice-President of HomeNet International and the National Secretary of SEWA (Self-Employed Women's Association) in India. With over 31 years of experience working with SEWA, Manali has been a relentless advocate for the rights of informal economy women workers. Her commitment and expertise have made her a valuable asset in promoting the interests of home-based workers in India and beyond.



"The most important issues for HNI are visibility and recognition for the workers. Also, to help in lobbying for their policies and strengthening the affiliates by the use of capacity-building sessions, improving livelihoods and helping in market access. I am motivated by my experience as a basket weaver home-based worker and in advocating for women's economic empowerment."

Treasurer Jemima Nyakongo is a hands-on home-based worker with extensive experience in mobilising and organising women in the community. Currently serving as HomeNet International's Treasurer, she holds the position of Organizing Secretary to Rachuonyo Women Group, an affiliate of HomeNet Kenya. Jemima's dedication is further reflected in her role as the current Chairperson of HomeNet Kenya, where she continues to make a significant impact.

"The major issues for HNI are to advocate for the rights of HBWs in national and international forums and put pressure on different institutions for the ratification of C177 and raise the issue of unity of HBWs globally. As an ExCo member, I promise I will fight for the rights and recognition of HBWs in all forums."



Apsara Dangol is a member of HomeNet International's Executive Committee and the Chairperson of SABAH Nepal. With a long-standing association with SABAH Nepal since 2009, she has been actively involved in membership development campaigns, networking, and organising grassroots-level home-based workers. Apsara has played a crucial role as the coordinator and leader of Khokana CFC and has been representing home-based workers in the SABAH Board since 2020.

"As an SSE advocate, in my country, I met Latin American colleagues. We have been through many difficult circumstances in my country, and this is why HBWs are still invisible. This is why for us it is very important to be in HNI together to fight for the rights of HBWs, those who lack so many things and feel abandoned, our struggle will be so that SSE workers can improve their lives."



Edileuza Guimarães is a member of HomeNet International's Executive Committee and the President of ATEMDO - Association of Home-based Workers of Solidarity Economy in Brazil. With a strong engagement in the Solidarity Economy movement since 2005, she actively supports workers from all segments of the informal economy. Edileuza is also a member of the Interim Committee of COTRADO ALAC, further contributing to advocating for the rights of informal economy workers.



"I discovered that 95% of the workers in the transport sector were men during my 16 years of employment there. I can see that 75% of the workers in this industry are women. I believe I'll get along with you because I did with the drivers, and I'll get the job done well. Glory to those who work from home!"

Lavrent Alania is a member of HomeNet International's Executive Committee and the Director of the Trade Union Training and Retraining Centre. With a strong background in trade union activity, he has been actively involved in representing workers' rights. Lavrent has held various leadership positions, including the President of the Trade Union of Georgian Automobile Transport and Highways' Workers and the Vice President of the Georgian Trade Unions Confederation (GTUC).

"It is my hope that I bring to the ExCo the needs and opportunities that are found within HomeNet Africa. I will listen, advise and understand the challenges that are found in other regions. It is my belief that the issues that affect the HBWs cut across all regions. It will be my duty to provide solutions for the challenges facing HBWs."



Rebecca Nelson is a member of HomeNet International's Executive Committee, serving as the Coordinator of HomeNet Tanzania. Additionally, she holds the position of Secretary of UWAKE group and is an expert in batik production. Rebecca has been instrumental in expanding, organising and mobilising efforts for home-based workers in Tanzania and across the African region, making a significant contribution to their empowerment.

"We believe that by working together within the global network, we can remove the obstacles that prevent Central Asian and Kyrgyz people from working from home. Being a part of the HomeNet International Executive Committee would make me feel incredibly proud."



Svetlana Balalaeva is a member of HomeNet International's Executive Committee and the co-chair of HomeNet Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Her experience includes serving as the Executive Director of the Women Creative Studios Association "Aidemi" and as the Technical Coordinator for Kyrgyzstan in the regional project "Mobilising Public Private Partnerships in Support of Women-led Small Business Development." Svetlana's dedication to promoting the rights of women home-based workers is evident through her various roles and contributions.



"My life was full of women's struggles but when I discovered myself as a discriminated elderly woman – but mostly discriminated against because of salary – [and] without social protection, I saw other women, and I think that is an important reason to be here. My gender perspective focuses on many areas but mainly on the invisible areas too. We are caregivers also when we become old, we take care of sick people, of grandchildren, of neighbours, of other fellow women..."

Tatiana Venus Rojas Orellana has been actively involved in social work related to gender, women, unions, and LGBTIQ+ movements for over 20 years. She is currently a member of HomeNet International's Executive Committee and also serves as the President and Secretary of the Luis Gauthier Union of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Workers, Treasurer of the National Textile Confederation (CONTEXTIL), and Coordinator in CONATRADO.

"For me HNI's roles are organising, capacity building, visibility, networking, improving livelihoods, sustainability for all HBWs around the world. Our role as ExCo members is to provide support in the processes."



Titin Kustini is a member of HomeNet International's Executive Committee and Secretary of HomeNet Southeast Asia. She is also the Director at Yayasan Pemerhati Sosial Indonesia, an Advocacy Team Leader for Women Home-Based Workers and Child Labor and Director of Social Concern Foundation of Indonesia.

VIII. Discussions on the priority areas for HBWs

Another aspect of a democratic organisation is to allow debate and discussion around important topics by all delegates. During this section of the congress, delegates shared and debated different ideas from among HNI's key programmes and from priority areas of work of the regions and affiliates. Together they drew up clear priorities and demands to direct the organisation until the next Congress.



Professor Marty Chen spoke about the power and importance of gathering statistics on HBWs

a. Organising

1. Solidarity, unity and strength in numbers

Marty Chen, founder and Board member of WIEGO, provided the opening remarks to the plenary discussion on Organising, one of the main themes of the 2nd HNI Congress. She put her “professor’s hat” on and spoke about the origins of WIEGO, the Kathmandu Declaration, about the power and importance of statistics and provided technical information about the definition of home-based workers.

“Solidarity, unity, strength in numbers. That is where you get your power, and mutual support is also important.” Marty dived deeply into the different types of organisations, explaining the differences between a union and a cooperative.

Women workers can be empowered in a number of ways she told delegates and quoted Sister Ela Bhat:

“They can gain knowledge of their rights and obligations and in turn gain recognition. This is what you want. You want recognition as producers, as traders, as service providers, they can gain a sense of solidarity, which would lead to collective efforts and a stronger bargaining position.”

II. Plenary discussion on Organising: Delegates share their experiences



A rich discussion on “Organising” was facilitated by Jane Barrett, director of WIEGO’s Organisation and Representation Programme, in collaboration with Chris Bonner, who led the group discussions towards the end.

In order to give Congress participants an opportunity to learn from different perspectives, four HBW leaders were invited to present their organising experiences from their own organisations:

Mary Viyakula, from Anukatham (and SAVE) a federation that organises garment workers based in India, talked about how they’ve identified the counterparts to consider when negotiating with different stakeholders around the issues of HBWs in supply chains:

“Home-based workers get paid very little because there are three to six intermediaries between them and the factories. Because of that, they are invisible to international clothing brands. Now, workers are organised and engaging others. The organisation has reached 47,000 workers. Being together gives them energy. Through SAVE we motivate each other and bring other workers to the labour union. We have had successful negotiations with intermediaries in 60 % of the cases. Failures are considered learning opportunities. We were able to reduce 1 or 2 intermediaries. At the brand level, SAVE advocates for home-based workers and simultaneously lobbies with local governments to recognise them.”



Reducing the intermediaries that work with HBWs was a priority to earn them better income, said Mary Viyakula, from Anukatham (and SAVE) a federation that organises garment workers based in India.

Anishabanu Mohamadyunus, who has been associated with SEWA for almost 22 years, told Congress participants how she is a second-generation home-based worker who organises home-based workers.

“Home-based workers are not even aware that they are workers. First, we help them identify as workers. But they do not get associated straight away. SEWA has to visit their homes a couple of times and talk about their personal problems, after which they start developing confidence in us and then they join SEWA. Home-based workers are scattered. They stay in their respective homes. Therefore, it is very difficult to organise them. SEWA asks them who their contractors are. They don’t answer for fear of losing their work. So, SEWA members stand outside their homes and closely watch them wherever they go. SEWA members reach out to their masters and find out at what rate he is giving them the work. Then only it becomes possible to do some work towards their social security.”



Second-generation HBW, Anishabanu Mohamadyunus, from SEWA, stressed how important it was to help HBWs identify themselves as workers

Anisha also mentioned how SEWA uses cooperatives to benefit its workers. *“In a meeting we discussed the increased cost of sewing thread. If SEWA could make bulk purchases of thread, its cost would come down. So, a cooperative was created, and a shop was set up where sisters would stitch.”*



Battling to find access to markets drove HBWs to come together to form a national organisation said Hadija Ahmed, from MAARUF Development Group in Uganda

Hadija Ahmed, from MAARUF Development Group in Uganda, commented on how home-based workers came together to form a national organisation (Ngalo Buwereza) due to the lack of access to markets. *“We created small groups and had workshops. With the help of HNI and WIEGO, we approached members of other organisations to sensitise them. We brought together over 120 small groups, with close to 2000 members. Now we are formally registered.”* She added that during the pandemic they reached out to one another through social media and managed to cope.

Epifania Espínola García from the Sewing and Garment Workers Cooperatives Federation in Argentina told Congress participants how she started a sewing cooperative in a poor neighbourhood to overcome the challenges they encountered:

“Workers faced great risk working at home because thieves would steal their products when they carried them in their bags. Thanks to MTE and Patria Grande activists, we organised the workers and opened a cooperative. First, we had a committee of 12 members. Then, we met with WIEGO to learn how to run the cooperative. Today, we have 80 cooperatives with 4,000 fellow workers working without intermediaries. Our struggle now is to be recognised as workers by the government.”



By forming cooperatives, HBWs were able to find a safe space to work and to work without intermediaries, Argentinian, Epifania Espínola García from the Sewing and Garment Workers Cooperatives Federation told delegates

b. Social Protection



Small groups shared their challenges around social protection and set out a detailed list of how HNI could support them

The acute lack of social protection has had an overwhelming impact on the health and livelihoods of home-based workers around the world. The recent catastrophic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have brought to light the many challenges and needs of HBWs. HBWs actively shared their difficulties and outlined the support that they need from HNI.

What is the meaning of Social Protection?

Social Protection is a human right and a labour right that includes social assistance, social insurance and social services. Delegates said that HBWs and their families should be included in the “system” in the same way that formal workers are. They believed it was the role of the State to provide social protection along with employers.

What are your needs and the challenges you face when trying to access Social Protection?

HBWs need:

- » Maternity leave, healthcare, childcare, accident insurance, life insurance, pension, housing, disability allowance.

What support do you need from HNI?

- » Awareness campaigns
- » Skills updating on how to advocate (communicating, negotiating, speaking, leading, and organising)
- » Case studies on how the government is supporting workers in the informal economy in various countries
- » Advocating at regional level
- » Capacity building
- » Training on how to access social protection through advocacy efforts
- » Research
- » Support for HBWs to develop alternative skills
- » Sensitization intervention (overcome fear and shame)
- » Support on participatory action research
- » Conventions to be ratified

The biggest challenges HBWs face are:

- » HBWs' invisibility
- » Corruption
- » Middlemen get all the benefits
- » Unequal distribution of Social Protection (urban dwellers get more than those living in rural areas)
- » Unable to access government services
- » Unable to use the current platform because of violence and harassment

What interventions are your affiliates implementing around Social Protection?

- » Social dialogue
- » Work with international organisations and mainstream trade unions
- » Organise the workers on issues of Social Protection to create awareness,
- » Coming together in federations
- » Putting Social Protection on the election agenda
- » Learning alternative skills to fill the gap because season-based work is impacted by climate change
- » Access to training
- » Sensitising the workers on the topic so they take action

c. Occupational Health and Safety

Just like factory workers, HBWs also face occupational health and safety challenges in their workspaces. Delegates described the nature of their work, the dangers that are lurking in their own homes and the health issues that arise from these.

The occupational health issues that you experience:

- » Lack of protective clothing and equipment (inaccessible and expensive)
- » Lack of awareness
- » Lack of coping mechanisms
- » Inadequate working environment
- » Child labour

The nature of your work:

- » Lack of rest time
- » No access to healthcare (maternal, doing both childcare and elderly care)
- » Risky kind of work
- » Low wages
- » Under recognised
- » Invisible
- » Health hazards
- » Unlimited working hours
- » Issues of domestic violence and harassment
- » Economic risks

Demands that we hope to achieve from government or employers:

- » Provide personal protective equipment (PPE)
- » Provide vaccination (Tetanus)
- » Capacity building and sensitisation around OHS
- » Demand for adequate working hours
- » Working spaces for home-based workers
- » Protection from accidents at work
- » Right to rest

d. Access to Markets and Social and Solidarity Economy

The Covid-19 pandemic brought many challenges to home-based workers across the globe. Work was reduced significantly for most, supply chains were disrupted, raw materials became more expensive. These in turn made production more expensive and products pricier. On top of this stores closed. All of these factors made organisations struggle for survival. It has been extremely difficult for HBWs to bounce back from the havoc caused by the pandemic, so learning how to access markets is a priority for them.

The discussion, facilitated by HNI Working Committee members Edwin Bett, Edileuza Guimaraes and Violeta Borisova Zlateva, asked delegates to probe numerous questions:



At the beginning of the thematic discussion participants displayed a variety of products created by HBWs

What do markets mean to you?

- » How do you earn your income from crafts work/or food processing?
- » Who buys your products?
- » Where do you sell your craft items/processed food?
- » Where do your orders come from?

The responses from the participants did not necessarily follow the questions posed. Instead, each respondent tried to explain how they access markets and outlined the ingredients they needed for successful market access:

What ingredients do you need for successful market access?

- » create winning products
- » creating competitive products doesn't necessarily require very long years of formal education.
- » partnerships, working out consumer needs and a well-selected list of products are key to market access.
- » market access follows a set of processes: products, price, place, promotion, people.

What challenges do you face in accessing the market?

- » How do you determine prices of your craft items/ or food that you sell?
- » How often do you get work?
- » How much in local currency do you sell in a year?
- » What raw materials do you use?
- » Who is your supplier?

Participants' feedback

- » We need capital to kick off market access.
- » Raw materials, especially those from wetlands, are being threatened by climate change.
- » New products are constantly required in the market.
- » The market as well as the products are constantly changing and will require market studies.
- » Supply chains require understanding, especially on price changes along the chain.
- » Creating linkages, especially exhibitions and exchange of ideas, need to be looked into.
- » Unhealthy competition amongst the supplier groups, especially those dealing in similar products, needs a solution.

Affiliates need support:

1. to understand their markets
2. to work on product design and adaptation
3. to better understand the different marketing channels available.

e. Climate Change

Namrata Bali, HNSA's Strategy Advisor, facilitated the session. Home-based workers are vulnerable when it comes to climate change, she said. She made it clear that this issue is a universal one.

One after another Congress participant, from all corners of the world, detailed how natural disasters linked to climate change are having a tremendous bearing on their homes and lives:

- » Extreme weather conditions such as excessive heat and rain
- » Flash floods
- » Typhoons and tsunamis
- » Landslides
- » El Niño

These weather conditions are impacting HBWs' livelihoods in the following ways:

- » Homes are damaged
- » Products are damaged
- » Excessive heat makes working at home more difficult
- » Market access is compromised
- » Access to raw materials is compromised
- » Production costs increase
- » There is economic instability
- » Being forced to migrate
- » Productivity is low and costly
- » Food and water become scarce
- » Disease increases, and so do the care responsibilities
- » Increase in violence against women
- » Children drop out of school



Participants shared how extreme weather conditions are detrimentally affecting their livelihoods

Participants identified several coping strategies

How to adapt to climate change:

- » Develop seed banks, preserve food locally, build shelter for raw materials
- » Reclaim land e.g., develop floating agriculture
- » Use fans and other tools to stay cool or provide heat
- » Build alternative livelihoods e.g., make products from recycled materials, conduct skills training for the same
- » Build awareness, share information and engage in local advocacy
- » Pre-plan with workers, including the most marginalised
- » Advocate with local governments, and map out all stakeholders

Representatives of Mahila Housing Trust¹⁰ shared simple solutions on how to overcome the impact of climate change. In some cases, green roofing is reducing the heat of low-income housing; others are provided with better ventilation to lower the heat inside their houses.

¹⁰ Mahila Housing Trust, "Building Climate Resilience and Energy Efficiency", <https://www.mahilahousingtrust.org/practice-areas/building-climate-resilience-and-energy-efficiency/>

IX. Celebrating cultural diversity and the work of HBWs

HomeNet International

*The news flies to all corners of the world; HNI has arrived!
Let's raise the workers of the world; HNI has arrived.
There will be new victories; we will rise again.*

*What COVID? What distance? What language? What colour?
We rise as new fighters.*

*We do not expect handouts from heaven, the fight is here and now.
Don't restrain the time in your life to fight for the dignity, respect and
recognition of the invisible workers around.*

*For us, comrades in life, our path is the only truth.
In the entire world of heat and snow, we work for a new reality of
rights.*

*We are home-based workers!
We are a brigade, who went out many years ago to roar.
Here we are and no one will erase us.
We are not from a history that is written in stone.
We are men and women who are fighting for equality.
Health, education, housing, decent work – certainly we demand!*

Decent work is the call that the whole world must hear.

"VIVA – HNI International Congress"

"Long live the workers of the world, united in one voice"

Equality, Recognition

"VIVA – HNI International Congress"

Patricia Coñoman
CONTRADO Chile
April 2023



HomeNet South Asia

On each day of the Congress each region made a lively cultural presentation, fostering connection and appreciation among delegates. Participants took to the stage to perform traditional dances, poems and songs, providing an opportunity for all to witness and embrace the distinct customs and rituals. These cultural activities brought to light the rich heritage of all home-based workers and served as a reminder of the diverse backgrounds and traditions that shape their lives.



HomeNet Southeast Asia



COTRADO ALAC



HomeNet Africa



HomeNet Eastern Europe and Central Asia



On day 3 of the Congress, a cultural evening was graciously hosted by HNSA. Participants were awed by the traditional Nepali welcome at the entrance of the hall, by the Jhyaurey dance and by the home-based worker delegates who walked the stage, showcasing their beautiful creations.







X. The home-based workers bazaar

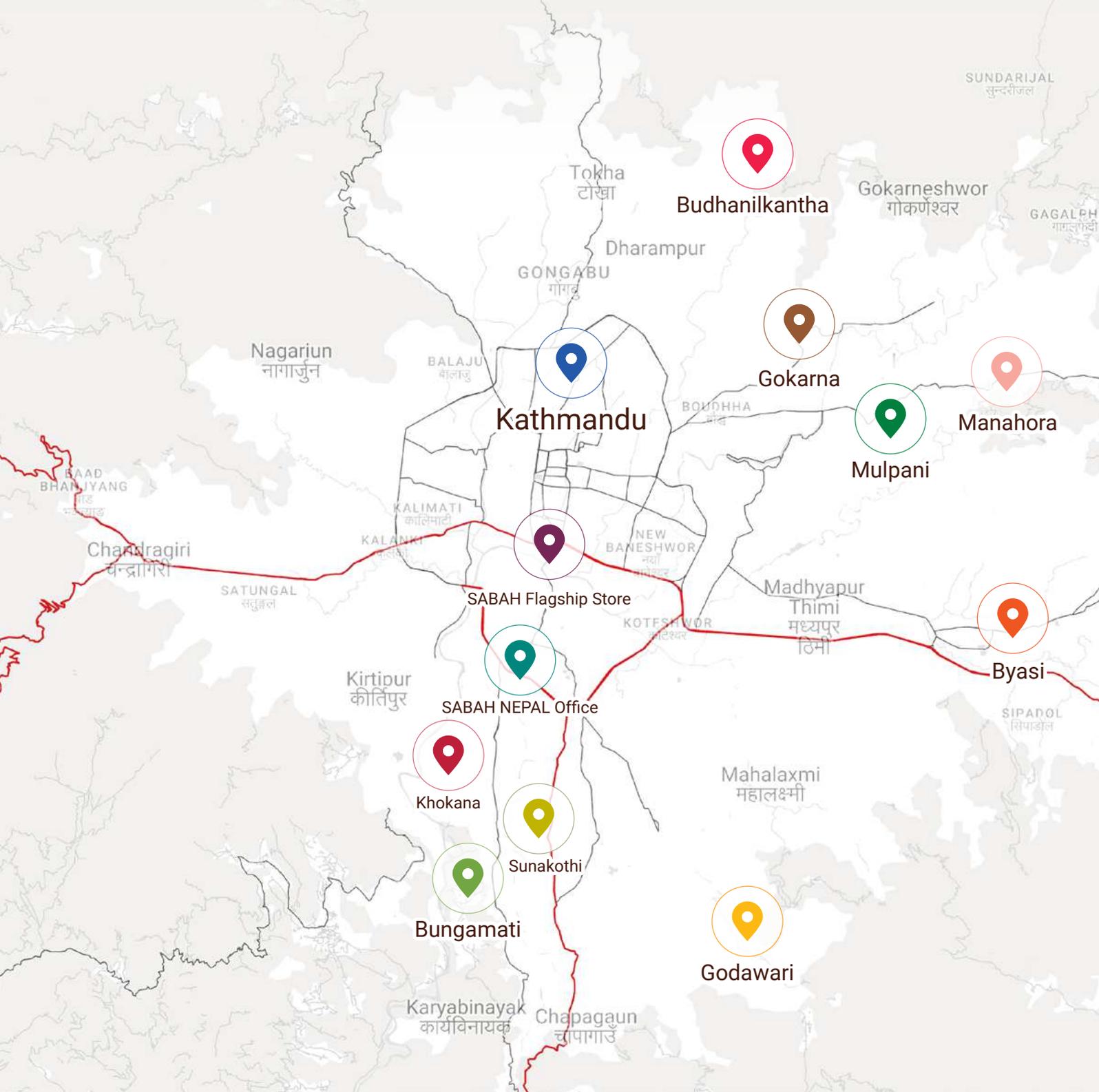
One of the highlights of our Congress was the Home-Based Workers Bazaar, a marketplace that brought together home-based workers' products from the different regions. The bazaar served as a platform for home-based workers to exhibit their craftsmanship and present a wide array of products.

From woven textiles to carved handicrafts, the bazaar embodied the remarkable diversity and skill that permeates the work of these talented HBWs. Congress participants learned the stories behind each piece and gained a deeper appreciation for the work done by home-based workers from the five regions. The Home-Based Workers Bazaar not only underscored the economic significance of their labour but also the key role HBWs play in preserving cultural heritage and promoting sustainable livelihoods.



XI. Field visits: Understanding the nature and challenges of Nepal's HBWs

On April 27, 2023, on day 4 of the HNI Congress, participants put their HNI t-shirts on, comfortable shoes and hopped onto 8 different buses. These took each group to different locations in the Valley of Kathmandu. Six home-based worker organisations led the hosting efforts: Home-Based Workers Concern Society Nepal (HBWCSN), SABAH Nepal, Kokhana Women Awareness Society (KWAS), Women for Human Rights (WHR), Saathi, and Class Nepal.



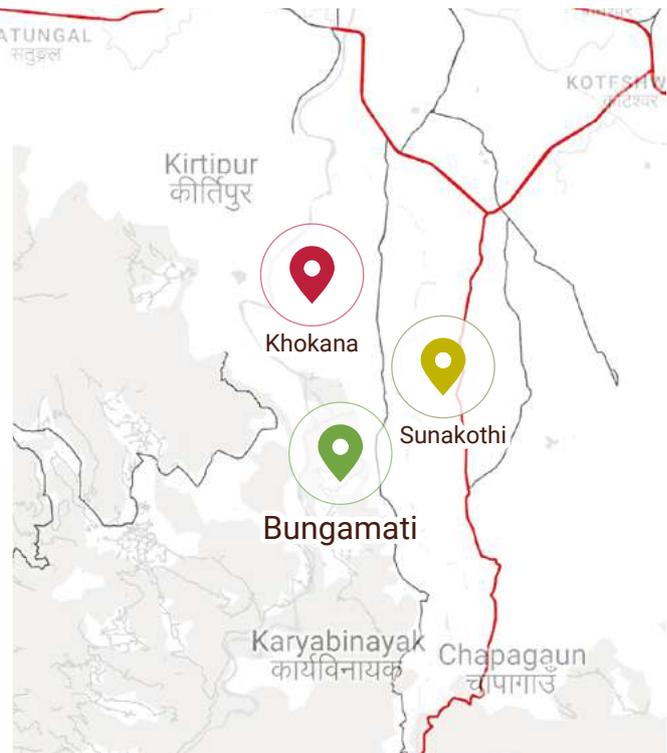


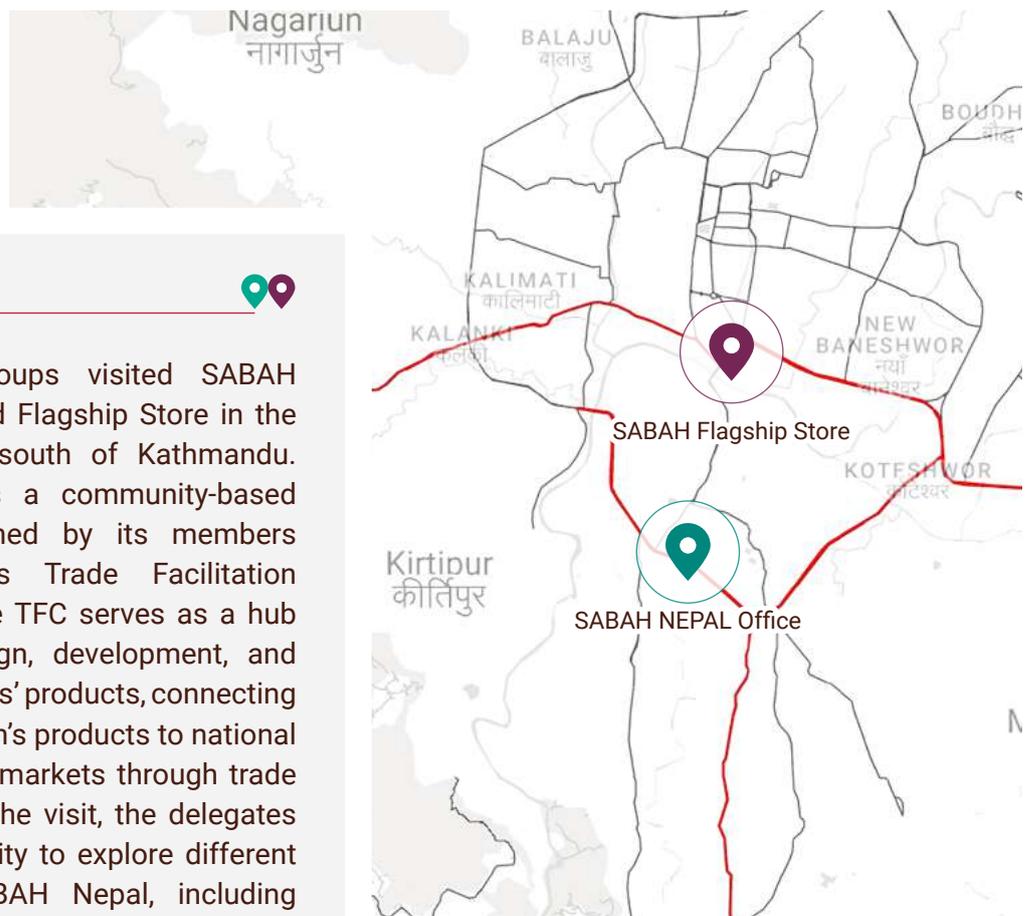
South of Kathmandu, the delegates visited traditional Newari settlements: Bugamati, Khokana, and Sunakoti in the Lalitpur district. Home-based workers in these areas were involved in various crafts such as wooden handicrafts, knitting, embroidery, liquid toilet cleaner production, liquid soap making, straw and plastic mat making, carpet weaving, soap making, incense making, food processing, and tailoring.

On the last day of the Congress, delegates reported back and shared their impressions of these field visits:

“What we have learned from Kwas as a good practice is the empowerment of female home-based workers in the communities. The community organises using cooperatives, with good management and governance. The community has benefited from a housing welfare relief fund for the people who have been affected by the earthquake which made way for a childcare centre, kindergarten and clinic for female home-based workers. They bring children to daycare, thus, they can work efficiently to earn income for their families without the concern of taking care of their children when they work. Most importantly, they have collected money to help with bulk-buying for raw materials and for the welfare of members of the group for sickness, maternity, and death.”

Lamphan Nanthapanya, HomeNet Laos





One of the groups visited SABAH Nepal's office and Flagship Store in the Lalitpur district, south of Kathmandu. SABAH Nepal is a community-based organisation owned by its members that houses its Trade Facilitation Center (TFC). The TFC serves as a hub for product design, development, and marketing of HBWs' products, connecting grassroots women's products to national and international markets through trade linkages. During the visit, the delegates had the opportunity to explore different units within SABAH Nepal, including production, business, programme, and marketing units, and interact with HBWs.

"We had never stepped out of our homes, so meeting all of these sisters and brothers [at SABAH Nepal's office and Flagship Store] has made us feel very good. Yesterday, we visited the place where sisters of Nepal do home-based work. I am a HBW and do sewing and weaving. They minutely and patiently explained everything to us. When we go back to our homes, we will explain this work to our sisters in a better way and produce better finished work."

Sarvesh, SEWA Bharat

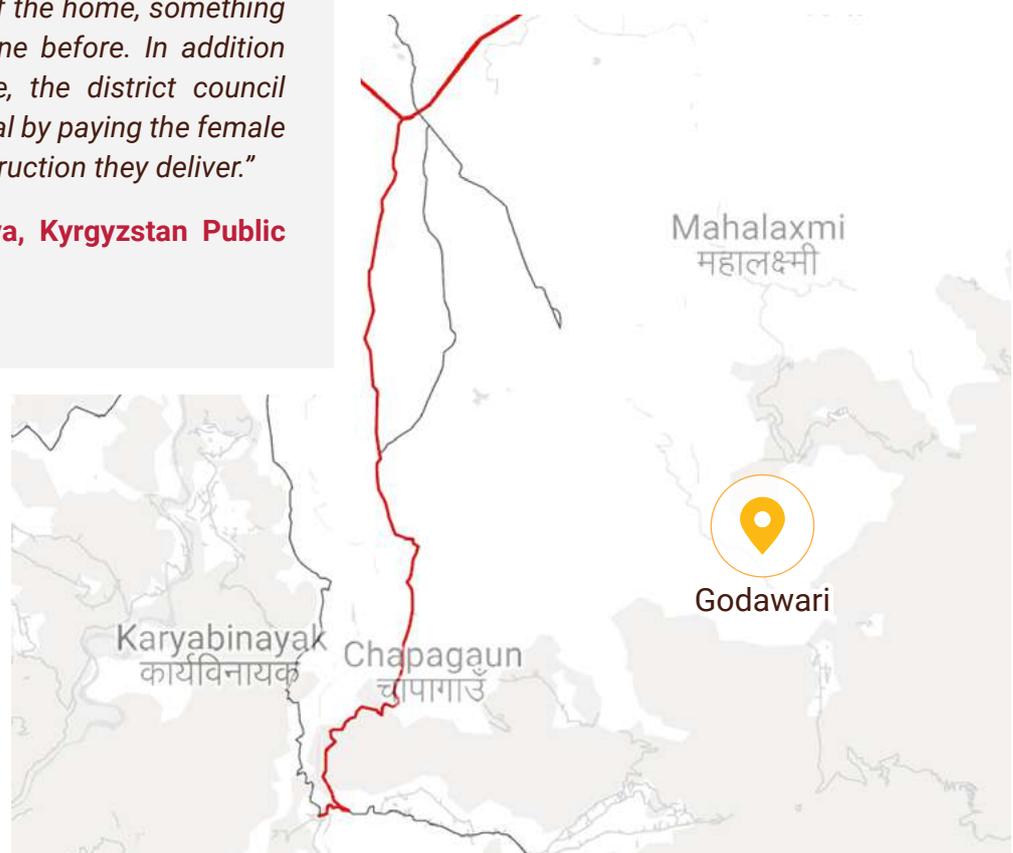


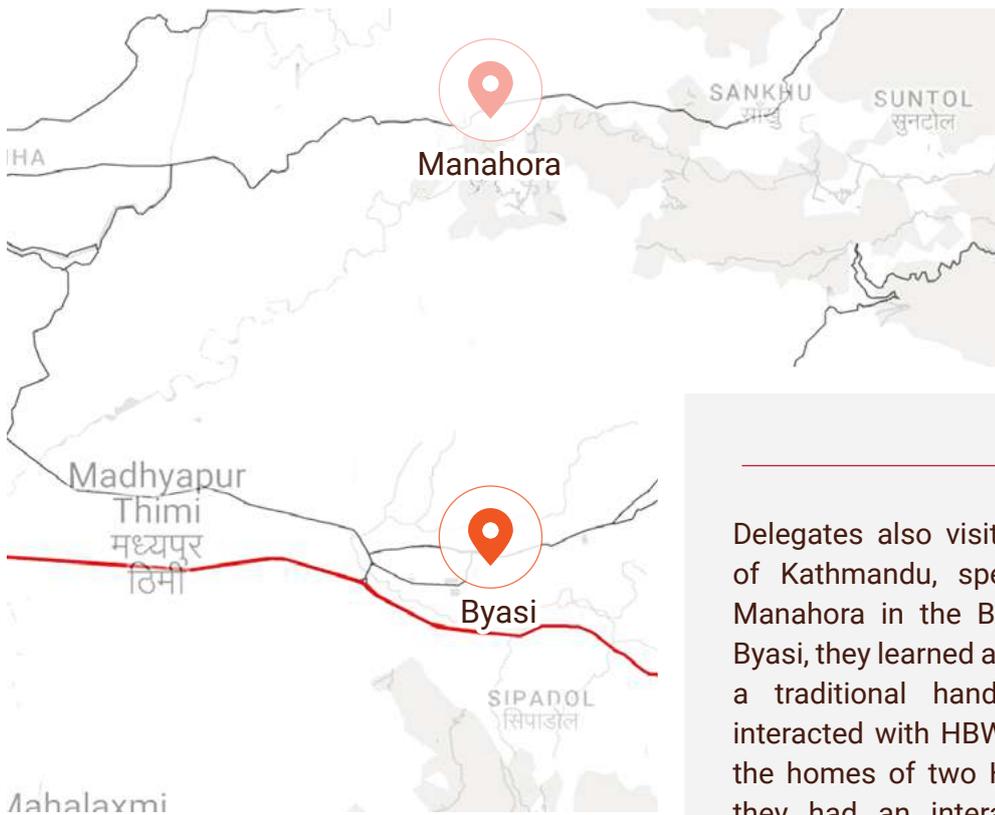


Further south of Kathmandu, delegates visited Godawari. HBWs in Godawari were engaged in various work such as knitting, pickle making, shoemaking, and beadwork. The participants interacted with HBWs to understand their nature of work, their challenges and marketing strategies while touring through the residential area where they lived. They also had an interactive session at the municipality hall to learn about HBWs' work, their collective efforts, and their collaboration with local stakeholders for sustainable development.

"One woman [in Godawari] noted that she had participated in a training provided by the International Labour Organization (ILO) on entrepreneurship and the elimination of violence against women. Following the training, she started training other female home-based workers, and as a result, these women started to sell their products outside of the home, something they had never done before. In addition to providing space, the district council assists Sabah Nepal by paying the female trainers for the instruction they deliver."

Shaigul Omuralieva, Kyrgyzstan Public Union "Ak Bairak"





Delegates also visited the eastern part of Kathmandu, specifically Byasi and Manahora in the Bhaktapur district. In Byasi, they learned about Dhaka weaving, a traditional handwoven fabric, and interacted with HBWs. They also visited the homes of two HBWs. In Manahora, they had an interactive session with HBWs from the Ujjwal Manohara Women Home-Based Worker Group. This group advocates for improving housing and community environment while addressing various forms of violence faced by women and girls in the area.

"[In the Bhaktapur district] We observed the women weaving dresses. They mentioned it takes them three days just to make one meter, sometimes they work from 5:00 am until 7:00 p.m. Also, they struggle with the heat and cold in their centre, due to climate change. Some people may think these tasks are easy, but in reality, they are very challenging."

Asha Veegaha Badda, SABAH Sri Lanka



In the northern part of Kathmandu, delegates visited Gokarna and Mulpani. In Gokarna, they interacted with HBWs from the Gokarneshwor Home-Based Workers Skill Development Women's Cooperative, which is an affiliate of HBWCSN. The cooperative consists of 725 female members engaged in various activities such as knitting, embroidery, beading, shoemaking, Dhaka weaving, carpet weaving, soap making, incense production, and more. The cooperative operates a community center that serves as a training center, production and collection hub, and space for other collective activities.



"[at Gokarna] We discussed the main organisational issues our sisters are facing in the cooperative. All of us as home-based workers are dealing with similar issues. We saw their struggles, it was painful to see that some lack good working conditions and a proper space. As my sisters said, the place is too small for the work they do. Also, they have been inhaling glue and they lack ventilation. Our sisters suffer health problems, like back pain and eye problems. It is very important to see that from their side. Those are the working conditions of these workers."

Jaqueline Serrano, Sewing and Garment Workers Cooperatives Federation Llc, Argentina



In Mulpani, the majority of HBWs are piece-rate workers, with approximately 600 HBWs who are members of the Mahila Utthan Group, a Member-Based Organization (MBO). They are involved in the production of traditional children's clothes, shawls, garlands, pickles, silver and copper statues, ladies' shoes, incense, and disposable dishes made from leaves. During the field visit, there was an interaction with HBWs, a showcase of their products, and a visit to a newly opened store where HBWs' products are displayed and sold to the public.





The last field route was in the North part of Kathmandu, delegates were taken to the Women for Human Rights (WHR) office in Budanilkantha. WHR focuses on single women's issues and aims to change traditional stereotypes and mindsets that hinder their participation and access to resources. There are more than 500 informal workers, with 30 per cent being home-based workers (HBWs), engaged in activities such as Dhaka weaving, incense making, shoemaking, and pickle making. WHR takes orders for stitching, which are provided to HBWs on a piece-rate basis.

"This visit [to the Women for Human Rights (WHR) office in Budanilkantha] was an excellent experience for us. We learned a lot by sharing experiences and seeing things. We met the home-based workers there and spoke to them. We came to know that they are very good home-based workers, but their products are not getting access to the markets, it is restricted to their community only. We realised this was a challenge for them. They were making excellent products which deserved to have access to markets."

Fouzia Bibi, HomeNet Pakistan





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SUNTOL
सुन्टोल

XII. HNI's common voice: Our first declaration and resolution

a. Our first declaration

Firoza Mehrotra, HNI Working Committee member and Advisory Board member of HNSA, took to the stage to discuss the final draft of HNI's first declaration, drafted by the Resolutions and Drafting Committee.

The committee was made up of three HNI Working Committee members: herself, Suntaree Saeng-Ging, Executive Director of HNSEA and Jemima Nyakongo, Chairperson of HomeNet Kenya. Firoza's extensive experience working at the policy and field levels in India for over 40 years was instrumental to the drafting process of HNI's first declaration.

"What we are doing today is trying to bring out a declaration and a resolution, which is the common voice in all of us," said Firoza, as she started the session. Firoza explained the drafting process of the declaration which involved a series of meetings with the Drafting and Resolutions Committee, along with support from Chris Bonner, former WIEGO ORP Director and HNI Working Committee member and Janhavi, HNI International Coordinator.



"Our declaration and resolution are the common voice of all of us," Firoza Mehrotra, HNI Working Committee

The first draft was shared with the HNI Working Committee who provided inputs and thereafter these were incorporated. The Drafting and Resolutions Committee took note of the discussions and demands of the delegates during the thematic discussions at the Congress and also incorporated them into the declaration. Finally, the Declaration¹¹ was read by Firoza and Jemima and feedback was gathered from the delegates.

The Declaration was adopted unanimously by Congress delegates.

¹¹ Appendix 4- HNI Congress Declaration



Delegates raise their badges adopting HNI's first Declaration

According to the Declaration, the key demands of home-based workers are:

- To recognise home-based workers and their contributions
- To ratify and implement ILO Standards
- To provide Social Protection - our labour right!
- To build inclusive Global Supply Chains
- To strengthen statistics on home-based workers at the global and national levels

And the key commitments of HNI are:

- To build strong and democratic organisations of home-based workers
- To strengthen access to markets
- To promote livelihoods through the Social Solidarity Economy
- To include home-based workers and their issues in Climate Change discourse and advocacy



Participants raise the draft Declaration to show their support for it

b. Our first resolution



All delegates raised their badges as a unanimous sign of endorsement of the first HNI Resolution

Suntaree read out HNI's first Resolution, in solidarity with Elizabeth Tang, General Secretary of the International Domestic Workers' Federation (IDWF) who was arrested by the Chinese National Security Police under allegations of endangering national security, but at the time of the HNI Congress remained out on bail.

"This is a very important moment to express our support to our sister. As you know, IDWF is part of our global family of informal economy workers, so I ask the delegates to please raise your ID badges if you endorse this Resolution", petitioned Suntaree.

RESOLUTION NO. 1/23 2nd HomeNet International Congress

The HomeNet International Congress, being held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 25th to 28th April 2023, attended by 127 delegates from 31 countries, deeply regrets the absence of Sister Elizabeth Tang, General Secretary of the International Domestic Workers' Federation (IDWF). She was invited to attend the Congress but was prevented from doing so.

Her unwavering dedication and tireless efforts in service of the labour movement have been an inspiration to all of us, those who had and have the privilege of working with her. Throughout her career, she has shown remarkable integrity, always standing up for what is right and just, even in the face of great challenges.

The Congress of HomeNet International stands fully behind Elizabeth Tang and requests that all restrictions imposed on her be lifted.



Kathmandu, April 28, 2023

XIII. Way Forward

An international organisation needs overarching activities and plans to unite its members. Janhavi shared that the HNI Working Committee conducted an Annual Planning meeting in February 2023 where they reviewed the activities conducted in the previous year and planned key activities for the coming year. However, they were very mindful to keep the plan broad because they knew that a new Executive Committee would be elected and might want to change some of the activities.

Key activities for 2023

- I. Developing HNI Governance of Operational Structures:** Important steps will be taken towards formalisation of HNI by registering it; opening its own bank account and working on internal operations systems.
- II. Strengthening Organisations of HBWs and Building Solidarity:** The key focus of HNI in the year ahead will be to strengthen and build the capacity of HNI affiliates through virtual as well as in-person training and exchange visits.
- III. Recognition and Visibility of HBWs:** HBW leaders will represent HNI at different key conferences and forums such as the International Labour Conference and the Commission on the Status of Women events. The work of HNI and its affiliates will be constantly updated on HNI's website and social media pages for external audiences and within the internal email group, WhatsApp group for affiliates and allies as well as the quarterly newsletter.
- IV. Improving Livelihoods and Working Conditions:** HNI will develop two key programmes on "Access to Livelihoods" and "Social Protection". The programme of Access to Livelihoods will focus on building the capacity of its affiliates, increasing the visibility of the products made by HBWs and networking at the global level. The programme on Social Protection will focus on documenting "good practice" and national-level demands of HBWs, capacity-building and advocacy. There will be a special focus on the promotion of SSEs and research on issues like climate change and homeworkers in garment supply chains.

The task of the new Executive Committee, after the Congress, will be to build its strategic plan for the next four years and so the focus of these activities may shift to be in line with this strategic plan.

XIV. Messages of solidarity from around the world

HNI was showered with messages of solidarity from representatives of the different organisations that were present at the Congress. We are sharing just a few of the kind words presented to us.

Mirai Chatterjee, Chairperson of WIEGO

"Hum sab ek hain!...It's been a wonderful celebration since this morning. Many of us are feeling moved, touched, overwhelmed and just joyful to be here together, having so much fun learning from each other. But first of all, congratulations to each and every one of you who have come here from near and far.

Some of us cheated and came from next door, but many of you have travelled for hours and hours. Congratulations to all the membership-based organisations who are here. You are unions, you are cooperatives, you are collectives. But all democratic workers, membership-based organisations, congratulations and salutes also to our Working Committee ... This is a historic milestone in our journey for a just and equitable world.

And all the more important because as we know, the world outside is so divided, so polarised. But since morning we have been shouting slogans of unity. And they're not just slogans. We feel them deep in our hearts. That's why we're here. Otherwise, we wouldn't have come here in the first place.

Home-based workers everywhere, in every country, in every continent. If you were not there, then we wouldn't be here together. So, thank you for your determination, for your courage and most importantly, for organising in every corner of the planet. I would also like to of course salute and pay humble tribute to our founder Elaben. We've heard about her a lot since morning. We don't have words to explain how important she is to us and will continue to inspire us. And it was really her vision, her dream that got us started in the first place. But not just the vision and dream, also, she was a person of action. She motivated us, encouraged us, inspired us. And that's why people like myself joined the movement about 40 years ago!..."



Ghada Abdel Tawab, Ford Foundation

"It's so exciting to meet in Nepal, a country with so much history, culture, and also an inspiration for a long path of democratic transition, something that we're still longing for in the MENA region where I come from. The opening this morning was so colourful and joyful. What an inspiration. I felt so touched and humbled just imagining how much effort it must have taken to come together when you are all so diverse and colourful and unique in your own ways.

The Ford Foundation congratulates HomeNet International for the first in-person Congress after its launch in 2021.

Back then, it was still the peak of the pandemic, women home-based workers carried the double burden of the lockdown, both as workers and as caregivers in their own families. Today, the situation is still very challenging for the working poor and the informally employed due to rising prices, increasing poverty, a war in Ukraine, natural disasters, an energy and a climate crisis while inequality is increasing social power and workers' voices are neglected and even repressed in certain contexts.

But you're still doing it against all odds! The mission of HNI is more important today than ever before, as we learned this morning from the beautiful stories of our talented storytellers. Brothers and sisters, the Congress is the culmination of a long struggle and learning journey that is more than five decades to make home-based work visible and recognised as work. The struggle is not over, and the learning will continue.

As Janhavi beautifully put it this morning, we are still creating history and the story goes on. It's great to see HNI uniting the voices of home-based workers in Africa, Latin America, South Asia and Southeast Asia. HNI has truly made the invisible visible. I hope more regions will join.

There is still much more work to be done.

Actually, this shawl I'm wearing today has been made by Egyptian home-based workers in the east of the country, and there are thousands of them all over the country. I truly hope to see them in your future Congress.

All informal workers share the same burdens of poverty, lack of Social Security, health care, pensions, housing and the list goes on. For women, the responsibility of care is an added burden, let alone when they work from their own home. And this is irrespective of region. I see it everywhere.

The Congress and the Constitution are key milestones for building a democratic and legitimate institution, an institution that represents the voices of its members. This is key for building worker solidarity and



improving workers' conditions in these challenging times. At the Ford Foundation Future of Workers' program, which I represent today, we are proud of our partnership with HNI and the networks of waste pickers, street vendors and domestic workers, and of course, our partnership with WIEGO.

We share your interests in promoting economic justice and building worker power when it's most needed. Today, this time requires us to work collectively and not separately. We congratulate you on your success to date and stay in solidarity with you all. As your sister from North Africa, I reiterate the HomeNet Africa motto: Solidarity, unity and power!"

Prabhu Rajendran, FNV

"Good morning sisters and brothers. To start with solidarity greetings from FNV, the largest trade union national centre in Netherlands with over 1 million memberships. We extend our congratulations to HomeNet International for successful elections and extend our solidarity to the new leadership.

FNV has been associated with workers in the informal economy, the unions, for more than four decades starting with SEWA, and we've extended our support in various ways through these four decades. And, we have been working with home-based workers, starting with C177 at ILO two decades ago and we also tried our level best for ratification in South Asian countries during the past two decades. And I think we have been hearing from our sisters during the past three days about the history of what has happened up until this Congress itself.

We hope HomeNet International through this successful completion of their Congress will represent the true interest of home-based workers across the globe and truly represent them at the global level. This will provide a large platform to represent their interests. We also see the collectivism in this room by having home-based workers from more than 29 countries and we hope this representativeness continues in all its structures and it becomes truly a representative organization in coming years.

We envisage that HNI will also become a campaigning organization which can take up lobby and advocacy and collectively also represent globally. Of course, there is lots of discussion on global supply chains so whether they can truly represent the workers in the global supply chains.

Finally, we also look forward to working with HomeNet International in coming years and we extend our solidarity for coming years. In solidarity, thank you."



Shanti Tamang, International Alliance of Waste Pickers



"I'm the Chair for the waste pickers of Nepal. This is the first organisation which has been formed to collect waste. There are more than 1000 people who are affiliated with this organisation. All the board members are also waste pickers.

I really loved the way this congress is going. I've had the privilege of learning so many different things here. In the International Alliance we will also be having elections. It's going to happen in May 2024 in Argentina. It will be our first congress then... Here we would like to also invite you to our congress. Just like you all, we also have our own alliance, we are all united. So, we have been fighting for our rights, for our recognition of waste pickers. I strongly feel that we are all in the same direction asking for the same rights. We are together..."

Sally Roever, WIEGO International Coordinator

"It has been an extraordinary four days, and I stand in awe of the inspiration, the solidarity, the dedication, and the collective spirit that you have all brought to your first in-person Congress.

On the first day, we said, we are here because we know we need to change the economy, right? And the way that we can change the economy is by organising. And we also said that the means of getting there is just as important as the end.

So, we know we want to change the economy, but we can only do it if we are united in our heads and our hearts, and we bring joy and solidarity to everything that we do. In 2018, some of you made a commitment to building a global network of home-based workers.

So, in that moment, you said, let's make this happen. You came to WIEGO, and you said, "Help us build HomeNet". We're ready. And together, we brought joy, and we brought solidarity, and we brought commitment, and we made it happen.



We also heard on the first day that every family has a history. Remember, every family has a history. And we have learned a lot about our history and how it all led to that moment in 2018 when we made that commitment. But every family also has a future. And now it's time to look ahead.

You're independent now. You have your constitution. You have your first ExCo. You have your elected leaders. Now you're ready to make your own commitments. It's time for you to write the next chapter of your history. You will face new challenges, for sure, but your unity will see you through.

WIEGO is your sister organisation. Our role has been to walk alongside you, and we will always be at your side, I'm sure. No one in this room will ever forget these extraordinary four days. Congratulations. The future is in your hands. Well done. Viva HomeNet International!"

Gyanu Kshatri, International Domestic Workers Federation

"IDWF is a federation that works for domestic workers and amplifies their voices. We have 650,000 members in 63 countries and 88 affiliates. Just the way you are amplifying the voices of home-based workers we are also doing the same for domestic workers nationally, regionally and internationally. Compared to yesterday, the condition of domestic workers has become better.

I'm extremely happy to see the way you have come for this congress. How everyone has come together, it's a very joyful moment for me also. We are very much together in this entire movement. IDWF is always with you and even if you want to do any campaigns together, we show our solidarity.

We are together for the ratification of ILO C177, C189 and C190. C190 is very important for all of us, especially for domestic workers and home-based workers. So, we are trying our best to get it ratified in the near future. In the pursuit of getting our work recognised as decent work, we also meet like this. We also come and discuss our problems and challenges together. So, we feel we are no different, working as informal workers. But the days will be near when we also get recognised soon...

IDWF is always with the home-based workers movement, and we want to congratulate the elected body."

There were also solidarity messages that were sent from around the world and read throughout the four days of Congress:





International
Labour
Organization

► Bureau for Workers' Activities

T:
E: actrav-conf@ilo.org; actrav@ilo.org
R:

Ms Janhavi Dave
International Coordinator
HomeNet International

19 April 2023

Janhavi
Dear Ms Dave,

Dear sisters and brothers of HomeNet International,

It is with great regret that I cannot participate to your second and first in person Congress which is held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

I have a fond memory of my participation in the online Congress in 2021 and I am happy that your movement is getting stronger and more organised.

The adoption of the Constitution with clear regulations, the impulse to national organizing as well as the election of various leadership posts are all steps going in the direction of strengthening the movement as well as strengthening freedom of association.

I am greatly impressed by the reference in the Constitution about the ILO and its instruments, in particular the statement that *Home-based workers are entitled to decent working and living conditions as stated by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in its various conventions and recommendations, including ILO Convention 177, Recommendation 184, and Recommendation 204, which must be enshrined in national laws and/or policies.*

In 2019 the ILO discussed the future of the World of Work, in conjunction with its centenary: little we knew that one year later all over the world we were confined at home and that home-based work would become more relevant than ever.

Unfortunately, Convention 177 is still marginally endorsed, but it is encouraging that you will campaign for its ratification and implementation (and very happy that Spain ratified just last year, showing that it is very possible for governments to go ahead).

...

► International Labour Organization
Route des Morillons 4
CH-1211 Geneva 22
ilo.org

► T: +41 22 799 61 11
E: ilo@ilo.org

-2-

I encourage your movement – when necessary – to establish strong links with other national and sectoral workers' organizations: it is only through solidarity that a joint common platform of workers' rights can flourish and also the way for creating more impetus towards adoption of progressive legislation for home-based workers.

Sisters and brothers,

Allow me a personal note. In September of this year, I will retire from the ILO as international official, but certainly will continue to follow with great interest your fight for the rights of home-based workers as well as any other instance of justice coming from the labour movement.

I always like to recall that my mother was a home-based seamstress who managed to get her employer paying the social security dues in rural Italy of 1960. Her example shaped my conviction that workers can get Decent Work and social rights if they are clear about their goals and convictions.

I am sure that you will continue this fight with renewed strength after the Congress' deliberations and I look forward to reading about your future success.

In solidarity,

Anna Biondi
Deputy Director Bureau for Workers' Activities
(ACTRAV)



“Numerous global commitments have been made, including the Sustainable Development Goals, to assure decent working conditions, living wages and access to social protection as minimum working life standards for all. For a majority, this is still not the case.

Uniting and joining together, as the HomeNet International for the home-based workers, is an important step to be seen, heard and recognized as well as making decision-makers accountable to the global commitments.”

Anders Gerdin, Ph.D.
Programme Manager
Unit for Global Sustainable Economic Development
Department for International Organisations and Policy Support
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)



“Dear HomeNet International Sisters and Brothers,

With great regret, the IUF is not able to attend in person the 2nd HNI Congress in Kathmandu, Nepal from 25th-28th April 2023, but we are with you in spirit.

The IUF has always been an ally and supporter of the home-based workers’ movement. We were glad to acknowledge the Founding Congress of HomeNet International in February 2021 and the fact that HNI is getting stronger every year. Indeed, it is only through collective representation and organisation that workers – especially the most marginalised and oppressed as home-based workers and women workers – raise their voice, get visible, build collective power in trade unions, reverse the power balance, and contribute to economic and social justice.

The ILO Convention on Home Work is a key tool in this struggle. The IUF and its members will keep pushing for its promotion, ratification, and implementation.

Through this message, we also wanted to honour Sister Elaben R. Bhatt, the founder of SEWA who passed on November 2, 2022. May she rest in peace and may her legacy and inspiring vision of women empowerment and her fight for women’s rights be disseminated to the whole world.”

Sue Longley
General Secretary
IUF/UITA/IUL

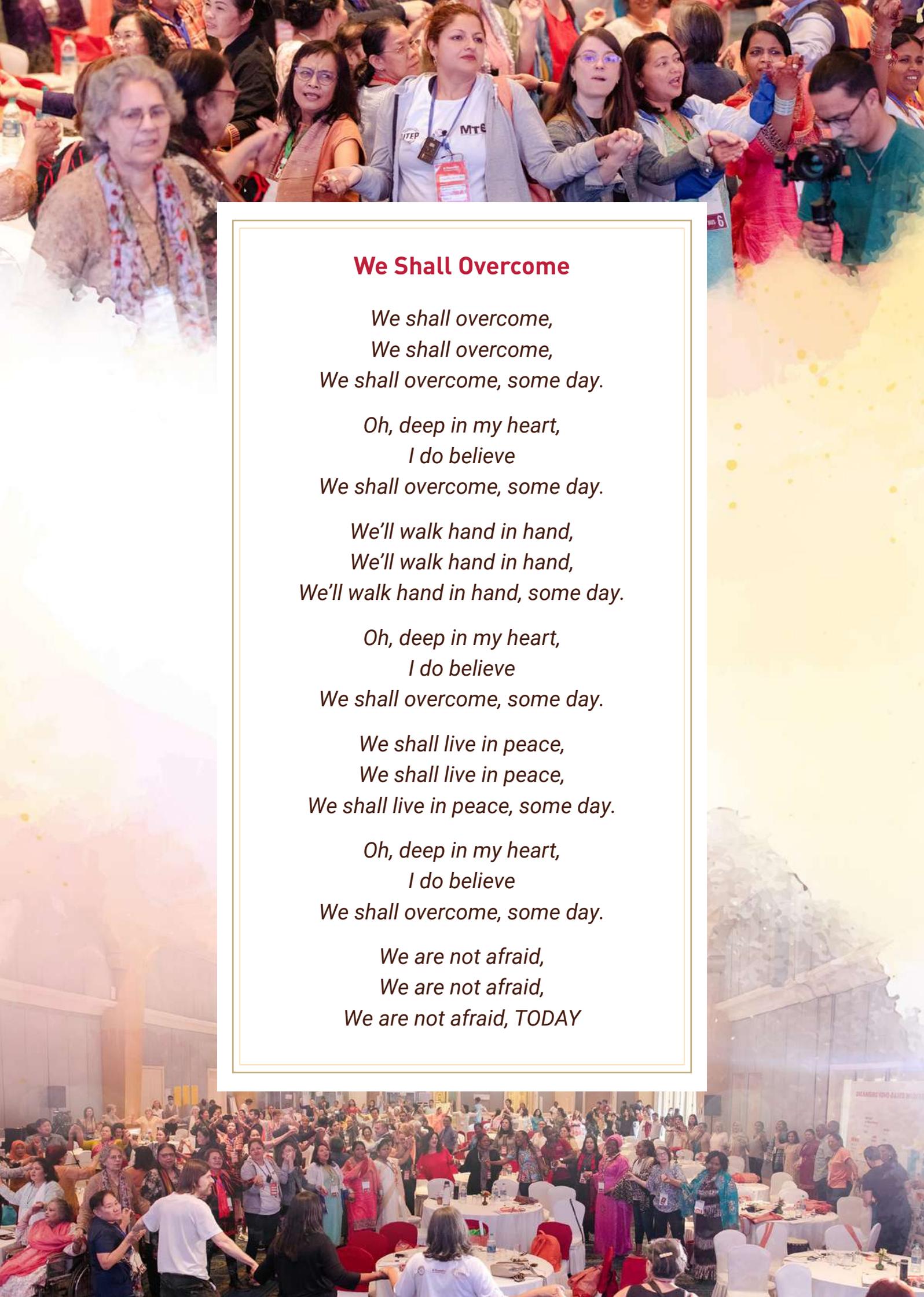
XV. Together, we shall overcome



The 2nd HNI Congress ended as lively and movingly as it began. Josephine “Olive” Parilla, the newly elected HNI President, asked everyone to stand up and hold hands, to sing along to We Shall Overcome, as wonderful photographs of home-based workers from around the world were projected on the screens.

Everyone sang, held hands, swayed to the music and together and in solidarity ended the 2nd HNI Congress, with the hope that one day, all home-based workers will be recognised as workers and have the same rights as formal workers do.





We Shall Overcome

*We shall overcome,
We shall overcome,
We shall overcome, some day.*

*Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe
We shall overcome, some day.*

*We'll walk hand in hand,
We'll walk hand in hand,
We'll walk hand in hand, some day.*

*Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe
We shall overcome, some day.*

*We shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace, some day.*

*Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe
We shall overcome, some day.*

*We are not afraid,
We are not afraid,
We are not afraid, TODAY*

XVI. Appendices

HNI Congress 25th - 28th April 2023

List of Participants

S.N.	Ms/Mr	Name of the person	Name of the Organisation	Country
Africa Region				
1	Ms	Juliana Mutinda Kikuvi	Machakos Coop Union (MCU)	Kenya
2	Mrs	Mary Nanzai Munyoli	Machakos Coop Union (MCU)	Kenya
3	Ms	Elizabeth Nzilani Peter	Machakos Coop Union (MCU)	Kenya
4	Mr	Fredrick Masinde Oyange	HomeNet Kenya	Kenya
5	Ms	Pamela Adhiambo Othieno	HomeNet Kenya	Kenya
6	Mrs	Julia Cheporwas Lochingamoi	HomeNet Kenya	Kenya
7	Mr	Jim Kenyanya Nyangate	Smolart	Kenya
8	Miss	Margaret Kerubo Makori	Tabaka Undugu Supplies Community Based Organization	Kenya
9	Mr	Gideon Teimuge	Heavenly Treasures investment self-help group	Kenya
10	Mr	Tongi Omonyi	KISII Soapstone Carvers Cooperative Society Ltd	Kenya
11	Mrs	Rebecca Nelson Nyaluke	UWAKE	Tanzania
12	Mrs	Rahel Koyi	Zawadi Ladies Group	Tanzania
13	Mr	Victor Herman Kayombo	Penda Group Peramiho	Tanzania
14	Ms	Jamila Patrick Mlowezi	AMANI GROUP	Tanzania
15	Mrs	Annavaileth Francis Xavery	Neema Kwetu Group	Tanzania
16	Mrs	Agnes Kabuye	Envirojewels	Uganda
17	Ms	Robinah Nabbose	Tukolerewamu	Uganda
18	Ms	Loy Tubirabire Nabirye	Afri - Youth Support Organisation (AYSO)	Uganda

S.N.	Ms/Mr	Name of the person	Name of the Organisation	Country
19	Mrs	Jane Naluwairo Naigaga	Patience Pays Uganda	Uganda
20	Mr	Stanley Kamoga	Children And Youth Empowerment Link (CAYEL)	Uganda
21	Mr	Samuel Kabuye	Uganda Youth At Risk Development Network (UYDNET)	Uganda
22	Ms	Teopista Namooome	Kangulumira United Women Weavers Association (KUWWA)	Uganda
23	Mrs	Consolata Kugonza Zavuga	Galima Fights Hiv/aids Initiative (GFHAI)	Uganda
24	Ms	Ahmed Hadijah	MAARUF Development Group	Uganda
25	Mrs	Sarah Nakaryowa	Biyinzika Weavers Group (BWG)	Uganda
Latin America Region				
26	Mrs	Edna De Souza Machado Simão	ATEMDO	Brazil
27	Ms	Tatiana Venus Rojas Orellana	CONATRADO CHILE	Chile
28	Mrs	Isela Evelia Beltrán Palacios	Sindicato de Trabajadoras de Bordado a Domicilio de El Salvador - SITRABORDO, (Home-Based Women Embroiderers Trade Union of El Salvador - SITRABORDO)	El Salvador
29	Mrs	Flor de Liz Feijoo	Sindicato Unico de la Aguja (Single Needleworkers' Trade Union), SUA -Vestimenta (Garment) – PIT CNT (Inter-Union Workers' Plenary -National Workers' Convention)	Uruguay
30	Ms	Epifania Espínola García	Sewing And Garment Workers Cooperatives Federation Llc	Argentina
31	Ms	Jaqueline Serrano Rocha	Sewing And Garment Workers Cooperatives Federation Llc	Argentina
32	Ms	Dolores Señorans	Sewing And Garment Workers Cooperatives Federation Llc	Argentina

S.N.	Ms/Mr	Name of the person	Name of the Organisation	Country
South East Asia Region				
33	Ms	Divina Cruz Cesar	Patamaba	Philippines
34	Ms	Evelyn Buluran Cruz	Patamaba	Philippines
35	Ms	Primar Solis Jardeleza	Patamaba	Philippines
36	Ms	Josephine Cabahug Parilla	Homenet Philippines	Philippines
37	Ms	Rebecca Biasbas Miranda	Homenet Philippines	Philippines
38	Ms	Zonia Castillo Narito	Homenet Philippines	Philippines
39	Mr	Sinoeun Men	HomeNet Cambodia (HNC)	Cambodia
40	Miss	Nuchnapha Bamrungra	HomeNet Thailand	Thailand
41	Mrs	Kotchaporn Klakthongkham	HomeNet Thailand	Thailand
42	Mrs	Poonsap Suanmuang Tulaphan	HomeNet Thailand	Thailand
43	Mrs	Titin Kustini	HomeNet Indonesia	Indonesia
44	Mrs	Wuwun Astini	HomeNet Indonesia	Indonesia
45	Mrs	Arya	HomeNet Indonesia	Indonesia
46	Mr	Khanthone Phamuang	Environment Conservations and Community Development Association (ECCDA)	Laos
47	Ms	Bounsoum Siphonexay	Environment Conservations and Community Development Association (ECCDA)	Laos
48	Mrs	Lamphan Nanthapanya	Informal Worker Advancement Association (IWAA)	Laos
49	Mrs	Kongmany Silipanya	Informal Worker Advancement Association (IWAA)	Laos
South Asia Region				
50	Mrs	Sathya Jayaprakash	Anukatham	India
51	Mrs	Selvarani Kennady	Anukatham	India
52	Ms	Viyakula Mary Amaladhass	Anukatham	India

S.N.	Ms/Mr	Name of the person	Name of the Organisation	Country
53	Ms	Priyanuja Dutta	SEWA Bharat	India
54	Mrs	Batul	SEWA Bharat	India
55	Ms	Sarvesh ben	SEWA Bharat	India
56	Ms	Dipsikha	Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)	India
57	Mrs	Kavita Malviya	Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)	India
58	Mrs	Anishabanu Mohamadyunus Bagban	Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)	India
59	Ms	Smriti Kedia	Sadhna	India
60	Ms	Shubhangi Rathore	Sadhna	India
61	Mrs	Shanta Dayaram Koshti	Indian Academy for Self Employed Women (IASEW)	India
62	Mrs	Pushpaben Sindhav	Indian Academy for Self Employed Women (IASEW)	India
63	Mrs	Vijayalaxmi Pravinchandra Nayak	Indian Academy for Self Employed Women (IASEW)	India
64	Mrs	Nirmala Sugnan Bousapnoor	LEARN Mahila Kamgaar Sanghatana (LEARN)	India
65	Mrs	Jyoti Markesh Baiballi	LEARN Mahila Kamgaar Sanghatana (LEARN)	India
66	Mrs	Rukhsana Khatoon Shaikh	LEARN Mahila Kamgaar Sanghatana (LEARN)	India
67	Mr	Jayendra Singh Chawda	Mahila Housing Trust (MHT)	India
68	Ms	Nikita Gadiwala	Mahila Housing Trust (MHT)	India
69	Ms	Aneesa	Home Based Women Workers Federation (HBWWF)	Pakistan
70	Ms	Parveen Bano	Home Based Women Workers Federation (HBWWF)	Pakistan
71	Ms	Sajida Kousar	Home Based Women Workers Federation (HBWWF)	Pakistan

S.N.	Ms/Mr	Name of the person	Name of the Organisation	Country
72	Ms	Humera Aslam	Homenet Pakistan	Pakistan
73	Ms	Fouzia Bibi	Homenet Pakistan	Pakistan
74	Ms	Ume Laila Azhar	Homenet Pakistan	Pakistan
75	Ms	Khalida Bibi	SABAH Pakistan	Pakistan
76	Ms	Robina Bibi	SABAH Pakistan	Pakistan
77	Ms	Asma Ravji	SABAH Pakistan	Pakistan
78	Ms	Aminath Abdulla	Maldives Authentic Crafts Cooperative Society (MACCS)	Maldives
79	Ms	Aishath Aima Musthafa	Maldives Authentic Crafts Cooperative Society (MACCS)	Maldives
80	Mrs	Khondker Rebaka Sun Yat	Coalition of Urban Poor (CUP)	Bangladesh
81	Ms	Farida Khanam	Labour at Informal Economy (LIE)	Bangladesh
82	Mrs	Iffatara Shely	Labour at Informal Economy (LIE)	Bangladesh
83	Mrs	Rashida Akter Nipa	Labour at Informal Economy (LIE)	Bangladesh
84	Ms	Mirza Merana Sherin	Sharbojonin Nari Unnoyon Shangstha	Bangladesh
85	Mrs	Masuda Farouk Ratna	Gram Bikash Shohayak Shangstha (GBSS)	Bangladesh
86	Ms	Rezwana Parveen	Gram Bikash Shohayak Shangstha (GBSS)	Bangladesh
87	Ms	Morjina Ahmed	Gram Bikash Shohayak Shangstha (GBSS)	Bangladesh
88	Mrs	Nandanie Silva Sinhara	SABAH Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
89	Mr	Dinusha Rajarathna Benthara Hetti Arachchilage	SABAH Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
90	Mrs	Asha Veegaha Badda Arachchige	SABAH Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
91	Mrs	Prasangika Sudarsani Darmawansa Ampe Vitarana Arachchilage	Suhada Women Affairs organization	Sri Lanka

S.N.	Ms/Mr	Name of the person	Name of the Organisation	Country
92	Mr	Anil Susantha Herath Mudiyanselage	ArunaluSelf Control Dairy Farmers Society	Sri Lanka
93	Mr	Premalal Jayathilaka Athugalpedige	Galamuduna Janapadaya Small Tea Holder Development Society	Sri Lanka
94	Mr	Conrad Diggaha Ranawake	Institute for Development of Community Strengths (INDECOS)	Sri Lanka
95	Mrs	Mohamed Naeem Raseela Shamin	Institute for Development of Community Strengths (INDECOS)	Sri Lanka
96	Mrs	Gauri Dushani Palihawadana	Institute for Development of Community Strengths (INDECOS)	Sri Lanka
97	Ms	Sehani Anjalika Aththanayaka Aththanayaka Mudiyanselage	Sehani Desheeya Oushadha (Pvt) Ltd	Sri Lanka
98	Ms	Imeera Madhushani Rathnayaka Thanamegedara Rathnayaka Mudiyanselage	Sehani Desheeya Oushadha (Pvt) Ltd	Sri Lanka
99	Ms	Peshala Madhuwanthi Aganpodidurage	Sehani Desheeya Oushadha (Pvt) Ltd	Sri Lanka
100	Mr	Piyal Ranjith Wipulasiri Kanate Gedara	Watakele Tea Small Holder Society	Sri Lanka
101	Mrs	Kezang Dolkar Dorji	SABAH Bhutan	Bhutan
102	Mrs	Cheni Wangmo	SABAH Bhutan	Bhutan
103	Mrs	Sonam Lhamo	SABAH Bhutan	Bhutan
104	Ms	Prabha Pokhrel	Home Based Worker Concerned Society Nepal (HBWSCN)	Nepal
105	Ms	Kamala Panta	Home Based Worker Concerned Society Nepal (HBWSCN)	Nepal
106	Ms	Jyoti Shakya	Home Based Worker Concerned Society Nepal (HBWSCN)	Nepal
107	Ms	Aashma Bhatta	SABAH Nepal	Nepal
108	Ms	Laxmi Bhalu Shrestha	SABAH Nepal	Nepal
109	Ms	Apsara Dangol	SABAH Nepal	Nepal

S.N.	Ms/Mr	Name of the person	Name of the Organisation	Country
EE & CA Region				
110	Dr	Violeta Borisova Zlateva-Mihaylova	TUSIW-Edinstvo	Bulgaria
111	Dr	Svetla ILIEVA	TUSIW-Edinstvo	Bulgaria
112	Dr	Petya Klimentova	TUSIW-Edinstvo	Bulgaria
113	Ms	Rozalina Pantaleeva Ivanova	TPK HomeNet	Bulgaria
114	Ms	Mariya Georgieva Kushleva	TPK HomeNet	Bulgaria
115	Mr	Kamen Iliev Vladov	TPK HomeNet	Bulgaria
116	Mr	Tufcho Georgiev Sandakchiev	KOOPERACIA "BTU-ANIMATION SERVICE	Bulgaria
117	Mr	Lavrent Alania	Transport and Highway Workers TU of Georgia	Georgia
118	Mrs	Svetlana Balalaeva	Aidemi	Kyrgyzstan.
119	Mrs	Shaigul Chepeevna Omuralieva	Public Union (Ak Bairak)	Kyrgyzstan
120	Ms	Ljiljana Čepić	NVU Sarenica	Montenegro
121	Ms	Milica Cavic	NGO Zlante Ruke	Serbia
122	Mr	Valijon Hamdamov	Haft Paikar	Tadjikstan
123	Mr	Nodir Kuziev	Bukhara Crafts Development Centre	Uzbekistan
124	Ms	Dobriila Aškračić	Dvije Ruke	Bosnia-Herzegovina
125	Mrs	Ana Askračić	Zlante Ruke	Bosnia-Herzegovina
126	Dr	Aigul Zhanserikova	Artisan Centre - Qazaq-Oner	Kazakhstan
International Working Committee				
127	Ms	Janhavi Dave	Home Net International	India
128	Ms	Edileuza Maria Da Silva Guimaraes	ATEMBO, Brazil	Brazil

S.N.	Ms/Mr	Name of the person	Name of the Organisation	Country
129	Ms	Patricia del Carmen Conoman Carrillo	CONATRADO CHILE	Chile
130	Mrs	Laura Raquel Morillo Santa Cruz	WIEGO	Germany
131	Ms	Jean Christine Bonner	WIEGO	South Africa
132	Ms	Kanagie Vanessa Pillay	WIEGO	South Africa
133	Ms	Betty Lunkuse	Envirojewels, Africa	Uganda
134	Mr	Edwin Kipkoech Bett	HomeNet Africa	Kenya
135	Mrs	Jemima Awuor Nyakongo	HomeNet Kenya	Kenya
136	Mrs	Suntaree Saeng Ging	HomeNet Thailand	Thailand
137	Ms	Manali Shah	SEWA Union	India
138	Ms	Firoza Mehrotra	HNSA, Advisory Board	India
139	Ms	Saira Feroz	Home-Based Women Workers Federation, Pakistan (HBWWF)	Pakistan
140	Ms	Sristi Joshi Malla	HNSA	Nepal
HNI Secretariat				
141	Ms	Srujana Banala	Home Net International	India
142	Ms	Laura Revelo Guevara	Home Net International	Costa Rica
143	Ms	Verónica Robledo	Home Net International	Argentina
144	Mr	Carlos Eduardo Camargo Derrico	Home Net International	Brazil
145	Ms	Ashoo Dhaval Baxi	Home Net International	India
146	Ms	Sarbani Kattel	Home Net International	Nepal
147	Ms	Kripa Awale	Home Net International	Nepal
Other Invitees				
148	Ms	Crecentia Carina Mofokeng	Election Committee	South Africa
149	Ms	Barbro Margareta Budin	Election Committee	Sweden

S.N.	Ms/Mr	Name of the person	Name of the Organisation	Country
150	Ms	Chandni Joshi	HNSA Board Member	Nepal
151	Dr	Qurat Ul Ain Mirza	HNSA Board Member	Pakistan
152	Ms	Phuntshok Chhoden Tshering	HNSA Board Member	Bhutan
153	Mr	Marcelo Andrade Silva Schmidt	Latin America Regional Organiser	Brazil
HNSA				
154	Ms	Renana Jhabvala	HNSA	India
155	Ms	Rekha Sharma	HNSA	India
156	Mr	Anuj Arora	HNSA	India
157	Ms	Namrata Bali	HNSA	India
WIEGO				
158	Ms	Sofia Trevino	WIEGO	Canada
159	Ms	Aura Carillo Sevilla	WIEGO	Philippines
160	Ms	Sally Roever	WIEGO	USA
161	Ms	Krithika Arayamparambil Dinesh	WIEGO	India
162	Ms	Martha Alter Chen	WIEGO	USA
163	Ms	Mirai Chatterjee	WIEGO	India
164	Ms	Katherine Jane Barrett	WIEGO	South Africa
IAWP				
165	Ms	Shanti Tamang	IAWP	Nepal
166	Ms	Saraswati Swati	IAWP	Nepal
167	Mr	Kabir Arora	IAWP	India
FNV				
168	Mr	Prabhu Rajendran	FNV	India

S.N.	Ms/Mr	Name of the person	Name of the Organisation	Country
StreetNet International				
169	Ms	Maya Gurung	StreetNet International Council Member	Nepal
170	Mr	Narayan Neupane	StreetNet Asian Regional Focal Point Representative	Nepal
Ford Foundation				
171	Mrs	Ghada Abdeltawab	Ford Foundation	Egypt
172	Mr	Samar Verma	Ford Foundation	India
Nepali Invitees				
173	Mr	Laxman Basnet	South Asia Regional Trade Union Council	Nepal
174	Mr	Shangita Baniya	ANTUF	Nepal
175	Ms	Deepa Dawadi	JTUCC	Nepal
176	Ms	Gyanu Kshatri	HUN - GEFONT	Nepal
177	Mr	Prakash Dangol	KWAS	Nepal
178	Ms	Anuja Dangol	KWAS	Nepal
179	Ms	Chandariika Bhattarai	WHR	Nepal
180	Ms	Upasana Rana	WHR	Nepal
181	Ms	Suvekchya	Saathi	Nepal
182	Ms	Bhagwati Gautam	Saathi	Nepal
183	Ms	Goma	Class	Nepal
184	Ms	Munna Lama	Class	Nepal
Interpreters				
185	Mrs	Prinka Roshani Wanigasekara	Organiser, Srilanka	Sri Lanka
186	Miss	Yasasipa Suksai	Interpreter	Thailand
187	Mr	Almazbek Abasov	Interpreter	Kyrgyz Republic

S.N.	Ms/Mr	Name of the person	Name of the Organisation	Country
188	Mr	Ruslan Asadulin	Interpreter	Kyrgyz Republic
189	Mr	Fausto Ivan Pavlovich Johnson	Interpreter	London
190	Mrs	Vesna Misojcic	Interpreter	Serbia
191	Ms	Ambreen Fatima	Interpreter	Pakistan
192	Mr	Anim Dahal	Interpreter	Nepal
193	Mr	Krishna Bhusal	Interpreter	Nepal
194	Mr	Thakur Amgai	Interpreter	Nepal
195	Mr	Ramchandra Gaihre	Interpreter	Nepal
Nepali Volunteers				
196	Ms	Deepa Sinjali Magar	Volunteer	Nepal
197	Ms	Kalpana Shrestha	Volunteer	Nepal
198	Ms	Bidhya Giri	Volunteer	Nepal
199	Ms	Bipana Basnet	Volunteer	Nepal
200	Ms	Sabitra Shrestha	Volunteer	Nepal
201	Ms	Surabhi Rajopadhyaya	Volunteer	Nepal
202	Ms	Lovlina Awale	Volunteer	Nepal
203	Ms	Ashma Basnet	Volunteer	Nepal
204	Mr	Dipak Raj Giri	Volunteer	Nepal
205	Mr	Aaditya Raj Giri	Volunteer	Nepal

Programme for HNI Congress

25th-28th April 2023

Dates - 25th - 28th April 2023

Venue - Hotel Yak & Yeti, Kathmandu, Nepal

25th April 2023

Overall Chair - Janhavi Dave, International Coordinator, HNI

Time	Programme	Facilitator
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation devices to be handed out • Instructions and setting up of interpretation systems • Please take your seat by 9:20 a.m. 	Veronica del Valle Robledo, HNI Secretariat & Sofia Trevino, WIEGO
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	<p>Opening of the Congress</p> <p>Cultural Event Welcome</p> <p>History of the HBW Movement</p>	<p>Janhavi Dave, International Coordinator, HNI</p> <p>Apsara Dangol, HBW leader from Nepal</p> <p>Renana Jhabvala, Chairperson SEWA Bharat and HNSA; Chandni Joshi, Enforcer, HNSA, and Rakawin Lee, Chairperson of the Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion</p>
11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Tea/Coffee	
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	<p>Introduction of Participants</p> <p>Introduction to the Programme</p>	<p>Janhavi Dave, HNI International Coordinator</p> <p>Poonsap S. Tulaphan, HNI Working Committee Member</p>
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Lunch	Do visit the HBWs Bazaar

Time	Programme	Facilitator
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	<p>Message from Sister Organisations & Allies</p> <p>Present the Credentials</p> <p>Approval from the Congress</p> <p>Introduction to the Resolution Committee</p> <p>Approval from the Congress</p> <p>Introduction to the Elections Committee</p> <p>Approval from the Congress</p>	<p>Mirai Chatterjee, Chairperson, WIEGO and Ghada Tawab, Senior Global Programme Officer, Ford Foundation</p> <p>Credentials Committee</p> <p>Patricia Coñoman, HNI Working Committee Member</p> <p>Jemimah Nyakongo, HNI Working Committee Member</p>
3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Tea/ Coffee	
3:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.	<p>Report from HomeNet International</p> <p>Report from the Regions</p>	<p>Janhavi Dave, HNI International Coordinator</p> <p>Edwin Bett, Regional Coordinator, HomeNet Africa</p> <p>Sristi Joshi Malla, Regional Coordinator, HomeNet South Asia</p> <p>Suntaree H. Saeng-Ging, Executive Director, HomeNet South East Asia</p> <p>Violeta Zlateva, Regional Coordinator, HomeNet Eastern Europe & Central Asia</p> <p>Laura Morillo, WIEGO</p>
5:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Cultural activity from HNA HBW's Bazaar	Betty Lunkuse, HNI Working Committee Member
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	HBW's Bazaar	

26th April 2023

Overall Chair- Janhavi Dave, International Coordinator, HNI

Time	Programme	Facilitator
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation devices to be handed out • Instructions and setting up of interpretation systems • Please take your seat by 9:20 a.m. 	Veronica del Valle Robledo, HNI Secretariat & Sofia Trevino, WIEGO
9:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.	Cultural Activity from COTRADO Alac	Edileuza Guimarães HNI Working Committee Member
9:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	<p>Instructions</p> <p>Announcement of Executive Committee & Short Speeches by the Executive Committee Members</p> <p>Approval from the Congress</p>	Elections Committee
11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Tea/Coffee	
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Elections of the Office Bearers Elections Committee & Office Bearers	Elections Committee with support from HNI Secretariat
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	<p>Message from Sister Organisations & Allies</p> <p>Opening of the Thematic Discussion</p>	<p>StreetNet International International Alliance of Waste-pickers</p> <p>Marty Chen, Board Member, WIEGO</p>
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Lunch	Do visit the HBWs Bazaar
2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Plenary Discussion on Organising	<p>Chris Bonner, HNI Working Committee Member;</p> <p>Manali Shah; HNI Working Committee Member;</p> <p>Jane Barrett, WIEGO</p>
3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Tea/ Coffee	

Time	Programme	Facilitator
4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Thematic Discussions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social Protection & OHS 2. Access to Markets & SSE 3. Climate Change 	Social Protection and OSH Facilitators: Suntaree H. Saeng- Ging, Patricia Coñoman, HNI Working Committee Members Access to Markets Facilitators: Edwin Bett, Edileuza Guimarães and Violeta Zlateva, HNI Working Committee Members Climate Change Facilitators: Sristi Joshi Malla, Betty Lunkuse, HNI Working Committee Members and Shalini Sinha, WIEGO

27th April 2023

Overall Chair- President of HNI

Time	Programme	Facilitator
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation devices to be handed out • Instructions and setting up of interpretation systems • Please take your seat by 8:50 a.m. 	Veronica del Valle Robledo, HNI Secretariat & Sofia Trevino, WIEGO
9:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.	Cultural activity from HNEE&CA	Svetlana Balalaeva & Lavrent Alania, HNI Working Committee Members
9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.	Reporting on the Elections Result Reporting back from the Thematic Discussion Message from Sister Organisations & Allies	Elections Committee Speeches by the 3 office bearers One from Each Thematic Group IDWF IUF
10:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Tea/Coffee	
11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Field Visit	Vanessa Pillay, HNI Working Committee Member, Laura Morillo, HNI Working Committee Member and Sarbani Kattel, HNI Secretariat

Time	Programme	Facilitator
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	HBW's Bazaar, Cultural Event & Dinner	Sristi Joshi Malla, Regional Coordinator, HomeNet South Asia

28th April 2023

Overall Chair- President, HNI

Time	Programme	Facilitator
8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation devices to be handed out • Instructions and setting up of interpretation systems • Please take your seat by 9:05 a.m. 	Veronica del Valle Robledo, HNI Secretariat & Sofia Trevino, WIEGO
9:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.	Cultural Event by HNSEA	Suntaree H. Saeng-Ging, Executive Director, HomeNet South East Asia
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Reporting back from Field Visits	Josephine Parilla & Saira Feroz, HNI Working Committee Members
11:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.	Tea/Coffee	
11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Congress Declarations Brief Plan of HNI for one year	Resolutions Committee Janhavi Dave, International Coordinator, HNI
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Message from Sister Organisations & Allies Closing Remarks Thank you From HNI Closing Song Instructions for Departures	Prabhu Rajendran, FNV Samar Verma, Ford Foundation Sally Roevers, WIEGO President, HNI
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Lunch	
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	HBW's Bazaar	

Credentials List

S.No.	Name of the Organisation	No of delegates as per Constitution	No of delegates present at the Congress	Joining Fee
Africa Region				
1	Machakos Coop Union (MCU)	3	3	Paid
2	HomeNet Kenya	3	3	Paid
3	Smolart	1	1	Paid
4	Tabaka Undugu Supplies Community Based Organisation	1	1	Paid
5	Heavenly Treasures investment self-help group	1	1	Paid
6	KISII Soapstone Carvers Cooperative Society Ltd	1	1	Paid
7	UWAKE	1	1	Paid
8	Zawadi Ladies Group	1	1	Paid
9	Penda Group Peramiho	1	1	Paid
10	AMANI GROUP	1	1	Paid
11	Neema Kwetu Group	1	1	Paid
12	Envirojewels	1	1	Paid
13	Tukolerewamu	1	1	Paid
14	Afri - Youth Support Organisation (AYSO)	1	1	Paid
15	Patience Pays Uganda	1	1	Paid
16	Children And Youth Empowerment Link (CAYEL)	1	1	Paid
17	Uganda Youth at Risk Development Network (UYDNET)	1	1	Paid
18	Kangulumira United Women Weavers Association (KUWWA)	1	1	Paid
19	Galima Fights Hiv/aids Initiative (GFHAI)	1	1	Paid
20	MAARUF Development Group	1	1	Paid

S.No.	Name of the Organisation	No of delegates as per Constitution	No of delegates present at the Congress	Joining Fee
21	Biyinzika Weavers Group (BWG)	1	1	Paid
Total		25	25	
Latin America Region				
1	National Network of Self-Employed Workers (RENATTA)	1	0	Paid
2	CTCP (Confederation of Self-employed Workers Nicaragua)	3	0	Paid
3	ATEMDO	1	1	Paid
4	CONATRADO CHILE	1	1	Paid
5	Sindicato de Trabajadoras de Bordado a Domicilio de El Salvador - SITRABORDO, (Home-Based Women Embroiderers Trade Union of El Salvador - SITRABORDO)	1	1	Paid
6	Sindicato Unico de la Aguja (Single Needleworkers' Trade Union), SUA -Vestimenta (Garment) – PIT CNT (Inter-Union Workers' Plenary -National Workers' Convention)	1	1	Paid
7	Sewing And Garment Workers Cooperatives Federation Llc.	3	3	paid
Total		11	7	
South East Asia Region				
1	Patamaba	3	3	Paid
2	Homenet Philippines	3	3	Paid
3	HomeNet Cambodia (HNC)	1	1	Paid
4	HomeNet Thailand	3	3	Paid
5	HomeNet Indonesia	3	3	Paid
6	Environment Conservations and Community Development Association (ECCDA)	2	2	Paid
7	Informal Worker Advancement Association (IWAA)	2	2	Paid

S.No.	Name of the Organisation	No of delegates as per Constitution	No of delegates present at the Congress	Joining Fee
Total		17	17	
South Asia Region				
1	Anukatham	3	3	Paid
2	SEWA Bharat	3	3	Paid
3	Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)	3	3	Paid
4	Sadhna	2	2	Paid
5	Indian Academy for Self Employed Women (IASEW)	3	3	Paid
6	LEARN Mahila Kamgaar Sanghatana (LEARN)	3	3	Paid
7	Mahila Housing Trust (MHT)	3	3	Paid
8	Home Based Women Workers Federation (HBWWF)	3	3	Paid
9	Homenet Pakistan	3	3	Paid
10	SABAH Pakistan	3	3	Paid
11	Maldives Authentic Crafts Cooperative Society (MACCS)	2	2	Paid
12	Coalition of Urban Poor (CUP)	1	1	Paid
13	Labour at Informal Economy (LIE)	3	3	Paid
14	Sharbojonin Nari Unnoyon Shangstha	1	1	Paid
15	Gram Bikash Shohayak Shangstha (GBSS)	3	3	Paid
16	SABAH Sri Lanka	3	3	Paid
17	Suhada Women Affairs organization	1	1	Paid
18	ArunaluSelf Control Dairy Farmers Society	1	1	Paid
19	Galamuduna Janapadaya Small Tea Holder Development Society	1	1	Paid
20	Institute for Development of Community Strengths (INDECOS)	3	3	Paid

S.No.	Name of the Organisation	No of delegates as per Constitution	No of delegates present at the Congress	Joining Fee
21	Sehani Desheeya Oushadha (Pvt) Ltd	3	3	Paid
22	Watakele Tea Small Holder Society	1	1	Paid
23	SABAH Bhutan	3	3	Paid
24	Home Based Worker Concerned Society Nepal (HBWSCN)	3	3	Paid
25	SABAH Nepal	3	3	Paid
Total		61	61	
EE & CA Region				
1	TUSIW-Edinstvo	3	3	Paid
2	TPK HomeNet 2016	3	3	Paid
3	KOOPERACIA "BTU-ANIMATION SERVICE	1	1	Paid
4	Transport and Highway Workers TU of Georgia	1	1	Paid
5	Women Creative Studios Association - Aidemi	1	1	Paid
6	Public Union (Ak Bairak)	1	1	Paid
7	NGO Sarenica	1	1	Paid
8	NGO Zlatne Ruke	1	1	Paid
9	Haft Paikar	1	1	Paid
10	Bukhara Crafts Development Centre	1	1	Paid
11	Dvije Ruke	1	1	Paid
12	Zlatne Ruke	1	1	Paid
13	National Association Qazaq-Oner	1	1	Paid
14	Armenian Association of HomeWorkers	1	0	Paid
15	Dora Dom	2	0	Paid
Total		20	17	
Grand Total		134	127	

HomeNet International Congress Declaration

As adopted by the HNI Congress in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 28th April 2023

I. INTRODUCTION:

1. We, the 72 out of 75 affiliates of HomeNet International, an international network of membership-based organizations, federations, networks and alliances of home-based workers from 33 countries met in Kathmandu from the 25th to the 28th April 2023 at our Second Congress, and adopted this Declaration
2. The main objective of the Congress was to deepen the solidarity and unity of the home-based workers movement that we built in our on-line activities during the pandemic.
3. Our vision is for greater visibility and recognition of home-based workers and for a strong, united, and representative voice on global platforms where home-based workers effectively engage and challenge those, such as governments and employers, who have power over their working lives.
4. We note that despite there being more than 260 million home-based workers, representing 8 percent of the global workforce, they remain invisible, marginalized and denied their rights.

II. CONFIRMATION OF HOMENET INTERNATIONAL'S CONSTITUTION:

We unanimously endorsed our [Constitution](#) adopted at our Virtual Congress on 24th February 2021 and are committed to the principles and objectives mentioned therein. We reinforce our resolve to build and provide solidarity among home-based workers and their organisations around common issues and to provide a representative voice on global platforms.

III. OUR DEMANDS:

a. Recognize home-based workers and their contribution:

1. Recognize home-based workers as workers – both the self-employed HBWs and those who are subcontracted workers (with or without an employment contract), the majority of whom are women
2. Recognize the contribution of HBWs to their family's income and to community and national economies.
3. Recognize the rights of HBWs to freedom of association, especially into membership-based organizations, and collective bargaining.
4. Recognize the right of HBWs and their organisations to participate in and be heard while formulating and implementing policies concerning them.

b. Ratify and implement ILO Standards:

1. Ratify and implement International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 177 on Home Work and ILO Convention 190 on Eliminating Violence and Harassment in the World of Work as well as other ILO Conventions like C-87 and C-98.
2. Implementation of Recommendation 184 on Home Work and Recommendation 204 on Transition from the informal to the formal economy.

c. Provide Social Protection – our labour right!

Most home-based workers are not covered, or inadequately covered, by government or employer social protection schemes. Our health and safety is often compromised due to poor working spaces and facilities, and the stress of juggling unpaid and paid work. We demand the right to social protection including:

1. A legal, policy framework on social protection
2. Quality and affordable health care
3. Financial support for maternity, old age, disability and unemployment
4. Access to affordable and quality child care facilities
5. Insurance including for life, accident, health and tools & equipment.
6. Relief packages during disasters and for recovery and rehabilitation.
7. Protection from gender based violence.
8. Support for improved occupational health and safety through provision of safe production processes, personal protective equipment, better housing, infrastructure, collective working spaces and training.

d. Build inclusive Global Supply Chains:

Home workers are part of global supply chains, especially the global garment supply chains. HBWs demands are:

1. Recognition as legitimate workers contributing to the production of goods as an intrinsic part of the supply chains.
2. Provision of mandatory written work contracts from primary employers (brands) or brands must contractually oblige their suppliers to do this.
3. Equal pay for equal work for women and men workers
4. Decent work (including a living wage) – all employment benefits that are enjoyed by factory workers in the same supply chain must be extended to homeworkers.
5. Transparency through the supply chains.

6. Right to organize and/or join trade unions of workers through the supply chains.
7. A transparent and fair complaints redressal mechanism with home-based workers organization's active and effective participation.

e. Strengthen statistics on home-based workers at the global and national levels:

Governments should collect and publish comprehensive statistics by:

1. Including a question on 'type of workplace' as well as the category of "dependent contractor" to accurately categorize home-based workers in National Labour Force Surveys.
2. Identifying accurately contributing family workers
3. Including data on home-based workers by sex and industry categories in tabulation releases of the labour or other household surveys

IV. OUR COMMITMENTS:

f. Build strong and democratic organizations of home-based workers:

Home-based workers need visibility, recognition and representative voice if they are to gain recognition as workers and improve their economic and social conditions. They need solidarity amongst themselves and with other worker organizations. To achieve this they must organize into strong, democratic membership-based worker organizations at all levels, from local to global. HNI and its affiliates commit to supporting:

1. Local HBW organizations to grow their membership, deepen their democratic functioning, empower members and improve livelihoods.
2. Building capacity of HBWs in leadership especially for women, in organisational skills and providing opportunities for information sharing on organising models and strategies.
3. Organizations coming together to form more visible and powerful national and regional organizations/networks.
4. Continuing to grow and strengthen HNI as the global voice of home-based workers.
5. Alliances with the trade unions and organizations of the social and solidarity economy.

g. Strengthen access to Markets

Home-based workers, especially own account home-based workers, have direct access to raw materials and markets. However, post the pandemic availability of the raw material has been inconsistent and expensive, and the demand for the products made by home-based workers has been low. HNI commits to working with regional organizations and affiliates to:

1. Build the capacity of home-based workers and their organizations on various skills to ensure that their products are “market ready” and the organizations have the capacity to sell their products directly to the markets.
2. Create visibility of products made by home-based workers
3. Identify different markets and facilitate the relationship between the HBWs organizations and markets.
4. Network with like-minded organizations to create a support group for HBWs organizations.
5. Building capacities (like for digital literacy) of home-based worker’s organisations to access markets.
6. Advocate for policies to support the livelihood of HBWs (eg. revolving fund, procurement)

h. Promote Livelihoods through the Social Solidarity Economy

Home-based workers’ organise themselves as Social Solidarity Economy organizations such as cooperatives, producer owned companies and self-help groups. They have social objectives, are organized democratically with ownership by HBWs and for economic sustainability. However, they are in most cases small. They lack regulations to protect them and support programmes to promote them. Therefore, HNI commits to

1. Continue its support in organising home-based workers as SSE organisations
2. Advocate for policies to support Social Solidarity Economy

i. Include home-based workers and their issues in Climate Change discourse and advocacy:

Climate change has become an urgent, widely debated global issue. Some of those most affected by climate change are the home-based workers from the global south, living and working in informal settlements and rural areas and directly affected by extreme heat, floods, droughts, land degradation and pollution. Their concerns are largely ignored.

HNI commits to working with its regional organizations and affiliates to:

1. Conduct research on the impact of climate change on home-based workers across different regions and different sectors.
2. Organize around the issue of climate change and build a platform of demands at the local, national and global level.
3. Build the capacity of HBWs to understand, articulate and engage in local, national and global dialogues and negotiations on climate change
4. Advocate for climate change policies that are gender sensitive and inclusive of demands of HBWs.

We therefore call for:

National Governments to recognize home-based workers as workers, their contribution to local and national economies, to formulate and ensure implementation of national laws and policies for them, ratify ILO Convention No. 177 and 190, include them in national statistics, take responsibility for social protection and give them a voice in decision making.

Trade Unions to include home-based workers as their members, help them to build their own organizations and to advocate for ratification of the ILO Conventions No. 177, C-190 and Recommendation 204.

The private sector brands and employers to recognize the existence of home workers in their supply chains; mandate written work contracts; to ensure fair income and decent work including social protection and a transparent and fair complaints redressal mechanism.

International development agencies to recognize home-based workers and include their rights and concerns in their policies and programmes; to support organizations and regional networks of home-based workers to combat invisibility and exploitation and counter the negative effects of globalization; lobby and support governments to ratify ILO C-177 and put pressure on large corporate buyers to improve conditions of employment for home workers

WE ARE MANY, WE ARE UNITED, WE ARE HOMENET INTERNATIONAL!

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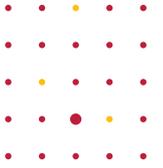
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The logo for HomeNet International. It features a red house icon to the left of the text. The text "HomeNet" is in a large, bold, red sans-serif font, and "INTERNATIONAL" is in a smaller, all-caps, red sans-serif font below it.

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