

CSOs and NGOs working for the Rights of Migrant Workers¹

Name of Organisation: The Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics (HOME),
Singapore, 2004

Website of Organisation: <http://www.home.org.sg/>

Facebook of Organisation: <https://www.facebook.com/wearehome/>

Organisation of DTP Alumni Y/N: Yes

“Our vision is to ‘build a culture of welcome where no man, woman or child is a stranger; we are family”

The Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics (HOME) was established in 2004. HOME is registered as a society and charity, dedicated to upholding the rights of migrant workers in Singapore including victims of human trafficking and forced labour. Their activities focus on advocacy, welfare and empowerment which are aimed at creating an inclusive society that upholds the principles of equality and non-discrimination. HOME also raises awareness and advocates for change by publishing reports, stories, position papers, writing letters to the press, and taking part in dialogue sessions with government agencies and other stakeholders on issues concerning migrant workers. They connect with the public and migrant workers via social media and conduct workshops and seminars to inform migrant workers about their legal rights and health related issues.

Current activities and engagements HOME provides to its beneficiaries are: help desk services and help lines which include counselling and employment advice, legal aid, shelter to victims of human trafficking with ongoing investigations or those who are required to remain behind bars as persecution witnesses. HOME provides service in skills training, which is established to provide training to all migrant domestic workers, women health care centres and programmes are also available at HOME and dental services at highly subsidised rates for migrant workers. One of the most notable programmes HOME offers is a legal education programme called Law & You, which is aimed at educating Foreign Domestic Workers (FMD) of their rights and obligations in Singapore. The purpose of this programme is to increase awareness on legal rights and obligations among FDWs so they may be better able to protect themselves from abuse. The workshop aims to provide important and basic legal information to foreign domestic workers. HOME has had some success in its advocacy particularly against sex trafficking. In 2011, HOME Singapore partnered with, UN Women, Ecpat and The Body Shop, on a campaign against sex trafficking, and they called for the creation of an anti-trafficking law. In 2014, this law was proposed.

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¹ The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is an NGO affiliated with the Faculty of Law at UNSW in Sydney. Since 1990, It has provided training to over 2600 human rights defenders and community advocates. These individuals work for a wide range of organisations working to promote shared values of human rights – in different ways. This profile is part of a series developed by DTP (www.dtp.unsw.edu.au) to illustrate the richness and diversity of the organisations working to promote the rights of migrant workers and human rights more broadly.

Profile written September 2016