



Reclaim Our Rights

MANIFESTO

**OUR RIGHTS.
OUR POWER.
OUR FREEDOM.**

#ReclaimOurRights

Introduction

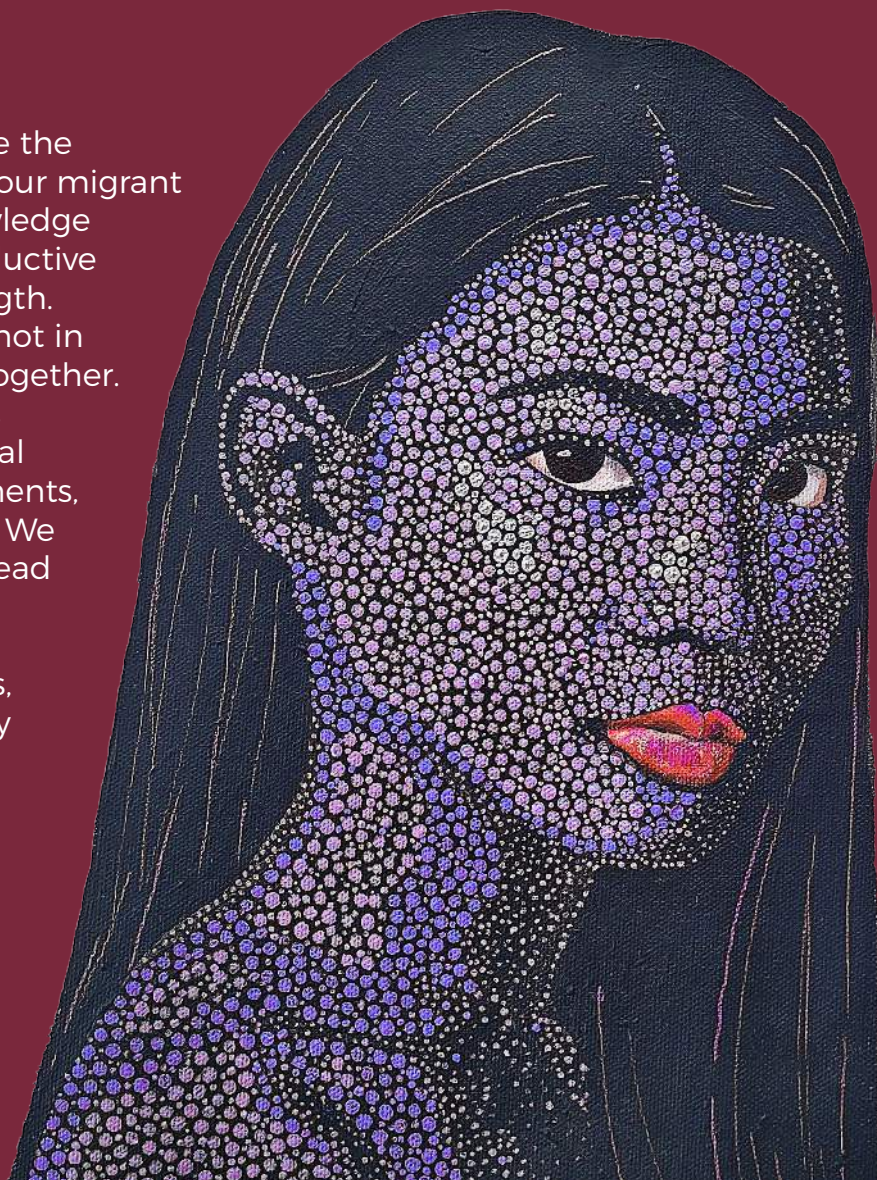
We, the Reclaim Our Rights (ROR) collective, a powerful coalition of women migrant workers in Lebanon, stand united in solidarity to express a shared vision for the rights of migrant domestic workers. In our pursuit of mutual aid, solidarity, justice and equity, we present the following manifesto, committing to reshape narratives, advocate for protection, and catalyse real change in the lives of migrant workers, with a specific focus on Lebanon.

1. Changing the Narrative

We challenge and seek to redefine the prevailing narrative surrounding migrant domestic workers in Lebanon. No longer shall we accept the dehumanising stereotypes and misconceptions. Domestic work is a vital contribution to society, and we demand respect, fair treatment, and the acknowledgement of our humanity. We firmly assert that domestic work is legitimate work, however, we reject the reduction of migrants solely to their occupational roles. We are more than domestic workers – we are individuals with diverse talents, dreams, and aspirations. We demand recognition as multifaceted contributors to society.

2. Building Power

To create lasting change, we recognise the importance of building power within our migrant communities. It is essential to acknowledge that division among us is counterproductive and only weakens our collective strength. We emphatically declare that we are not in competition; rather, we are stronger together. It is time to break free from the status quo imposed by international and local organisations that restrain our movements, making us reliant on external entities. We reject the narrative of charity and instead embrace the ethos of solidarity. Our movement is about taking control of our destinies, advocating for our rights, and addressing our issues with agency and self-determination. United, we will forge a new path as we usher in the change we seek. Solidarity, not charity – it's time for us to take our issues into our own hands and shape the future we deserve.



3. Bound by Kafala

Migrant Workers in Lebanon face daily struggles inherently tied to the Kafala system and to other systemic issues, including racism, sexism, and inequity. We bring these challenges to the forefront, advocating for real change to empower migrant workers and dismantle oppressive structures.

4. Emphasising Protection

Our campaign places a paramount focus on the protection of migrant domestic workers, including equipping our communities with the knowledge and tools to protect themselves. We call for robust measures to safeguard our rights, ensuring our well-being, safety, and protection from all forms of exploitation. Together, we strive to create an environment that upholds the dignity of every migrant worker.

5. Labour Law Inclusion

We advocate and support campaigns for the inclusion of migrant workers' rights in labour laws. It is imperative that our rights are codified and protected within the legal framework, ensuring that we have recourse against exploitation and injustice.

6. Beyond Borders

Our movement extends beyond borders, advocating for the rights of migrant workers in the region and those who have returned home. We demand recognition, fair treatment, and protection for all migrant workers, transcending national boundaries and fostering solidarity among communities.

7. Equity Over Equality

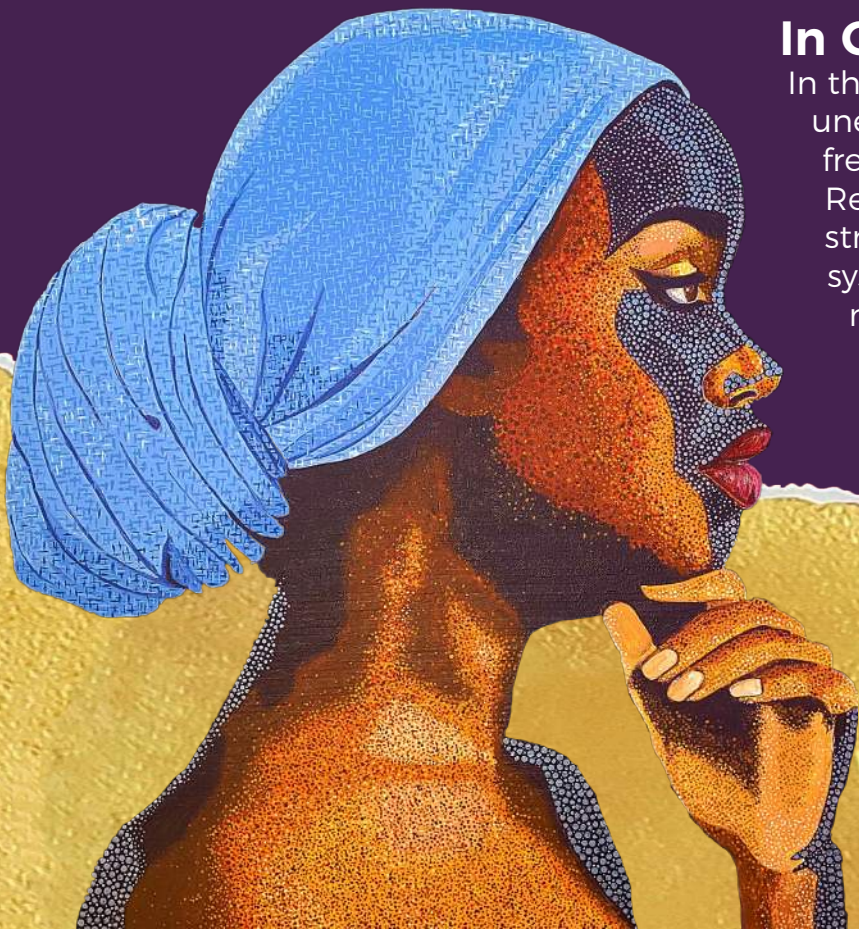
Our vision extends beyond mere equality: we strive for equity. Recognising the unique challenges faced by migrant workers, we demand fair access to opportunities, resources and justice. Equity ensures that each individual receives what they need to thrive.

In Closing

In the pursuit of our rights, we declare unequivocally that our power and our freedom will not be compromised. The Reclaim Our Rights collective stands strong, ready to dismantle oppressive systems and create a future where every migrant worker is treated with dignity and respect.

**Our Rights.
Our Power.
Our Freedom.**

#ReclaimOurRights





Migrant Workers' Action (MWA) is an organisation established to achieve sustainable change in the Lebanese immigration and labour system. We have the goal of driving change to abolish the Kafala system in Lebanon through strategic research, advocacy and communication, and community organising.

The Reclaim Our Rights (ROR) Collective is a coalition of migrant-led groups advocating and campaigning for the abolition of the Kafala system and their rights and freedoms as migrant (domestic) workers in Lebanon.



 mwaction.org

 [@migrantworkersaction](https://www.instagram.com/migrantworkersaction)

 [Migrant Workers' Action](https://www.linkedin.com/company/migrant-workers-action)

 [@mworkersaction](https://twitter.com/mworkersaction)

Artwork by
Hawa-Jane Bangura.
Instagram: [@hawa_jane](https://www.instagram.com/hawa_jane)

Hawa-Jane Bangura owns the rights (including copyright) of the licensed images.

Design by Thai Martin
Instagram: [@thai.the.designer](https://www.instagram.com/thai.the.designer)

This publication may be redistributed non-commercially in any media, unchanged and in whole, with credit given to MWA and the ROR Collective.

© Reclaim Our Rights Manifesto 2024

Published by MWA and ROR

