

# MEDIA



**International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations**

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## Make up my workplace! – worldwide campaign for dignity and safe work for hotel housekeepers

The hospitality business rests on the labour of hundreds of thousands of housekeepers around the world, most of them women, many of them vulnerable migrants. They are the unseen victims of working conditions which stealthily and silently destroy their health. Many are forced to prematurely exit the labour market with broken bodies, condemned to poverty.

Concealed within magnificent luxury establishments as well as more modest hotels lie exhausting and debilitating daily tasks including strenuous repetitive movements, lifting and moving heavy loads, high pressure work patterns, contact with toxic products and a long list of other personal risk situations including sexual harassment.

While the hospitality industry is growing, employers spare no effort to continuously downgrade their conditions of work, either directly or through outsourcing. Housekeepers experience downward pressure on their already low wages and further intensification of the work.

The IUF is launching a global campaign for dignity and decent work for housekeepers. The relevant international labour and tourism organizations (ILO and UNWTO) must respond to the degradation of housekeeping with appropriate policies which can bring real change to the industry. And housekeepers must have the rights they require for their unions to negotiate effectively with employers and governments.

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*The International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF) is an international trade union federation composed of 390 trade unions in 122 countries with an affiliated membership of over 2.6 million members. It is based in Geneva, Switzerland.*