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SILVER ROSE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2021

Myrtle Witbooi

SOLIDAR'S MOTIVATION

The Silver Rose Lifetime Achievement Award 2021 goes to Myrtle Witbooi, President of the International Federation of Domestic Workers and Secretary General of South African Domestic Service and Allied Workers Union for her lifelong struggle for decent work and decent lives of household and domestic workers in South Africa and the world.

With more than five decades of organising domestic workers and mobilising support for their cause, starting her trade union activism under the Apartheid regime in Cape Town in the mid-60s, she was instrumental in achieving the international recognition of the rights of domestic workers through the adoption of ILO convention 189 on decent work for domestic workers in 2011. Myrtle Witbooi's life as an activist, trade union organiser, and leader, is an example of courage, tenacity, and endurance. An example of civic engagement much needed as we are facing monumental challenges and parallel crises that we will only solve by working together.

Under the pandemic, the role and importance of a strong welfare state and the people needed to guarantee access to social rights has been sharply highlighted, as frontline domestic and care workers continued to attend to homes, elderly, the sick and the dying across the globe. Myrtle Witbooi's, IDWFs and SADSAWUs struggle for decent work and a decent life is at the heart of our common endeavor for a just transition, as it guarantees our society's resilience, increases access to rights and plays a key role in a more sustainable people-centered economy.

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Francisca Sauqillo President of SOLIDAR & SOLIDAR Foundation

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