DIGNITY OVERDUE: DECENT WORK FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS
MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2010 1:15PM-2:45PM, ROOM XXIII, PALAIS DES NATIONS

Millions of women and girls around the world enter domestic work in order to provide for themselves and their families. Domestic work accounts for up to 10 percent of employment in some countries and is the single largest sector of employment for girls.

Despite their importance to their employers’ households, domestic workers are among the most exploited and abused workers in the world. They are often overworked, underpaid, unprotected, and vulnerable to abuse. In the worst situations, women and girls are trapped in situations of forced labor, the worst forms of child labor, or trafficked into conditions akin to slavery.

Beginning in June 2010, members of the International Labor Organization will begin negotiation of a new ILO instrument for domestic workers, providing a rare and critical opportunity to strengthen protections for this historically neglected and undervalued sector.

This event will explore the potential of the new ILO instrument, discuss the realities of domestic work, and highlight good practices taken by governments to better protect the rights of domestic workers and address their unique circumstances.

PROGRAM
Introductory Film: Dignity Overdue: Decent Work for Domestic Workers (5 minutes)

Panel:
- Sharan Burrow, President, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
- Maria Luisa Escorel, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Brazil
- Tendani Ramulongo, Department of Labour, Republic of South Africa
- Feli Catacutan, domestic worker
- Nisha Varia, Senior Researcher, Human Rights Watch
- Manuela Tomei, Chief, Conditions of Work and Employment Programme, International Labour Office

* Sandwiches will be provided.

Sponsored by Human Rights Watch and the Mission of Brazil

Photo: This girl started working as a domestic worker in Conakry, Guinea when she was 11 years old. © 2007 Susan Meiselas / Magnum