

CSOs and NGOs working for the Rights of Migrant Workers¹



Name of Organisation: Solidarity Center, USA, 1997

Website of Organisation: www.solidaritycenter.org

Facebook of Organisation: www.facebook.com/solidaritycenter

The Solidarity Center is a non-profit organisation that works with unions, nongovernmental organizations and community groups worldwide to advance worker rights and achieve equitable economic development in countries where globalization has made the lives of vulnerable people even more precarious. It supports programs and projects—among them, trainings, education campaigns, legal aid, research, transparency initiatives—that help workers understand and exercise their rights, improve their working and living conditions and build independent unions.

Solidarity Center's Mission

- To provide training and technical expertise that can help assist workers on issues such as child labor, human trafficking, unfair labor laws, infringement of women's rights, dangerous workplaces and exploitation
- To assist unions trying to strengthen internal structures, work with women as they challenge the systems and organizations that deny them their voice
- To conduct health and safety trainings for factory and other workers, and support networks of workers injured on the job. Implement legal assistance programs to help workers recover stolen wages or benefits that have illegally been denied to them
- To connect migrant workers with various networks to share experiences and struggles
- To boost advocacy efforts so that campaigns resonate beyond borders. Stand in solidarity with social-change activists around the world as Solidarity Center strive to build a global network of worker rights defenders

The Solidarity Center connects with migrant workers, trade unions, governments and civil society coalitions around the globe to create a community and workplace-based safe migration, as well as counter-trafficking strategies that emphasise prevention, protection and the rule of law. From July 2015 - June 2016, the Center helped empower more than 220,000 workers - with majority being women in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. The Center also supports its partners in helping to educate workers on the labor laws and workplace rights in both the origin and destination countries. It also drafts and passes improved anti-trafficking and safe migration legislations. Notably, the Center establishes relationships between migrant rights organizations, government officials and trade unions in both the origin and destination countries. The Center promotes migrant worker rights, increase access to justice for migrant workers and help migrant workers to exercise their right to organize.

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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 2800 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 more broadly.

