

Program Components

Education and Training

- Promote and provide education courses for workers empowerment. These courses shall cover workers issues, workers rights, organizing skills, leadership and team building course, occupational health and safety training

- Provide education courses for church people that provide an opportunity for church people and workers to conduct a living dialogue, establish solidarity with each other and put into practice the social teachings of the Church



Campaign and Advocacy

- Support specific issues and concerns of the workers through fora, statements; lobbying and campaigning for bills and legislations that protect and promote workers' rights

Welfare and Support Services

- Conduct medical, dental missions to workers' communities
- Annual school supply distribution to workers' children
- Build a network of lawyers, law students that will offer free legal assistance to workers



Networking among Church people

- We reach out and coordinate with existing workers programs and labor desks in the dioceses and vicariates. CWS can work with these labor desks in joint education, campaign and advocacy activities
- Maximization of the immersion and integration program of churchpeople among the workers like "Christmas with Workers"

Research and Documentation

- Update the existing researches and database in order to deepen the studies on major issues confronting the workers such as contractualization
- Conduct special research studies on the situation of the workers in construction areas, mining industry, corporate plantations

OFFICERS/CONVENERS

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NXP Semi-Conductor Workers Union

Visayan Electric Company Employees Union
Cordillera Labor Center

International Wiring Systems Workers' Union
Ecumenical Institute for Labor Education and Research

Center for Trade Union and Human Rights
Migrante International

Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahan ng Tsuper at Opereytor Nationwide

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Fr. Lino De Castro
Diocese of Imus Labor Ministry

Fr. Nazario Vocales
Commission on Social Advocacies - Archdiocese of Cebu

Rev. Fr. Chris Gonzales
Social Action Director-Diocese of Bacolod * CWS - Negros Island

Rev. Fr. Mark Joseph Gavia
IFI - Archdiocese of Cagayan De Oro /CWS - North Central Mindanao Region

Rev. Allen Veloso
UCCP- General Santos City

Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA)
National Federation of Sugar Workers(NFSW)

Solidarity with the Workers Network (SWN)
Visayas Human Development Agency

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CHURCH PEOPLE - WORKERS SOLIDARITY

Human Dignity * Common Good



"Church People and Workers in Solidarity!"

Reclaim the Dignity of Human Work!"

Who are we

The Church People - Workers Solidarity (CWS) is a non-profit organization. It is an ecumenical body composed of bishops, clergy, the religious men and women, lay leaders and workers that shall spearhead in harnessing the church people's initiatives towards solidarity with the workers. It shall further engage in activities that truly reflect the oneness of the church with the workers' life and aspirations.

The CWS aims to strengthen and sustain their linkages; and to make a commitment for:

1.a genuine and continuing dialogue between church people and workers

2.solidarity with Filipino workers in addressing various issues and concerns.

3. cooperation among workers and church people in order to come up with common responses that will actively support the rights of Filipino workers, especially the right to organize

4. church people to be actively engaged in the efforts of workers to craft a pro-labor code and to assert laws and policies that would protect and guarantee labor rights, especially those that deal with just wages, decent working conditions, security of tenure, the right to a gainful employment, and other labor rights.

The Church People - Workers Solidarity is thus an important vehicle to regain and strengthen the unity between church people and workers for the attainment of the common good, where there is justice, peace, freedom and fullness of life.



The Situation

- The present Duterte administration continues to promote the same neoliberal and anti-labor policies - "come to the Philippines where labor is cheap, tame, unorganized." The 10-point Socioeconomic Agenda, Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, and AmBisyon Natin 2040 adopted by President Duterte maintain the anti-worker policies of previous administrations which would further engulf the economy to debt and cheapen labor cost in the country at the expense of workers' wages and job security.
- To date, there are standing figures of 24.4 million or 63% of workers under different scheme of contractualization, according to IBON Research. Widespread contractualization and the implementation of Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Department Order 174 institutionalizes rather than puts an end to the scheme of contractualization by freeing capitalists from accountability to the workers and only allow companies to still violate workers' job security.
- Lack of decent jobs forced Filipinos to leave their families and work abroad. An estimated 6,092 Filipinos leave the country daily, mostly women, who are vulnerable to exploitation, discrimination, and other gender-specific assaults.
- The Duterte administration's promise of job creation is yet to be seen, as joblessness remains high at 11.5 million and the overall quality of work continues to decline. Poverty and the increase of unemployment in the country are bolstered by labor flexibilization schemes that further press down wages. The highest minimum wage of P481 in Metro Manila does not meet the P1,092 living wage for a family of five.
- According to the press statement of CTUHR last April 28, 2017, fourteen workers were killed in a politically motivated killings, harassments increased, workplace deaths multiplied in Duterte's 10-month in office and workers were also not spared from 'Oplan Tokhang-style' of silencing victims.
- Farm workers and mine workers suffer from the same dehumanizing conditions brought about by contractualization and very low minimum wage aside from harassments and militarization in their work place. A contractual worker in Adnama Mining Resources Incorporated (AMRI) from CARAGA region in Mindanao are paid Php268 (US\$5.30) a day, for 8-12 hours work, which is way below the Php280 daily minimum wage in Mindanao for 8-hour work.



Our Response

There is a very urgent need to respond to the situation of the workers. They are not only made poor; their basic labor rights are also violated. These human rights are embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and promoted by the Church's Social Teachings. It is imperative for church people to raise their prophetic voice and be "defenders of unrecognized and violated rights, especially those of the poor, the least, the weak" (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, [CSDC], 81).

Historically, in whatever Christian faith tradition, church people have always been an integral part in the struggle of the laboring people for a more just society. Journeying with the workers is a concrete expression of our Christian faith. Throughout Philippine history, from the Cavite Mutiny of 1872, to the La Tondeña strike in 1975, the Hacienda Luisita strike in 2004, workers were able to assert their rights through their unified associations and concerted actions; with the support of different sectors, especially church people. In these struggles, some workers and church people even paid dearly with their lives.

Our solidarity with our marginalized brothers and sisters, the workers, is a Gospel imperative. The supreme commandment to love God and our neighbor binds us to "the commitment to justice and solidarity, to the building up of a social, economic and political life that corresponds to God's plan" (CSDC, 40). The Church needs to journey with the weak and harassed labor, and heed the teachings of Pope Leo XIII in his encyclical *Rerum Novarum (On the Condition of Labor)*. He calls on us to support the workers' rights to organize themselves into associations, to seek just wages and better working conditions.

On September 14, 2011, was the 30th anniversary of Blessed John Paul II's *Laborem Exercens*. A most fitting way of commemorating it and as our response to the urgent situation of our workers, a Church People and Workers Conference was held on September 12 to 15, 2011 in Cebu City. This important event led to the establishment of the Church People Workers Solidarity.

