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**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**Asia  
Pacific  
Mission for  
Migrants**

## APMM PARTNERS



**Brot**  
für die Welt



Anglican Church of Canada



## Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants 2021 Annual Report



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# Milestones amidst the pandemic.

The challenges posed by the second year of COVID19 pandemic were telling to the lives of the migrant workers and their families. The issues and concerns faced by migrant workers in 2020 persisted throughout 2021. Job and income loss, exclusion from social protection, longer working hours and discrimination, among others, took a big toll on the lives of the migrant workers, including their families back home. Women migrant workers were disproportionately impacted by the COVID19 pandemic. Cases of gender-based violence were up, together with extra burden of care work for the sick and elderly.

Learning from their experience in 2020, the migrant workers movement in Asia-Pacific displayed resilience and innovations amidst the challenges. The movement faced head-on the issues posed by the COVID19 pandemic, from fighting and winning cases of unfair and illegal dismissals of migrant workers, providing aid for migrants in need, to utilizing online platforms to work around the rules preventing face-to-face gatherings, these were all employed creatively by the vibrant and dynamic migrant workers movement.

The APMM looked for inspiration from the resilience and innovations demonstrated by the migrant workers movement and conflating them into new initiatives, including the Regional Review on the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) Process, Regional Echo Conferences on the GCM Process, the Regional and National Women's Encounters, the Talitha Cumi<sup>1</sup>, and the Migrants Online Sharing for Visibility, Empowerment and Solidarity or MOVES.

<sup>1</sup>Talitha Cumi is an Aramaic phrase that means 'little girl arise'.

Various research papers aimed at better understanding the situation of migrant workers were released, including on Trafficking and Undocumented Workers in Malaysia and a policy paper on Private Sector and Migration. Strengthening and development of the Alliance of Marriage Migrants Organizations for Rights and Empowerment (AMMORE), International Migrants Alliance – Asia Pacific (IMA-AP) and Asia Pacific Interfaith Network for the Rights of Migrants (AP-INFORM) continued, with additional activities supporting the organizing of migrant workers from South Asia.

Capacity-building efforts went underway, with online trainings for grassroot evaluation of Development Effectiveness in East Asia and the Pacific. Service support in the form of Mobile Legal Advice Clinics (MLAC) were launched in countries of attention. In the APMM headquarters, a new meeting facility, the Training for Empowerment and Advocacy of Migrants (TEAM) Center was established for use of migrant workers in Hong Kong.

The APMM has also concluded its scheduled Organizational Capacity Development, added new staff, as well as expanding to new development partners.

With the COVID19 pandemic still raging, with no abating in sight, APMM looks toward the grassroots movement of the migrant workers in Asia and the Pacific to seek guidance and inspiration to help the organization traverse the complicated path laid in front of us. Together with the migrant workers, we continue to push forward.

“

Same,  
same  
but  
different

- Southeast Asian saying

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# APMM PROGRAMS

# ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGN

Initiatives were conducted to provide intervention to the Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). A conference entitled 2nd Migrants' Echo Conference on the Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) was organized in 2021 which tackled developments in the GCM process and discussed ways forward in the migrant-Civil Society Organization (CSO) cooperation and coordination towards the International Migration Review Forum happening in May 2022. The 2nd Echo Conference was co-organised with 10 regional and national migrant organisations and migrants' and refugee rights advocate organisations and was attended by more than 140 participants from more than 70 grassroots migrant, refugee and migrants and refugee rights advocates and civil society groups.

Furthering efforts to promote the rights of women under the Domestic Work as Work campaign by the APMM, a Regional Women Encounter (RWE) consultation was conducted last 3rd December and attended by 12 participants, from 7 countries and jurisdiction, namely Australia, Japan, UAE, Thailand, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Philippines, representing 6 organizations of APMM, Gabriela-Middle East, Gabriela-UAE, Kabar Bumi, Migrante International, Kafin Migrants Center.

APMM continued its engagement on the Agenda 2030 through the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development at High Level Political Forum. The Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism, a network of people organizations, development groups and other CSOs who are all engaged in the Agenda 2030 was another platform the APMM took active involvement in.

## MIGRANT VOICES INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY EPISODE

BI-MONTHLY ONLINE PROGRAM FOR MIGRANTS, WITH MIGRANTS

**16 DECEMBER**

11 AM DHAKA  
12 PM JAKARTA  
1 PM HONG KONG  
2 PM SEOUL  
4 PM MELBOURNE  
6 PM AUCKLAND





## APMM PROGRAMS

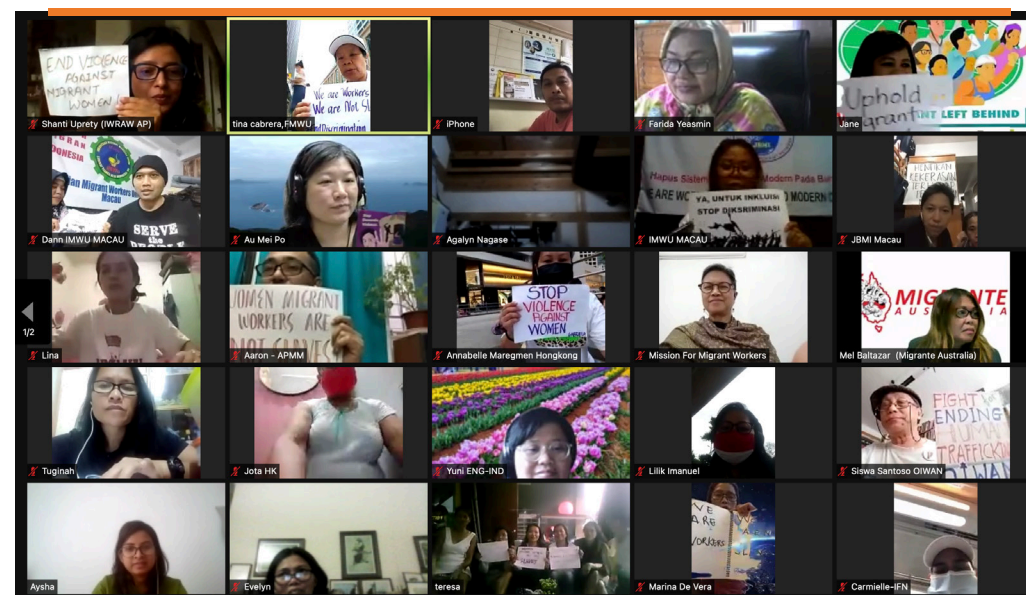
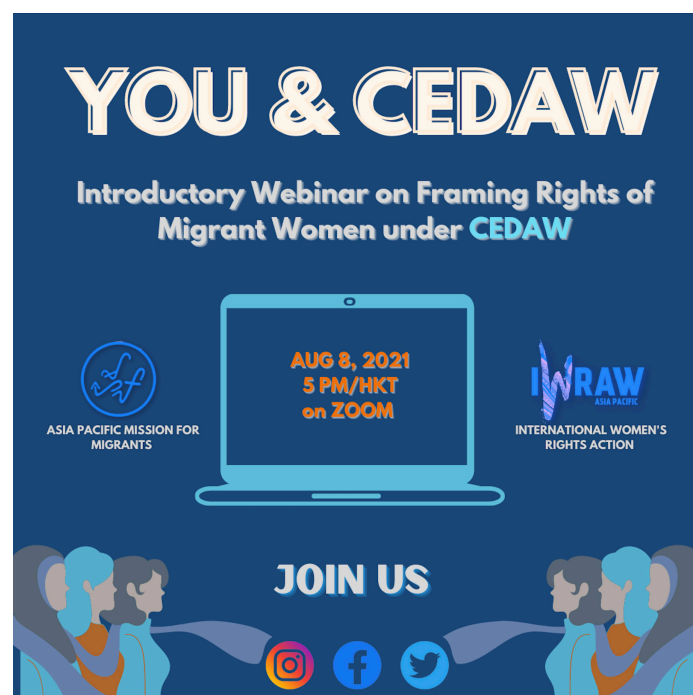
An introductory webinar on CEDAW was initiated by APMM for women migrants last August 2021, together with International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP-AP). As a follow-up, the organization helped Kabar Bumi and JBMI develop their shadow report on CEDAW.

To reflect on the conditions of migrants during the pandemic, AP-INFORM initiated 3 episodes of Talitha Cumi. The 1st episode was conducted last 28 July 2021 featuring the formation of INFORM Steering Group and a regional situationer of migrants in Asia Pacific and Middle East region. The 2nd Episode was conducted last 24 September 2021, with the theme: Hear Migrants, Refugee and Seafarer stories to belong, to be deprived and to hope. The episode shared the interfaith reflection about millions of seafarers stranded in many ports around the globe. The 3rd episode was conducted 26 November 2021 with the theme: Faith and Migrant Communities Reclaiming Climate Justice and tackled the impact of climate change exacerbating poverty-stricken condition of poor countries in Asia and Pacific region and forcing millions to migrate to other countries for survival.

Through the INFORM network, leaders of ecumenical and interfaith organizations from the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA), National Council of Churches in Bangladesh (NCCB), National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), Progressive Islamic Forum (PIF), United Church of Christ in the Philippines among others gathered to share their responses and plans amidst the impact of pandemic to migrants, refugees and other displaced people and their families and furthering interfaith cooperation and solidarity supporting grassroots migrants. APMM, AP INFORM, migrant rights activists and faith communities took up the challenges to keep providing services and assistance those in need during the COVID19 pandemic, inter alia vaccination and access of migrants, continuing support to advocacy and campaign, direct services among others.

An International Interfaith Briefing on the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was conducted last 7 and 8 of December 2021. The event was co-organized by the AP-INFORM, Churches Witnessing With Migrants-Africa (CWWM-Africa), Churches Witnessing With Migrants-Global (CWWM-Global) and co-sponsored by Anglican Church of Canada, APMM, General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church, International Migrants Alliance, Karibu Foundation, Migrant International, Presbyterian Church (USA), and The United Church of Canada. It was attended by 40 participants from 26 grassroots migrant organizations, migrant-serving organizations and faith-based institutions and groups.

The Churches Witnessing With Migrants (CWWM) issued a statement entitled: "Nothing For and About Migrants Without Migrants" and called for Open, Inclusive, Transparent, and Responsive GCM Review Process with Migrants and All Actors". It affirmed and stressed the importance of the protection of religious freedom of all migrants wherever they are. Such protection forms part of interreligious cooperation which is fundamental in the work of CWWM. It also affirmed to strive together to build a community that empowers the grassroots migrants' movement, to build a better society where forced migration is but a thing of the past, and where migration is a choice by every person and not a consequence of failed economic and development policies.



# EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

**The APMM and AP-INFORM conducted and published a study on undocumented migrants in Malaysia, with an emphasis on migrants from Indonesia and the Philippines. It covered the conditions of illegal migrant workers in Malaysia from their arrival until their departure, as well as how government actions and responses aggravated the already precarious situation of undocumented migrants in the face of the pandemic catastrophe. It views the situation as a systemic issue of worldwide exploitation and control of migrant labor in both receiving and exporting nations.**

A policy paper on Private Sector and Migration was created and published to help better understand the developing nexus between private sector and migration under the Migration and Development framework of the United Nations. The policy paper serves as the guide for the APMM in approaching the growing role of the private sector, particularly the role of for-profit organizations, in the migration discourse and narrative in Asia Pacific.

The MOVES have gathered migrants from different sectors in countries of attention and allowed them to share and mainstream their current predicament. From issues of contracts, key concerns of each sector, to issues of racism, discrimination, and exclusion, these and many other issues have been discussed. The activities conducted under the MOVES have resulted in a deeper insight for APMM, as well as for other migrant organizations, on the current challenges being faced by migrant workers, providing a bottom-up framework to develop appropriate interventions to address such challenges.



# National Organizing Committee

The APMM Programs took special notice and attention to the COVID19 pandemic and its impact to the lives and welfare of migrant workers and their families.

Mobile Legal Advice Clinics (MLAC) were initiated in focus countries. In Indonesia, the MLAC were conducted in Cimahi and Cilacap, while in Hong Kong MLAC were setup in Central, Causeway Bay, Admiralty and Tsuen Wan during the rest days of the migrant workers, with a total of 700 individuals receiving paralegal advice and counsel, including information on access to vaccination programs, legal aid, appeal to immigration for extension of stay, non-payment of wages and fringe benefits, repatriation, medical assistance, shelter provision and other needs of migrants. Congruent with the MLAC, the Know Your Rights (KYR) workshops were conducted 16 times, reaching a total of 35 migrant organizations. In Indonesia and Korea, lawyers and lawyers' groups were reached out for collaboration, providing resource persons for the KYR workshops.

Aside from MLAC and KYR, immediate aid and support related to the COVID19 pandemic response were extended to distressed migrants. Partner organisations in Thailand, Japan, South Korea and Indonesia also provided aid packs to stranded and quarantined migrants in their respective areas. In Thailand, 70 migrant workers were supported. In Japan, 45 migrant workers and international students became recipients of the aid support, while in South Korea, 65 migrant workers, some of whom have families, received support. In Indonesia, a total of 200 returned migrants and families of migrants received support.

Part of the initiatives was the enhancing of capacity of grassroots migrant organisations, networks and alliances. Here, several online consultations were held with grassroots migrant leaders on their use of new and social media for their advocacy and organizing. From the consultations, several training modules were developed and provided to migrant leaders. Trainings were on cybersecurity, media engagement and the use of social media apps, and social media post designing and development were provided. A regional training was conducted regionally, along with individual organisation and nationality-based trainings were also conducted. A total of 50 participants from 24 organisations and 8 countries and country regions joined the trainings.



# COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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## Thailand

APMM supported the Community Pantry organized and launched by ACTION from May – August 2021 to provide emergency aid to those who lost their jobs. A total of 278 Filipinos, 15 Thais and Burmese, in Phuket, Thailand were provided food aid.





# Indonesia

A Know Your Rights and Basic Medical Check activities by KABAR BUMI and YASMIN were supported by the organization. The events were a series of assemblies and visits to Cilacap & Ponorogo, Indonesia, where the local organizations conducted basic medical check-up and sharing of rights of migrant workers, for those returned and their families, as well as for those who are planning to become a migrant worker. Four monthly assemblies and community visits were conducted from September to December 2021, reaching a total of 160 migrant workers and their families.



# Japan

The KAFIN Migrant Center (KMC) was established at the end of 2021 as a non-profit organization servicing migrants in Japan. The establishment of the KMC will help in providing much-needed support to migrants in Japan, in terms of legal and service support to those in need. The organization provided material and human resource, as well as capacity-building activities, to assist in the formation of the KMC.

AIN'T NO  
BORDER  
HIGH ENOUGH  
*migration is a human right  
no papers no fear*



# United Arab Emirates

MIGRANTE – UAE assisted 76 distressed Filipino migrant workers, most were domestic and household workers, with the majority being charged with absconding and/or requesting repatriation. Many of those assisted were terminated from work during the height of the pandemic. Ten victims of contract substitution, contract violation, and other labor-related violations were provided advise on how to file labor cases with the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization. Two migrant workers from the Philippines who were accused of criminal offenses were eventually acquitted.



# South Korea

The KASAMMA-KO together with the Migrant Trade Union and Alliance of Migrant Workers Equal Right conducted a direct action last April 25, 2021 in front of the Ministry of Labor and Employment (Seoul Branch) to demand the repeal of the Employment Permit System (EPS) to the new Working Permit System (WPS). Around 200 migrants from Nepal, Bangladesh, Filipino, Pakistan, Sri Lankan, Thailand and African, together with Korean supporters joined the rally despite the difficult condition in public gathering. The EPS was eventually replaced with the WPS.

# SPECIAL FEATURES

Progressive Statement from the 2nd Virtual Migrants' Echo Conference on the Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration



# AP INFORM

The AP-INFORM Steering Group was established in 2021 to help in amplifying support to migrants, refugees and other displaced people's advocacy, campaign and lobbying and strengthening cooperation and partnership between faith and migrant communities in Asia Pacific and Middle East region.

The following are the current members of AP-INFORM Steering Group: Bishop Philip Huggins, former President, National Council of Churches in Australia, Rev. David Das, General Secretary, National Council of Churches in Bangladesh, Rizki Afiat, Progressive Islamic Forum, Rev. Catherine Chang, Mission Co-worker, PCUSA, Rev. Mariesol Villalon, United Methodist Church, Philippines, Mervin Toquero, Churches Witnessing with Migrants (CWWM) and Jimarie Mabanta, Philippine Interfaith Movement Against Human Trafficking (PIMHAT).



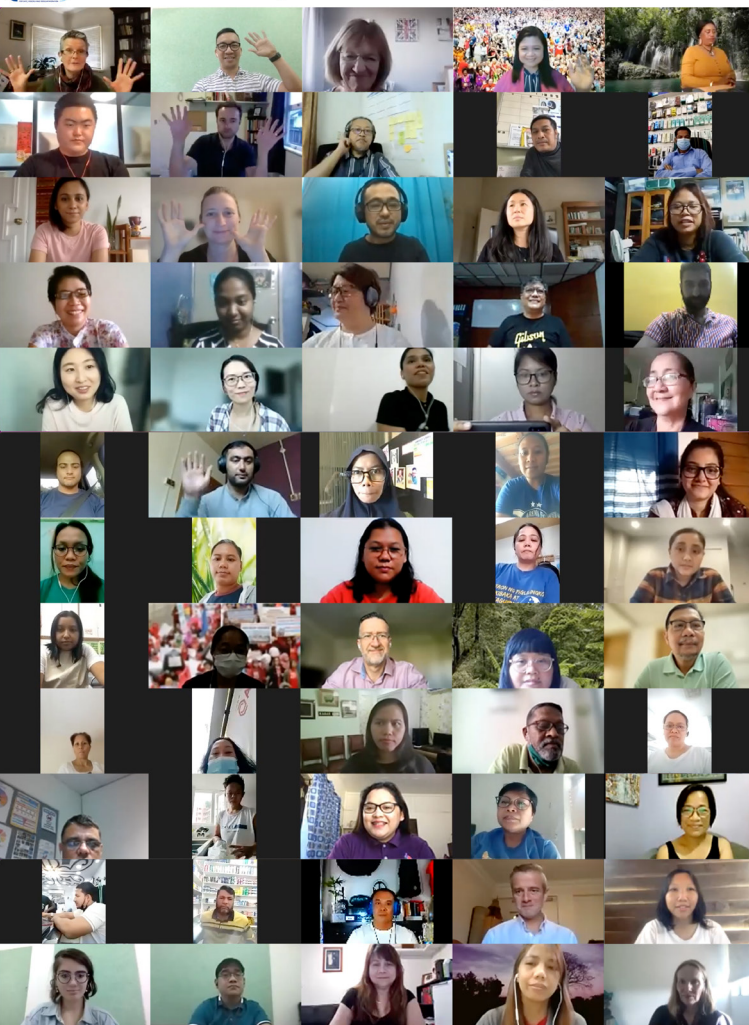
AP INFORM Steering Group



# GCM Advocacy

*with emphasis on alliance and network building*

Participants of the 2nd Migrants Echo Conference on the Regional Review of the GCM



The 2nd Migrants’ Echo Conference on the Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) was organized in 2021 which tackled developments in the GCM process and discussed ways forward in the migrant-Civil Society Organization (CSO) cooperation and coordination towards the International Migration Review Forum happening in May 2022.

From the 2nd Migrants Echo Conference a Progressive Statement was crafted reflecting five key recommendations, namely: Immediate aid for all distressed migrants; Uphold rights and justice for all migrants; Address all drivers of forced migration; Ensure migrants’ participation in the GCM process; and Strengthen accountability of States on migration. In essence, the 2nd Migrants Echo participants wanted a Global Compact For, With and By Migrants.

The Progressive Statement has currently received 56 organisational and individual endorsements and has been submitted to the UN Network on Migration. The 2nd Echo Conference was co-organised with 10 regional and national migrant organisations and migrants’ and refugee rights advocate organisations and was attended by more than 140 participants from more than 70 grassroots migrant, refugee and migrants and refugee rights advocates and civil society groups.

# Strategic planning

Discussions on the need of APMM to develop its institutional monitoring and evaluation system started in May 2018. A discussion paper was prepared in June 2018 detailing a participatory framework and the process of developing a planning, implementation, and a monitoring and evaluation (PIME) system for APMM, an NGO which purpose was rights advocacy for and with migrants in the Asia-Pacific region.

The rest of 2019 was used up on discussing the concepts, processes, requirements, and possible courses of action in developing this monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system. It was explained that an M&E system was not a stand-alone structure or process in an organisational arrangement – it was part of the planning and implementation processes of an organisation’s life, and it would have to be dovetailed to the APMM’s organisational values and practices.

By February 2020, the Terms of Reference (TOR) that APMM would undergo with an external consultant the development of a monitoring and evaluation system was approved. A more detailed discussion document was prepared by the external consultant on how to implement the project, including the specific processes and outputs expected from such a proposal.

By the end of January 2021, the strategic planning workshop proper began, and was completed in May 2021. Meanwhile, the working drafts of the human resources and finance manuals were documented and discussed with APMM. By August-September 2021, the Board of Directors (BOD) were briefed about the five-year strategic plan and organisational requirements of implementing the plan. By the end of September, the BOD gave their approval to the plan, the manuals, and to the process installation of the PIME.





# International Migrants Alliance (IMA)

The APMM continues its support for the strengthening and development of the broadest grassroots alliance of migrants the International Migrants Alliance (IMA), and in 2021, the IMA conducted 3 online meetings and actions. A Global Online Rally was held last 2nd of May attended by more than 200 participants from 150 organizations. The online rally was co-organized by IMA with Miredes Internacional, Confederation of Trade Unions in Senegal (CNTS), Laundry Workers' Center, Cox's Bazaar Probashi Forum, African Trade Union Migration Network, Buenos Aires Warmisikuris Community, International League for Peoples Struggles (ILPS), Migrant Trade Union-Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) and International Seafarers Action Center.

On the 17th of September, an online conference entitled Migrants on Food Sovereignty was conducted and attended by 80 participants from 50 organizations. The IMA co-organized the online conference together with Asian Migrants Coordinating Body (AMCB), KAFIN Migrant Center, Union Network of Migrants (UNEMIG-FIRST Union), Awaj Foundation and GANAS Taiwan Community.

Last 6th of November, the Global Migrants Forum was held online and attended by more than 200 participants from 170 organizations. The IMA co-organized the forum with South Texas Human Rights, New Women Connectors, Miredes Internacional, IMA Ecuador, Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa, GAMMI Hong Kong, Migrant Trade Union (MTU-KCTU) and Migrante International.



# Project TEAM

The Project TEAM has come to fruition and opened its physical and virtual doors last July 2021. Project TEAM (Training for Empowerment and Advocacy of Migrants) is a comprehensive advocacy-oriented and empowerment-based capacity development program of APMM to partner grassroots migrant organisations and advocates.

The Project TEAM provides trainings and skills development activities to grassroots migrants that serve national, regional and global advocacies and campaigns conducted by the migrant movement. It contributes to the development of collective actions of the migrant movement to achieve their calls for their human rights, justice and development.

## Components and activities

### 1. Conduct (physical and virtual) capacity development trainings:

#### A. Advocacy and campaigns

- Information management training
- Media work
- Mass mobilization
- Public speaking
- Lobbying
- Policy submission writing
- Cyber security

#### B. Organising and movement building

- Community organizing
- Leadership training
- Education work
- Network and alliance building

### 2. The Project TEAM Center

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*Justice for Adelina, Migrante Hong Kong*



*Migrants Pride of migrant organisations with local groups and students*



