

HomeNet

The International Network for Homebased Workers

HomeNet has been set up to coordinate work with homebased workers in different parts of the world. Since the 1970's there have been organisations for homebased workers. These organisations aim to make homebased workers visible and to fight for recognition of their rights as workers.

The first of these organisations was the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), of Ahmedabad, in India, a trade union for women workers in the informal sector, including homebased workers. Other groups have been set up in South East Asia; South Africa; North America, Europe and other parts of the world.

In some cases, trade unions have begun to organise homeworkers; in others, non-government organisations have been set up in the form of networks or cooperatives.

Over the last ten years, there have been growing contacts between different groups in both North and South. In 1994, a meeting was held to set up an international network to extend these contacts and to coordinate international lobbying work.

The aims of the network are:

a. To build an international network for homebased workers and their organisations as well as NGO's, cooperatives, trade unions, researchers, women's groups etc. including all those directly or indirectly undertaking work in this field.

b. To coordinate an international campaign for the improvement of homebased workers' conditions of work at national, regional and international levels.

c. To collect and disseminate information on homebased work to members of the network and other interested organisations.

d. To assist in obtaining technical assistance for, and act as a channel of the same to homebased workers.

Cover Photo: Homeworker in rural Spain machines clothes for sale by a major French retailer.

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