



## Sources of information on homemaker involvement and conditions

### Organisations

A number of trade unions, NGOs and other organisations can help identify potential homemaker involvement in supply chains, provide more information about homeworkers' conditions, and/or work with you to address areas that fall short of international standards and codes of practice. Particular information sources in the not-for-profit sector include:

- **National trade union federations** in their respective countries can provide information or contacts. Gender/Women's Officers may be a good point of contact, since homeworkers are often women.
- **Homeworkers Worldwide:** The UK centre for the international movement of trade unions, NGOs and homeworkers' organisations and others supporting work with home-based workers ([www.homeworkersww.org.uk](http://www.homeworkersww.org.uk)).
- **HomeNet South Asia:** Regional network of homemaker organisations and supporters covering Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan, can provide links to homemaker organisations and other relevant contacts in these countries ([www.homenetsouthasia.org](http://www.homenetsouthasia.org)).
- **HomeNet South East Asia:** Regional network of national homebased workers' networks in Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines ([www.homenetseasia.org](http://www.homenetseasia.org)).
- **National homworking groups:** For example, those in HomeNet South Asia and HomeNet South East Asia. The National Group on Homeworking (NGH) – a UK NGO and membership organisation of homeworkers and supporter members – is no longer operating, although its website still contains some useful information and resources ([www.ngh.org.uk](http://www.ngh.org.uk)).
- **Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA):** A trade union organisation of poor, self-employed women workers, who earn a living through their own labour or small businesses ([www.sewa.org](http://www.sewa.org)).
- **Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO):** A global research-policy network that seeks to improve the status of the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy ([www.wiego.org](http://www.wiego.org)).

### Publications

The following publications include useful information on homeworkers and their working conditions:

- **Acona (2002)** *Review of current knowledge and experience of applying corporate codes of practice with homeworkers.* ETI Report.
- **Bajaj, Mahjul (2000)** *Invisible workers, visible contributions: a study of home-based women workers in five sectors across South Asia.* Background Paper for South Asia Regional Policy Workshop on Home-based Work, London, Women in Informal Employment Globalising and Organising (WIEGO).
- **Felstead, A and Jewson, N (2000)** *In work, at home.* London, Routledge.
- **Gupta, Neelam (2001)** *Invisible labour: social security for home-based workers of the garment, agarbatti and papad industries.* Delhi, SEWA Bharat.
- **HomeNet (1999)** *New ways of organising: four case studies of trade union activity.* Study Pack.
- **HomeNet (2001)** Newsletter No 17
- **HomeNet (2002)** *HomeNet vertical mapping pack: Tracing subcontracting and marketing chains to support homebased worker organising,* produced by HWW on behalf of HomeNet.
- **HomeNet (2003)** 'Organising for rights'. Newsletter No 19, Spring 2003.
- **Homeworkers Code of Practice Committee (2001)** *Changing fashion: the story of the No Sweatshop label.* [www.nosweatshoplabel.com/downloads/NoSweatReport.pdf](http://www.nosweatshoplabel.com/downloads/NoSweatReport.pdf)
- **ILO (1996)** *Convention on home work.* No 177. Geneva, ILO.
- **Kanawaty, G (1992)** *Introduction to work study.* Fourth (revised) edition. Geneva, ILO.
- **Trades Union Congress (2004)** *Organising homeworkers in the UK: learning from international experience.* London, TUC.
- **Unni, Jeemol and Rani, Uma (2005)** *Impact of recent policies on home-based work in India.* UNDP HRDC Discussion Paper Series 10, UNDP.



## Other resources

The following resources have been developed by Homeworkers Worldwide (HWW):

**Training manual** (*We work at home*). Drawing on HWW's mapping programme in three continents, the manual provides ideas and exercises for organisers to start working with homebased workers. Available in paper form (£25 + P&P) or on CD (£10 + P&P).

**Photo pack**. A set of 20 A4 colour photos (laminated) of homebased workers, with explanatory text (who they are, where they are from, etc) for use in early stages of working with homebased workers (£30 + P&P).

**Film** (*Homework in China*). A film showcasing the different kinds of homework found in China in the course of HWW's mapping programme. Available on video or DVD (£5 + P&P), or for download at <http://vimeo.com/17583813>.

Contact [info@homeworkersww.org.uk](mailto:info@homeworkersww.org.uk) or telephone +44 (0)113 217 4037.

The following manual has been developed by Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO):

**We are workers too! Organizing home-based workers in the global economy**, by Celia Mathers. A manual to help home-based workers to know more about their skills and value, their status and rights as workers, and how they can get together with other home-based workers to improve their situation. Available to download from: [www.wiego.org/pdf/we\\_are\\_workers\\_too-web.pdf](http://www.wiego.org/pdf/we_are_workers_too-web.pdf)

**Last updated:** January 2011