


Through the Eyes of Migrants - The Search for Decent Work

solidar

decent work 
decent life





The pursuit of a decent job to lead a decent life is one of the main reasons for people to leave their home country. They often find themselves in situations where their human and labour rights are violated.

Out of 214 million international migrants, 90% are migrant workers and their families.



© Luis Enrique Aguilar Perez, Mexico

1. WORKING WITHOUT A WORK CONTRACT

In Tucson, Arizona, dozens of workers wait daily in an area where the government allows them to be hoping for contractors to come and hire them. These workers are paid by the piece and without official contracts. The workers are contracted per day without knowing what will happen the next. They are left waiting and when a van comes along, everyone crowds around it wanting to be selected. Those who are selected get paid on the spot with no official contract. *Taken in frame of Latin American Contest of Documentary Photography "Working Days", www.ens.org.co*



© Cynthia Nudel Kiperman, Spain

2. BOLIVIAN WORKERS CADAQUES, SPAIN

Gustavo de Cochabamba from Bolivia is 38 and has worked as a tailor for 6 years in Cadaqués, Girona. He lives with his wife and three year old son.

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3. WOMEN SELLING TOYS, VIETNAM

The woman selling the toys at the stand close to the Ho Chi Min Museum in Hanoi. The Vietnamese are entrepreneurial people and large number of them make their living by running small businesses like this one.



4. MEDICAL STAFF, SENEGAL

Cheik is a pediatrician from Senegal. He found it difficult to work properly in Senegal, as they did not have the right equipment, just getting to work was difficult and his salary did not reflect his skills or workload. So, he signed a contract with a hospital in France and migrated legally there.



© Carlos Ivan Rodriguez Cazares, Argentina

5. CONSTRUCTION TEAM LEADERS, ARGENTINA

The Bolivian worker community is growing increasingly in Argentina. Many work in trade, sewing and construction. This construction site is for a 5 star hotel in the center of the capital Buenos Aires which was built in record time by 33 Bolivian workers. It is a small Bolivian territory: everyone speaks Quechua, chews coca leaves, worships the Virgin Mary and drinks Argentine mate. Due to the ease of migration from neighbouring Bolivia, Argentina's Bolivian worker community continues to grow as the Bolivians come in search of work. Most of the work that they do does not comply with the basic conditions for dignity of labour, social security, economic support and work schedules. The construction sector is where many are most exploited because of the physical exertion needed which the Argentines do not want to do. *Taken in frame of Latin American Contest of Documentary Photography "Working Days", www.ens.org.co*



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6. CHINESE MIGRANT WORKERS, ROMANIA

The photo was taken in a textile company from Bacău, a town from Eastern part of Romania, which provides for their Chinese workers this type of accommodation, in an industrial building belonging to the company.



© Cynthia Nudel Kiperman, Spain

7. BOLIVIAN WORKERS CADAQUES, SPAIN

Gaby, 33, was one of the first Bolivians who settled in Cadaqués, eleven years ago. She came alone to Madrid in search of work when someone offered to move to Cadaqués for a living as a babysitter.

Taken in frame of Latin American Contest of Documentary Photography "Working Days", www.ens.org.co



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8. EYES OF THE INNOCENT, THE PHILIPPINES

Grandchildren of a former migrant domestic worker eat bananas on a Saturday morning. Innocence shines in their eyes as they enjoy their snack while their father, who once dreamt of working abroad until he became a victim of illegal recruitment, watches over them.



© Cynthia Nudel Kiperman, Spain

9. BOLIVIAN WORKERS CADAQUES, SPAIN

Mary, 27, is speaking on the telephone to one of her children who live with their grandparents in Bolivia. The parlour is one of the most symbolic areas and it is emotionally charged, as it functions as a meeting place.

Taken in frame of Latin American Contest of Documentary Photography "Working Days", www.ens.org.co



© Oscar Durand Galarza, USA

10. AFTER A DAY AT WORK, USA

In the Border Agricultural Workers Center in El Paso, Texas, just a few meters from the border, workers arrive after a day's work and put their belongings on the floor, where they will spend the night. It's time to relax. They come from different parts of Mexico to work in the fields around El Paso. The Center was built in 1995 in the "Segundo Barrio", an area of historical importance in the fight for the rights of migrant agricultural workers and their families. Unless there is a football match on television in which Mexico is playing, the lights go out at 9 pm. The next day will begin leaving for the fields at 3 or 4 in the morning. It's another day of hard work to put food on the tables of America. *Taken in frame of Latin American Contest of Documentary Photography "Working Days", www.ens.org.co*