

本會外籍傭工輔導計劃的員工，繼續致力支援來港工作的外籍傭工，無分國籍和種族，亦不收取分毫。這班離鄉別井的傭工，所面對的問題繁多，包括被終止合約、拒付薪金、糧食不足、惡劣住宿環境，更甚是肉體上的欺凌及虐待。大量的個案，正好揭示他們對本會外籍傭工輔導計劃的殷切需求。去年，我們共接獲7,000個電話及親身查詢，有過半數的個案需要支援及跟進。

我們亦著力向外籍傭工灌輸有關居港的個人權益及責任的訊息，並快將推出多個由義務心理學家主持的訓練坊，期望透過教育，更多的外傭懂得獨立去爭取個人權利，藉此警醒僱主，不容忽視剝削員工福利所帶來的刑事問題，得以更有效地減低欺凌及虐待的個案。

Staff at the Domestic Helpers and Migrant Workers Programme (DMW) continue to dedicate themselves to helping the domestic helpers of all nationalities and races, without any charge. Their problems range from termination without payment of outstanding wages and benefits, insufficient food and poor living conditions to even more disturbing stories of physical and sexual abuse. Our large caseload volume indicates the urgent need for DMW's services. Last year the DMW dealt with 7,000 phone and face-to-face enquiries, over half of which required follow up help.

DMW staff will advise the helpers of their rights and liabilities in Hong Kong. We are going to hold several workshops by volunteer psychologists. Through these training workshops, we can empower even more helpers to independently stand up for their rights, make employers aware that they risk serious penalties for exploitation and so reduce future violations and abuses.



個案 Case

這位斯里蘭卡籍的外傭Siri (化名)所面對的苛待，是本服務計劃中最典型的個案。她的僱主承諾每月支付港幣三百元的薪金，只是法定最低薪金的一成，但這少量的月薪也一直拖欠著。她被安排在地板上睡覺，每天工作18小時，亦沒有休假。以「奴隸生活」來形容她的住宿及工作環境，並不誇張。惡夢並沒有結束，有一天，在沒有任何解釋下，她被通知收拾行裝往機場。由於語言不通，她無法向機場的職員問過究竟，毫無頭緒下被僱主安排乘搭下一班航機回祖國。沒有支付欠薪，亦無遣散費，Siri被強迫進入登機閣。

幸好，另一位斯里蘭卡籍的外傭跟Siri乘搭同一班航機，代她將苦況告知入境處職員，並遞上本服務處的電話號碼。Siri最終被批准留港，她即向本會致電求助。我們協助她向勞資審裁處起訴前僱主。

花了四個月時間訴訟，前僱主雖然一直強烈地否認所有指控，最後法官裁定Siri勝訴，前僱主須賠償她所有欠薪及損失。現在Siri仍留港為另一僱主工作，她將自己辛苦賺取的血汗錢寄回鄉，把子女送往讀書。

Siri的故事有一個公義的結局，但是若然她沒有遇上那位認識本服務計劃的同鄉，結局又將會如何？



A typical case is that of one of DMW's Sri Lankan clients. Siri's (not her real name) employer paid her a mere \$300 per month, less than one tenth of the legal minimum wage, yet she was never given even this pittance. Her living and working conditions were appalling. She slept on the floor, worked 18 hours a day and had no rest days at all. It is no exaggeration to say that Siri was treated as a slave. One day, without warning or explanation, she was told to pack her belongings and taken to the airport. Unable to communicate with airport staff due to language problems she had no idea what was happening as her employers checked her on to the next flight to Sri Lanka. Siri was forced through the departure gates without any of her outstanding wages or severance pay.

Luckily another Sri Lankan woman, also a domestic helper, about to board the same flight saw Siri's distress and helped to explain her situation to the official of the Immigration Department at the departure desk, and also gave Siri DMW's telephone number. Siri was allowed back through the departure gate and called DMW. We took her case on and subsequently helped her in making a claim against her former employer in the Labour Tribunal.

It took nearly four months from the start of her ordeal until the judgement. During the trial the employer vehemently denied each and every claim. The judge listened to both sides and then awarded Siri every single cent of her claim plus costs. She is now happily working for another family in Hong Kong, saving so she can send her own children to school.

Happily, Siri's story has a happy ending, but if she had not met someone aware of DMW and our work, it could have been very different.