



TWC2

Transient Workers Count Too

An Appeal

Your donation will help our work:

- The Cuff Road food program for destitute migrant workers
- Medical treatment for injured and ill workers
- Guiding workers in need through government bureaucracy
- Research and advocacy to improve policies





There are nearly a million low-wage migrant workers in Singapore. While they all hope to make enough money to feed their families back home, some of them meet with misfortune, and often such misfortune is compounded by inflexible state policy.

Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2) – a non-profit organisation – tries to help, out of a sense of humanity and fairness.



Left: Four of a much larger group from China whose salaries were unpaid for more than three months. Their employer tried to forcibly repatriate them without settling claims.

Common problems

Common problems faced by migrant workers include:

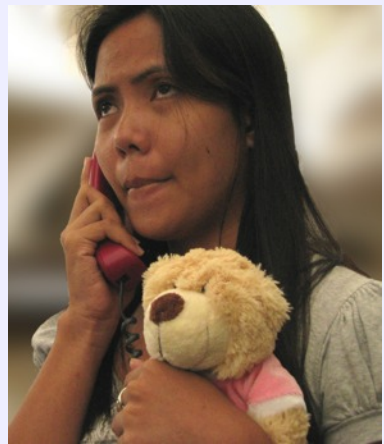
Salary disputes

- Salaries and overtime wages unpaid for months;
- Illegal deductions from their wages even when they are paid.

Accommodation

- Employers are required by law to provide habitable accommodation, but some do not – contributing to health emergencies.

Below: Homesickness and loneliness are intensified when domestic workers are denied a weekly day off, thus unable to make new friends in a foreign country.



Long hours or no day off

Some employers expect long working hours – tiredness increases risk of industrial accidents;
Many domestic workers do not get a weekly day off.

Medical needs

Workplace and traffic injuries, sometimes requiring major surgery;
Infectious and other diseases.

Abusive employers

Physical or psychological abuse by employers;
Refusal of employers to recognise medical certificates, insisting that workers resume work even when they are ill.

Workers in dispute with employers over salaries, accommodation or medical care find their Work Permits summarily cancelled. While their stay can be extended with Special Passes issued by the Ministry of Manpower, enabling them to pursue their claims, the process can be lengthy, stretching over months.

In the meantime, they have no wages, no savings, often nowhere to stay, and if they are in need of medical attention, are unable to access it because the employer would not guarantee payment to the hospital (despite it being a legal requirement).

Language difficulties, unfamiliarity with the city and lack of social support networks add to their problems. They are at a loss as to what rights and avenues of recourse they have and don't know who to turn to.

Right: Not only did he lose a finger, delayed treatment led to infection of the arm (still swollen and numb) with permanent loss of strength.





Transient Workers Count Too tries to make a difference

Hotline

We run a hotline for workers in distress. This has led to situations where we've had to rescue workers locked inside unsanitary dormitories or from the airport where they were being forcibly repatriated by their employers without settling claims.

Cuff Road Food Program

We run a food program in the Little India area, serving two meals a day. On average, we serve 150 – 250 workers each meal. We have volunteers present at every meal, so that workers have someone they can consult about their cases.

Carefund

Some cases cry out for medical attention. Injured workers need timely surgery and proper care even if their employers are obstructive, as delayed treatment can complicate a medical condition and make it life-threatening. TWC2 funds urgent cases.



Above: Cuff Road Food Program provides simple meals to workers left destitute by employers.

Pocket money

We help workers with pocket money, e.g. for transport so that they can make their way to the Ministry of Manpower to lodge complaints and



Above: Workplace chemicals splashed into his eyes. His employer's representative dumped him at a hospital, with no money, and sped off.

attend mediation sessions, or to go to the hospital for follow-up appointments. They also appreciate the occasional telephone cards we give out, so they can call home.

Case follow-up and advocacy

We help workers pursue their complaints lodged with the Ministry of Manpower, by helping them correspond with officials in charge. We compile statistics in order to spot trends and which become the basis of our advocacy work.

Research, outreach and advocacy

While immediate help for workers in need is important, TWC2 is highly conscious that improving labour management policies and systems is key to reducing the incidence of such cases. To this end, outreach, advocacy and research (to better inform our advocacy) are also important components of our work.



Right: A group who had not been paid for months. When they complained, some were beaten with chains.



Right: This worker was asked to clean windows even when unsafe. Falling from heights leaves a worker dead or crippled, and devastates her family.



How to donate

Via SgGives

Donate by charging to your Visa or Mastercard from the convenience of your computer, in just a few easy steps:

1. Go to www.sggives.org
2. Click on "Search" **1**
3. In the next page, type "TWC2" into the search box
4. When the TWC2 box appears; select the amount you wish to donate
5. Click "Check out"
6. Accept the Terms and Conditions

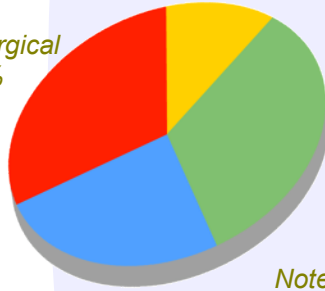


7. In the next page, select "Individual credit card"
8. Key in credit card details and click "Submit"

Above: Volunteers from TWC2 checked with these Vietnamese crewmen on a fishing trawler when it docked in Singapore, to ensure that they had been paid their salaries and had not suffered mistreatment while at sea.

How donations are allocated in our budget

Medical and surgical assistance 30%



Social workers; pocket money for needy cases 12%

Cuff Road Food Program 33%

Advocacy, research, outreach and administration 25%

Note: percentages indicated above are approximate and may vary a little from year to year depending on the types of cases encountered.

Donating by cheque or direct transfer

If you prefer to write a cheque, please make it out to “Transient Workers Count Too” and deposit it into DBS account 006-900625-0 at any branch of DBS Bank.

If you prefer to make a direct transfer at an ATM, you’ll need to know that DBS 006-900625-0 is a current account.

If you need a receipt, please email us at centre@twc2.org.sg

Thank you



Right: TWC2 volunteers recording case histories when workers come to the Cuff Road Food Program for free meals.



Transient Workers Count Too

An NCSS Registered Charity

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