

# Manila Declaration on Women Household Service Workers

13 May 2015

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**WHEREAS, We,** the members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement have gathered in the city of Manila, Philippines, on May 12-13, 2015 to continue our common efforts to address the matter of migrant workers and the humanitarian aspects thereof;

**WHEREAS,** guided by the Fundamental Principles of humanity and universality, we all recognize and unanimously declare that migration is not only an issue of people movement but more importantly an issue involving basic human rights and the protection of human dignity;

**WHEREAS,** among the migrant workers, we have identified women workers, especially those who work as domestic helpers, as most vulnerable, prone to abuse in view of their isolation and without sufficient means to obtain support and assistance when needed.

**WHEREAS, WE,** the National Societies in this DECLARATION, are desirous of adopting a common position, and take collective action and utilize the largest humanitarian network of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to protect the rights of labour migrants –with a particular focus on women household service workers.

*Therefore, we hereby declare and agree as it is hereby declared and agreed, to the following:*

1. WE reiterate and confirm our commitment to work together, undertake collective action to protect the rights of migrant workers, especially female migrant workers who are the most vulnerable, and to engage in a continuing dialogue and collaboration to ensure that the dignity and the rights of all migrant workers are respected and they can receive assistance individually and/or collectively at all times. WE recognize the need to bring greater attention to the plight of vulnerable migrant workers and to mobilize collective solutions to strengthen their resilience.
2. Each of the National Society participants hereto shall do its utmost to exercise humanitarian diplomacy to influence their respective governments and other stakeholders to assist and protect women migrant workers in distress and provide programs which protect the rights, reduce the vulnerabilities and support the best interest of the women migrant workers.

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3. WE pledge to strengthen efforts to ensure National Society senior leadership dedicates sufficient attention, and other resources to activities relating to migrant worker assistance and protection.
4. WE the National Societies commit to strengthen our partnerships within and across countries in order to ensure the working environment of migrant workers in host countries fosters tolerance and cultural respect, and where the individual needs and vulnerabilities of migrant workers, irrespective of their status are properly addressed, consistent with the principles of humanity and universality.
5. In line with the the Philippine Red Cross proposal, the Fundamental Principles an our collective commitment to protect human dignity and respect National Societies and partners lend their full support to the establishment of a humanitarian lifeline/call center for overseas migrant workers in distress. Once established, WE all pledge to support the operation and development of the lifeline and to cooperate closely with the Philippine Red Cross who expressed intent in piloting this initiative.
6. WE the National Society participants also recognize the potential of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Network to play a valuable role in assisting migrant workers once they return to their home countries. WE express our commitment to explore ways in which the services and expertise of our respective National Societies can contribute to the safe rehabilitation of migrant workers back into their home communities.
7. WE may consider in the future other collective measures to protect all other categories of migrant workers in order to ensure the protection and dignity of labor migrants in the context of international labor rights, decent work, and the right to equal treatment regardless of gender, background and legal status.