

# PROTECT RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS

The Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants, Asian Migrants Co-ordinating Body, Asosiasi Tenaga Kerja Indonesia di Hong Kong, Association of Sri Lankans, Bethune House Migrant Women's Refugee, Far East Overseas Nepalese Association, Friends of Thai, Mission for Filipino Migrant Workers – Hong Kong, Thai Regional Association, and United Filipinos-Hong Kong, ask workers' and women's groups to join together and support their call to abolish the **"Two-Week Rule"** (New Conditions of Stay) which the HKSAR Government has imposed upon all migrant workers in Hong Kong. Under the Two-week Rule: migrant workers cannot change jobs during the first two years of their contract; cannot apply for new jobs from within Hong Kong; cannot work for multiple employers or outside their designated field of work; and must leave HKSAR within **two weeks** after termination or contract expiration or they will face criminal prosecution.

<b>ABOLISH the 2 Week Rule!</b>
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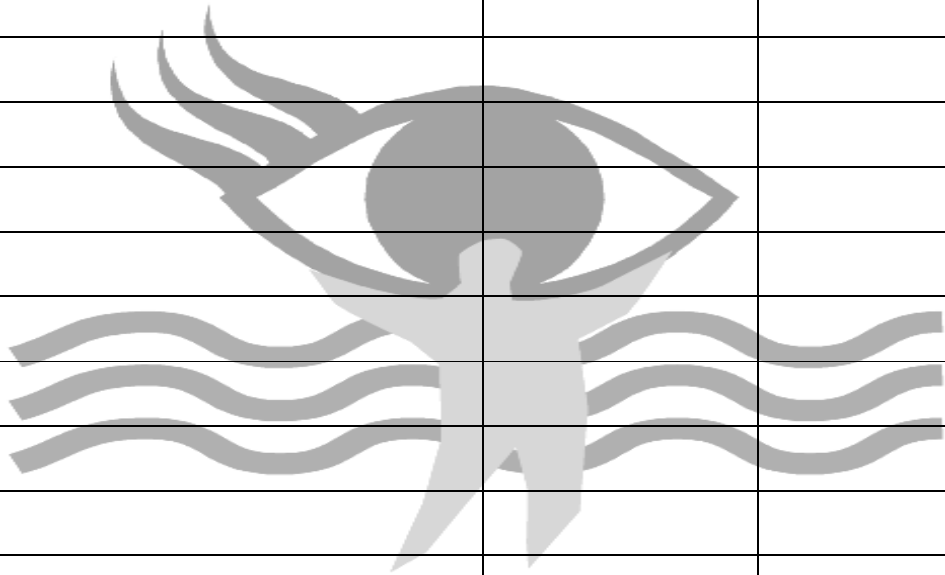
The rule leads to **discrimination** based on **gender**, because it affects the majority of women who work as domestic workers in Hong Kong; women whose employment situation already makes them vulnerable to all forms of violence and abuse, and who have systematically and repeatedly been denied access to protection of even their most basic human and workers rights.

The rule ignores HKSAR's commitments to international human rights law set out in the UDHR, ICCPR, ICESCR, CERD, CEDAW, DVAW, and various other UN and ILO Conventions. It violates migrant workers rights to:

- be free from all forms of discrimination;
- equal treatment and equal protection under the law;
- enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work;
- liberty and security of the person;
- not be held in slavery or servitude;
- not be subjected to arbitrary interference with privacy; and
- not be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Please sign below if you agree that the Rule is unjust and unfair and two weeks is not enough time for migrant workers in Hong Kong to be able to find new employment upon expiration of a contract or to assert their rights and seek legal re-dress in the court of law for cases of contract termination due to situations of violence and abuse. Copies of completed form will be delivered to the UN Special Rapporteur on Migrants Rights during the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) in Geneva in April, 2003.

	Name	Country	Signature
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Thank you for your support. Should you need more forms, please download copies from the APWLD website at [www.apwld.org/campaign/Two-weekrule](http://www.apwld.org/campaign/Two-weekrule). Completed forms can be returned to by 31 March 2003; APWLD-YMCA Building, Room 305-308, 11 Sermsuk Road, Soi Mengrairasm, Santitham, Chiangmai 50200, Thailand or by fax (66-53) 404 615.