
As part of its research into the treatment of migrant domestic workers in Qatar, Amnesty international wrote to the Qatar Government on 24 September sharing its main findings and seeking an official response to these. Below is the response from the Qatar authorities, received on 19 October 2020. This is in relation to the report, "Why do you want to rest?": Ongoing abuse of domestic workers in Qatar, published on 20 October 2020. Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde22/3175/2020/en/>



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Government Communications Office

Government Communications Office statement in response to Amnesty International report regarding domestic workers

The following statement is attributable to the Government Communications Office of the State of Qatar:

If proven to be true, the allegations made by the individuals interviewed in the Amnesty International report constitute serious violations of Qatari law and must be dealt with accordingly. The Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs (MADLSA) is ready to work with Amnesty to investigate the claims and ensure all guilty parties are held to account.

Qatar's labour policies are constantly under review, including those related to domestic workers. Building on the momentum of major reforms introduced earlier this year, such as the abolition of exit permits and the no-objection certificate (NOCs) to change employer, efforts are ongoing to strengthen the labour system and ensure domestic workers are further protected from abuse and exploitation.

The recommendations put forward in the report by Amnesty International include several initiatives already being implemented or on track to begin implementation. Discussions are underway, for example, to establish a mechanism similar to the Wage Protection System for domestic workers, and when introduced in March 2021, the new minimum wage will apply to all workers, including domestic workers.

Since introducing a Domestic Workers Law in 2017, Qatar has done more than any other country in the region to address the needs and concerns of domestic workers. This is an area of labour reform with many complex challenges, some of which still need to be overcome. MADLSA is working with its local and international partners to solve these challenges and provide solutions that bring long-term benefits to domestic workers and their employers.

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