



Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights

“WEE HAAVVEE AA DDRREEAAMM TTHHAATT OONNEE DDAAYY,
AALLLL WWOORRKK WWILLLL BBE VVAALLUUEEDD
EEQUUAALLLLYY..”

David Paterson
Governor
Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Malcolm A. Smith
Majority Leader, NYS Senate
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

Sheldon Silver
Speaker NYS Assembly
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Hon. Paterson, Smith, and Silver:

It has been brought to our attention that over 200,000 domestic workers across New York State are excluded from key labor laws that most Americans now take for granted. This exclusion leaves domestic workers vulnerable to wages that are low and often beneath minimum wage, to work hours and weeks that exceed basic work standards with no overtime pay, to no health care or sick pay, and to other grievous practices. This situation is unacceptable.

We, religious leaders from across New York, believe in the universal principles of fairness and equality that derive from our diverse traditions. We assume the responsibility of standing up for morals and ethics that, at times, transcend secular policies. **We call on the state's elected officials to guarantee that all workers are treated with respect and dignity, and to pass the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights into law this session.**

Most domestic workers are immigrant women of color that came to the shores of New York seeking opportunity, which is a rich tradition of our wonderful state. Let it not be under *our* watch that these same women are exploited and overlooked as second-class citizens. We all share the responsibility of aspiring towards a state that is inclusive and just.

The Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights addresses the longstanding, unfair exclusion of domestic workers from labor protections, reflects the unique conditions and demands of the industry in which they work, and clarifies employers' obligations to domestic workers.

All people are entitled to legal rights, which reflect and protect the value of their work and their integrity. We hope you will fulfill your responsibility to create a New York that is just towards its workers, welcoming and kind to people of all ethnicities, and morally astute in policies that benefit us all.

In Faith,

Rev. David Dyson
Lafayette Avenue
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New York City

Rev. Dr. Robert Graham
St. Luke African Methodist
Episcopal Zion Church,
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Rabbi Andy Bachman
Congregation Beth Elohim
New York City

Rev. Frances Manly
First Unitarian Universalist
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Bishop Orlando Findlayter
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Minister James Mang
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Rev. Heidi Neumark
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Holy Innocents RC Church
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Rabbi Irwin A. Tanenbaum
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Broadway Presbyterian Church,
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Sister Mary Kaiser
St. Mary of Sorrows
Buffalo, NY

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Brown Memorial Church
New York City

Father Michael Tyson
Holy Name of Jesus Christ
New York City

Rev. Elizabeth Nebraska
St. James Lutheran
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Father Brian Jordan
St. Francis Church of Assisi
New York City

Rev. Earl Kooperkamp
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
New York City

Father Darryl F. James
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Emmanuel Baptist Church
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Herchel Chapman Jr.
New Hope Baptist Church
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Justice & Witness Ministry,
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