



Review of «three T» campaign: land, housing and work

Through the articles written by some movements, I would like to highlight the important work done by the forty and nine WMCW movements (affiliated and contacts) around the theme «Land, Housing and Work for a decent life».

This theme has found many echoes in all the continents and has strengthened our mission. We were also encouraged pope Francis's words that, in the meeting of popular movements on 28th October, 2014, said: «There is a thing that every father, every mother wants for their children; an aspiration that should be at the reach for all, but which unfortunately it escapes it more and more to the most is: the land, the housing and the work. It is strange, but when I say this to some people, they tell that Pope is a communist. They do not understand that love to the poor is at the heart of Gospel. Land, housing and work, for which we fight, are sacred rights. Affirming that it is possible is the Social Doctrine of the Church».

And it is above on the basis of these sacred human rights that this INFOR issue presents testimonies about different ways of action around the right of Land, Housing and Work.

Indian workers fight for their right to social protection. National Coordination's of Workers Movement in India: «India moves back more every day than with the denial of workers' rights, deterioration of democracy, violation of human rights, denial of social justice, rejection of pluralism, the annihilation of laicism, promotion of the politics of hate and development of fundamentalism... The action carried

out by movement show the urgency to implement solid system of social protection, especially for informal workers...».

We fight for a decent work in Nicaragua, by Francisco Mendosa, MCW Nicaragua. «As movement, we have also been very affected. In fact, we were forced to adopt a cautious attitude before this repression to avoid being arrested...».

Committed with decent work, by Andreas Luttmer-Bensmann, Germany KAB President. «An important theme for us is that of decent work. The distortions here are certainly different to many Southern countries, but it is a central task of our movement. Our approach must also take into account the realities of our country, both in the movement and in the configuration of our social and political life...».

A joint and solidarity fight of LOAC Rodrigues and LOAC Mauritius activists for the right of a decent life: «Land, housing and work». Jean Claude Tolbize, WMCW Co-chairman, Linda Gregorio, LOAC Mauricio President. «In Rodrigues Island, more than 90% of the land is owned by the state; only 10% left is private. For some time now, we have noticed that this private land is being sold to foreigners who are settling on the island...».

WMCW movement's action in the three T: «Land, housing and work for a decent life». Jean Claude Tolbize and Maria de Fátima Cunha de Almeida, WMCW Co-chairpersons. «At international level, the unemployment gains more and more ground. With COVID-19 pandemic, many companies are in difficulty and closing their doors.

Workers are unemployed, sometimes without incomes, and they fall in extreme poverty. At times, having a job has become a luxury at present and in all over the world...».

Right to land, housing and work is an inalienable right for all human being, Mariléa Damasio, WMCW General Secretary and MCW Brazil activist. «Workers involved in social and union organisations fight, not only for the "daily bread", but also for not experiencing the hunger tomorrow and building the future».

Balance and perspectives! Bernard Robert, International Chaplain. «By living in this way, we do more than our "duty as Christian activist"; we enter in a spiritual process, because we are converted to "the gospel that is written by our actions". We are "eyes (See), heart (Judge) and arms (Act) of God" in today's world».

We, social movement activists, church members and WMCW affiliates, cannot stop fighting for and with the poor and vulnerable.

If we continue, despite the obstacles and difficulties, this path of struggle and conquest, it is because, through review of life, in our grassroots groups, we go more deeply into our reflection through the method of SEE-JUDGE-ACT and we let Jesus Christ's words resound on us: **«I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly».** ■

Mariléa Damasio
General Secretary
of the WMCW



Indian workers fight for their right to social protection

Unfortunately, current India moves back more every day than with the denial of workers' rights, deterioration of democracy, violation of human rights, denial of social justice, rejection of pluralism, the annihilation of laicism, promotion of the politics of hate and development of fundamentalism.

The informal sector in India came to a total standstill when COVID-19 affected the country in the early 2020s. Limitations in the scientific understanding of disease, lack of reliable data about the way of spreading and strength of virus hindered the making of models over the possible impact of the different political options in a reliable and convenient manner.

The pandemic has revealed the cruel face of governments that have not provided a basic social protection to informal workers. The world has witnessed, through various mass media, of the difficult situation of millions of informal migrant workers in India that have struggled to come back to their home towns and villages, while governments, both national and international ones, have looked to other way and turned blind eye. Millions of workers and their families have risked and walked thousands of kilometres barefoot, without food, without sleeping well, and even they have lost their loved ones along the road in different tragedies. In the country, most unorganised workers spend their lives without right a living

minimum wage, social security standards and job security.

We discovered that thousands of informal workers and their families struggled to maintain their daily life due to the lack of adequate support for survival in confinement and deconfinement situations. From our experiences on the ground, it is clear that due to the lack of adequate institutional agreements, the lack of adequate policies and the lack of visibility and voice, informal workers have faced to enormous difficulties.

It is also clear that most of non-unionised workers of the sector were not covered by social security schemes because they have not seasonal or temporary employment. These problems cannot be solved completely by setting up of social protection funds or with social assistance programmes. In fact, it requires comprehensive social security programmes. The welfare of workers is a very legitimate concern for any government of any country, whether developed, underdeveloped or developing. A country's economic growth is inconceivable without thinking of the country's ordinary workers.

Our recent interventions of helping defenceless informal workers and their families have brought to light the urgent need to implement explicit and solid social security structures and systems for their welfare. Effective control, inspection and implementation of social protection measures for informal workers are essential. It is government's responsibility to ensure some adequate budgetary allocations and uninterrupted access to benefits for needy workers. It is imperative that government, private enterprises and civil society remove the psychological and socio-cultural barriers among the informal workers, civil servants and public in general. Addressing to vulnerable groups, marginalised sectors, priority sectors and specific territorial regions in the implementation of social welfare initiatives is absolutely essential for improving social justice, equity, equality and adequate opportunities in the society. ■

National Coordination of Workers Movement in India



We fight for a decent work in Nicaragua

Firstly, we want to share the situations that we lived in 2018, in the midst of a very difficult socio-political context. Indeed, our beloved Nicaragua suffers the «abuse of power» by Murillo Ortega's Government and it faces to a new violent repression with deaths, political prisoners, exiled that also led in the goods seizure, closures, factory outsourcing and the decline of basic income.

As movement, we have also been very affected. In fact, we were forced to adopt a cautious attitude before this repression to avoid being arrested. We had also to protect MCW's house, our hard-built headquarters, from confiscation.

Many repressive laws have been enacted to persecute to collaborators accused of being «foreign agents» and to declare as a crime the use of Internet. But, as Movement, we do not lower's our guard, we continue our vision and our proposal of fighting by a fraternal and fair society, supported by our method: SEE-JUDGE-ACT. This is why, we have continued to reflect and act under the WMCW motto: «Land, Housing and Work for a decent life». Thus, as example, we have not given up to MCW task for women and men, sowing seed of hibiscus, pumpkin, squash, bananas, lemons... thanks to 20 hours of voluntary work of the members.

In this way we could maintain movement administrative expenses, despite the fall in donations. We also had other experience with COVID-19, which affected us a lot, as several of us were infected.

But here we also thought to counteract it thanks to the garden of medicinal plants that we cultivated around MCW house:



moringa⁽¹⁾, oregano, banana, citron saccharatum⁽²⁾, these plants have the effect of strengthening to immune system and reducing the effects of illness.

Due to the pandemic, we could not meet nor schedule meetings, but we communicated by phone, encouraging us to pray for undoing the anguish and God listened to us, now we can return to meet, to reflect and to work with activists and our communities.

At the end of 2020, we were hit by the plague of Hiota and Hieta hurricanes, because we damage nature, by not taking care Mother Earth, our communities were flooded.

MCW house suffered material damage, but thanks to the voluntary work of members, we could care our assets and to rebuild what had been affected. ■

Francisco Mendosa
MCW Nicaragua



⁽¹⁾ Moringa is a plant rich of fibre and proteins, that helps to increase the feeling of satiety and, therefore, to reduce the amount of food and calories ingested, making easy weight loss.

⁽²⁾ Citron Saccharatum is a plant whose nice citric smell will fall in love with it. It is from India, but nowadays it is produced in several parts of the world with warm weather, including Honduras. Lemon grass has medicinal, moisturising and diuretic properties, among others.

Committed with decent work

KAB Germany is committed to work and live with dignity and solidarity. This basic perspective was also applied to WMCW General Congress decisions in 2017 in Avila.

For that, Land, Housing and Work programme had to be adapted to an industrialised European country like ours. In Germany, we have interpreted the meaning of land as the protection of land and environment. The housing access is ensured in many regions, even if, in the meantime, in the cities the supply allocated to low-income families is not assured yet. However, in KAB, this is not the main topic. An important theme for us is that of decent work. The distortions here are certainly different to many Southern countries, but it is a central task of our movement. Our approach must also take into account the realities of our country, both in the movement and in the configuration of our social and political life. The parties and civil society groups shape to the political discussion and KAB, with around 80.000 members spread out in 2000 grassroots teams, is one of these interest groups.

Therefore, we have focused our reflection and action around the main theme of Work. In the three stages of See, Judge and Act, a wide discussion on digitalisation was talked, especially in the working world. During meetings, seminars and personal reflections, the changes in the reality of life and work through mass media, computer systems and electronic networks to artificial intelligence have been examined and assessed to the light of our Christian values. This reflection was mate-



rialised by a document entitled «shaping digital work in human way», that KAB knew to include in the underway social debate about digitalisation. Positive comments about an assessment of development from a Christian and ethical perspective has had, but the debate will continue certainly.

The question of power relationships in the working world are also linked to this issue. In this context, who decides about working organisation, workplace of workers and working conditions? Pope Francis's criticism to capitalist economy is in the origin of these debates. At the same time, the link between decent work and the protection of land and environment has become evident.

The unlimited economic growth causes inhuman work and questions the future of humanity. The discussions in the movement are still in this context and they will be continued.

However, important aspects of our future commitment should not be ignored. The issue of legal (living) minimum wage concerns especially. The struggle we undertook to its implementation was a total success, but the current level is totally inadequate. A decent life cannot be denied in our country. Moreover, a wage which is too low in a rich country generates a massive pressure over the wage opportunities in other countries. In this sense, after clearing up our positions about the issue, we acted on the society and we delivered the signatures we have collected to the Ministry of Labour.

Other projects are focused on the solidarity and fair pension, the care for the elderly and the protection of no-working Sundays. Precarious and bad-paid work will be emphasised in the next years. We want to work for abolishing of precarious working conditions here and beyond. ■



Andreas
Luttmer-Bensmann
KAB President
Germany



A joint and solidarity fight of LOAC Rodrigues and LOAC Mauritius activists for the right of a decent life

In Avila (Spain) in 2017, world movement agreed as action priority the issue: «Land, Housing and Work for a decent life».

In Rodrigues Island, more than 90% of the land is owned by the state; only 10% left is private. For some time now, we have noticed that this private land is being sold to foreigners who are settling on the island. They are sold very expensive and only the rich can buy them. As in Indian Ocean islands as global level, the same comment is made: the land is only affordable for the richest.

An example of solidarity: a Rodrigues worker's story

Marie Michèle, born in Rodrigues, came to Mauritius to receive medical treatment. After her hospital treatment, she stayed in the island. She married and had a child.

She was a care worker at a sick person's house. During the confinement the patient died. So she finds herself without a job and also a house, and she has to look for lodging and knocking doors in search of help, given her precarious situation.

But she also faces other expenses. Her son, Kyle, passed the final exam of Primary School successfully and he was accepted in a «good college» of the country. This supposes to tackle to great expenses for parents with low-incomes, especially because jobs have become scarce by COVID-19 and the confinement. Therefore, Marie Michèle finds great difficulties to get a job and steady incomes.



LOAC Mauritius is supporting her in her efforts to find help. This solidarity token is being strengthened by the Rodrigues Solidarity movement intervention, which has come to give a hand. This movement is encouraging to Marie Michèle to contact with the deceased's sons to write them a letter which let her benefit of the established plan by government called «Labor Rate Program» since she was not covered by National Pension Fund.

While waiting the help requested, Marie Michèle was cleaning houses where people made her life impossible. The inhuman labor conditions became so unbearable that she preferred to leave the job without being paid.

Marie Michèle, by a virtue of perseverance and thanks to a friend's help, got a job finally. At the moment of wri-

ting, she will start a new employment on Monday. It is encouraging for her, but her difficulties have not finished yet because she could not pay the rent this month.

But Marie Michèle can rely on LOAC Mauritius and LOAC Rodrigues solidarity that are still helping and supporting in her fight for a decent life. ■

Jean Claude Tolbize
WMCW cochairman

Linda Gregorio
LOAC Mauritius president

WMCW movements action in the three T¹: «Land, housing and work for a decent life»

The words of Jesus: «I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly» (John 10:10) guided and strengthened the reflection and action of WMCW activists after General Congress in Avila (Spain) through the theme agreed; land, housing and work for a decent life.



Land. We have seen that in the Indian Ocean islands, but also in most of the countries in the world, a great amount of private lands are sold to wealthy foreigners. We have the feeling that we are going to become tenants in our own country. Moreover, very frequently, the foreign buyers close their land and the villagers find difficulties to move.

Several WMCW movements have developed awareness campaigns among the populations to say them that not to sell their land to foreigners.

In addition, in some countries, due to the world pandemic, the investors are reluctant to commit to for fear to future.

Housing. Having a house, a roof, is basic to respect the human dignity. Several movements have proposed to grassroots teams, through reviews of life, to encourage getting involved to movement activists in the fight of a decent housing.

In Rodrigues Island, by movement initiative, conferences by decent hou-

sing were held and some articles were published in the press. Promotional actions with the government were carried out in order they invest in building decent housing affordable for low-income families.

Work. Having a decent work is very important for life and the dignity of the person and his family. It also lets him have a place in the society.

Several movements have done proposals for governments to create jobs both in public service and in private sector to meet population needs.

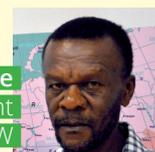
The reflections in grassroots teams made their members aware of the importance of having a job, of being responsible in this job for developing themselves and, in this way, participating in the development of human person.

At international level, the unemployment gains more and more ground. With COVID-19 pandemic, many companies are in difficulty and closing their doors. Workers are unemployed,

sometimes without incomes, and they fall in extreme poverty. At times, having a job has become a luxury at present and in all over the world.

But before these difficult situations, WMCW movements' activists involved in social and trade union organizations throughout the world, do not surrender and lead a joint struggle to change the situations and to spread the social justice all over the world. ■

Jean Claude Tolbize
Co-president
of the WMCW



Fátima Almeida
Co-President
of WMCW



⁽¹⁾ 3 T referring to Spanish words: *Tierra, Techo y Trabajo* (Land, housing and work).

An inalienable right for all human being

Workers involved in social and union organisations fight, not only for the «daily bread», but also for not experiencing the hunger tomorrow and building the future. Beyond the immediate demands, there is the will to act for being respected the fundamental rights. They dream of a world where justice and peace will reign.

In every neighbourhood, state, country of the four continent where WMCW is present, good will men and women commit collectively to ensure that everyone has house, work or can cultivate a piece of land.

The current economic system, based on profit and the accumulation of wealth for a minority, does not comply with the basic rights of populations and does not offer real perspectives for future generations.

Looking at the future, WMCW general congress in Avila (Spain) in July, 2017 voted the action theme: «Land, Housing and Work for a decent life». This programme has to do with the basic needs not satisfied of the populations in the entire world. It was define since the life, actions and reflections of movements through the method: See, Judge and Act. It has also rooted in the Pope Francis's powerful words. The social justice also requires a political system with capital P that is not being reduced to partisan disputes but it looks for building, with the forces of countries, a fairer world with the practice of solidarity actions that WMCW movements carry out daily with others.

About this theme «Land, Housing and Work for a decent life», the national movement reflections of Central African, Indian Ocean and European regions highlight the great difficulties that unemployed workers suffer. The lack of adequate house, the bad working conditions and the absence or reduction of rights to a real social protection.

In **West Africa**, a seminar gathered to coordination movements. They worked on the need to strengthen the training, to continue and to reinforce the contacts with Church hierarchy, to help each other to face the difficulties and to overcome to the injustice collectively. Actions in defense of equality are planned. This will open up new perspectives and give hope for a better future.

In the Indian Ocean islands:

- In **Reunion Island**, MTKR Reunion ac-

tivists were committed with families in difficulties, especially in the search of housing. They organized to help to build a house for a homeless family, in agreement with local authorities.

- In **Rodrigues Island**: the crop of basic products let many people feed themselves, thanks to small plots around the houses that every one owns. Some workers make tools to cultivate land and sell them, what allow families to survive.

- In **Mauritius**: grassroots groups meet regularly to support each other. Families survive by working the land. In this way, they can consume and sell their products. Some of them also breed hens to sell the eggs.

East Africa. In Kenya, WMCVW office members had the opportunity to discover, during the visits, the reality that population live. They witnessed the struggles for a good health conditions: sanitation, installation of drinking water, etc. the housing conditions are still very precarious and much work remains to be done.

In other towns of the country: Muranga, Mass and Meru the land work of land and sharing. Have been developed. Each worker cultivates a plot of land, pays every month a percentage of money collected by the vegetables or fruit sales to finance common activities and, often, also to help those who have not anything to survive.

Europe: It organised a seminar about the issue «Digital work and telework: liberation or slavery». Debates, reflections about the question of widespread digitalisation of working world, its consequences on employment and working conditions, the digital gap that excludes some populations, the respect for human dignity and questions about the future of work.

Through our participation in the several seminars that have been held since 2017, and in view of the information transmitted to WMCW secretary, we can affirm that the theme «Land, Hou-

sing and Work for a decent life» concerns well with the expectations and needs of movements and is in direct contact with the reality lived by populations in different countries. Therefore movement activists have assumed in their daily commitments and bring it to life.

Echoes of national movements:

MCW Colombia: The resurgence of life during a national seminar revealed the strong wish of population to own a house, especially because many participants shared that they have lost the house they had due to the lack of security.

MOAC Chile: The lack of work and resources have thrown to many workers to the streets. Chilean movement members come to the aid of these people, mostly men, to help them to carry on with their lives and to live with dignity and plenitude.

I would like to finish these testimonies around the «three T» quoting a great master who could not read nor write but he knew very well to fight for justice, especially among the poorest. One day he stared at me and told: «Mariléa if my brother has not a job, not a house, not land and is hungry, then I cannot be happy». That same master said to me, another day: «What is left in my plate is missing in someone else's plate».

These words resound in my heart when I see to all these WMCW movement activists committed in the daily struggles for a real social justice, bringing of dignity and peace,

Those of us who believe in God Father, remain fighting together for every human being can regain his/her dignity of son and daughter of God through «Land, Housing and Work for a decent life». ■

Mariléa Damasio
General Secretary
of the WMCW
WMC Brazil activist



Balance...? Perspectives!



The theme «Land, Housing, Work» agreed in Avila in 2017, has mobilised us until today, and now, the International Council has just proposed a new campaign for the years 2021-2025.

Should we conclude that the current campaign is over and we must draw final results? Certainly not! However, we can already say that the campaign «Land, Housing and Work» has allowed that many movements:

1- Looking the reality (See): Land, house, work: everybody aspires to this. And it is a right for all, but while some accumulate, using stratagems to seize land, multiply houses, profit for work, others lack of everything. Before this reality of Land, Housing, Work, and the question is above all that of the «just balance for the respect of others and the planet», the main question is that of sharing and solidarity among human beings.

2- Trying to understand (Judge): Why this situation? Why are millions of human beings abandoned without shelter, job, finding a land to settle, for working? Economic systems, particularly neoliberalism, the political decisions and individual or class selfishness

maintain this situation of injustice. But considering this, WMCW activists cannot give up because the words of Gospel, Social Doctrine of Church and Pope Francis's recent words invite us to stand up!

3- Taking decisions (Act) for imagining a better world! Thus, in each continent, certain movements have prevented the sale of their lands to foreigner's promoters. Others have helped to association to welcome and to be house migrants. Others more act for «shared work» for everyone has right to thrive in a job.

At doing, WMCW members have fulfilled, or course, with their activist mission planned in Avila in 2017, but more than that, they have implemented their mission as believers, Christians. They have joined to all the dynamics driven by Pope Francis when he addresses to popular movements (included WMCW), when he develops his vision of the world with *Laudato si'* or *Fratelli tutti*. At living this theme, we are fully in line with what he says to all the Church, particularly by Dicastery of Integral Human Development.

We are a global community that sails in the same boat, where the wickedness of one harms all. We remind that no-

body flees alone, that they can only be saved together (*Fratelli tutti*, 32).

By living in this way, we do more than our «duty as Christian activist», we enter in a spir-itual process, because we are converted to «the gospel that is written by our actions». We are «eyes (See), heart (Judge) and arms (Act) of God» in today's world.

So, it is obvious! This dynamic cannot stop there, while the Mission goes on! The theme «Land-Housing-Work» has not ended, because the fight must continue before the suffering of millions of human beings! Even if other theme mobilises from 2021 to 2025, we should never take our eyes off the fact that every human being always has the right to a **LAND, HOUSING and WORK!**

Lord God, help us to all and every of us, to every WMCW movement, to fulfil the Mission that you entrust to us, that our actions provide the «good fruits of Gospel», namely: Justice through Sharing; Solidarity through Forgiveness; Love through Kindness! Amen! ■

Bernard Robert
International Chaplain
of the WMCW



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