



Turning a blind eye: the British state and migrant domestic workers' employment rights

A conference organised by the Working Lives Research Institute

May 26, 10am – 4.00pm, Toynbee Hall

28 Commercial St, London E1 6LS

Each year 15,000 visas are issued or renewed to domestic workers from outside of the European Economic Area (EEA). Working and often living in their (frequently wealthy) **employers' houses, and needing to renew their visas each year, these workers are in a particularly precarious position.**

WLRI has just completed a research project (with the generous support of the Nuffield Foundation) looking at the enforcement of employment rights for migrant domestic workers in Britain. Based on survey material, individual records recovered from the UK Borders Agency and interviews with migrant domestic workers, the project identifies widespread breaches of employment rights, and examines the extent to which these can be, or are, detected and rectified by the State's enforcement bodies. The results of the research, and its implications for the fight against exploitation and forced labour will be available at the conference and discussed in a programme of distinguished speakers, including:

- **Dr Bridget Anderson**, Centre for Migration Policy and Society, Oxford University, author of "Doing the Dirty Work? The Global Politics of Domestic Labour" (London: Zed Books, Jan. 2000)
- **Richard Murphy**, Tax Research UK, founder of the Tax Justice Network
- **Marissa Begonia**, Justice for Domestic Workers (J4DW)
- **Paul Whitehouse**, Chair, Gangmasters Licensing Authority
- **Professor John Gabriel**, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Social Sciences, London Metropolitan University
- Leading speaker from **Unite the Union**
- **Nick Clark & Leena Kumarappan**, authors of the WLRI report "Turning a Blind Eye"

This will be a participatory event where contributions from participants will be encouraged. **Space is limited to 100**, so you are advised to register early. Registration is free, and lunch will be provided. [Email workinglives@londonmet.ac.uk](mailto:workinglives@londonmet.ac.uk) to register your place, with your name, organisation, and contact details.