



جمعية حماية العمال الوافدين
Migrant Workers Protection Society
(MWPS)

MIGRANT VOICE

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 03 | QUARTER 02 | APRIL TO JUNE 2026

MISSION STATEMENT

TO CREATE A COMMUNITY
WHERE EXPATRIATE
RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED
AND TO RAISE AWARENESS
OF THESE RIGHTS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES

THE PARADOX OF LABOUR DAY

Labour Day honours workers. But for many migrants, it is just another day of work.

The paradox: those who build this country cannot afford to pause. A day without work means no wages. No wages means a family goes without food.

Recognition without action is hollow. At MWPS, we confront this daily. Labour Day is a moment to reflect, but our work continues beyond it.

Because a day of recognition should not exclude those who need it most.

Cover design photo courtesy: Todd Trapani on Unsplash
READ ABOUT THE COVER PICTURE ON PAGE 03

STEPPING FORWARD

WHERE WE ENGAGED, WHOM WE MET, AND WHAT WE ADVANCED

MEETING WITH IOM OFFICIALS



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Bahrain held a meeting with MWPS to explore potential areas of collaboration between the two organizations. The meeting was attended by Ihma Shareef, IOM Bahrain Chief of Mission, and Ashleigh Packer, UN Counter-Trafficking and Migrant Protection Officer. MWPS Chairperson Mona Almoayyed and General Secretary Madhavan Kallath represented the Society.

FROM LEFT: MS PACKER, MS SHAREEF, MS ALMOAYYED & MR KALLATH.

QUARTERLY DATA AND NEW LAUNCHES

- MWPS Calls for Extended Summer Work Ban
- Launches African Communities Help Desk



A press conference was held on 6 May at the headquarters of YK Almoayyed & Sons, where MWPS released its latest quarterly data and called for an extended summer midday work ban. The Society also announced the formal launch of a Help Desk for Expatriates of African Communities to liaise with community leaders and consulates outside Bahrain. Chairperson Ms. Mona Almoayyed opened the briefing, announcing the release of the third volume (first edition) of the Society's quarterly newsletter, Migrant Voice. The publication features updated case data, policy observations, and worker summaries, and is available online.

VANTAGE POINT

REFLECTIONS BY MONA ALMOAYYED, CHAIRPERSON, MWPS

Steadfast Through the Storm

This quarter challenged us in ways we could not have anticipated. Ever since the West Asia conflict began in February, our team has been present on the ground, extending assistance to everyone who reached out. A safe harbour does not close its doors when the sea turns rough, it holds steady.

Unpaid wages remained the single largest concern, accounting for 80% of the cases we handled. Workers sought help with rent and living expenses, clearing immigration penalties, travel costs for repatriation, and legal assistance in cases where employers refused job changes or visa cancellations. Inspections were temporarily halted for about two months following the conflict, adding to the uncertainty felt by many. Despite these challenges, we resolved 36 of the 42 cases brought to us this quarter.

Behind every statistic is a person. A mother unable to return to her child. A man sleeping on a rooftop. A worker too ill to stand. Your support, whether through donations, advocacy, or simply staying informed, makes our work possible.

To our board and volunteers: your dedication never wavers. To our donors: your generosity is the reason we can act. And to the migrant community: you are why we exist. You have shown that resilience is not about enduring alone, but about reaching out and finding a hand to hold.

As the heat of summer intensifies, so does our resolve. We remain committed to standing beside those who need us most. Thank you for standing with us.



"Behind every statistic is a person."

Mona Almoayyed

MIGRATION THROUGH A LENS: OUR COVER EXPLAINED

We chose this design for the cover of Migrant Voice, the newsletter of the MWPS, as a reflection of migration—capturing the quiet, instinctual rhythm of a journey across a fading twilight sky. It speaks to the timeless pursuit of new horizons, resilience, and the enduring search for a place to call home.



THE DOCKET

A RECORD OF SELECTED CASES HANDLED BY MWPS IN THIS QUARTER:
WHAT WE SAW, WHAT WE DID, AND WHAT REMAINS IN PROGRESS.

CASE 1

A Sri Lankan national approached MWPS seeking assistance with his daughter's medical expenses. His daughter had been suffering from ear bleeding for three months. He had taken her to Salmaniya Medical Complex twice for emergency care and to the Salmaniya medical clinic on more than four occasions. While antibiotics were prescribed, the condition did not improve, and medical staff recommended a CT scan to determine the underlying cause. Unemployed and without the means to cover the cost, he requested support. MWPS reviewed the case and provided assistance for the CT scan.



MWPS relies on community support. Donations of dry rations, hygiene products, and bedding are always welcome. Volunteers are also needed for distributions and documentation. Contact us at info@mwpsbahrain.org or visit our office in Adliya. Every contribution makes a difference.

**GIVE
SUPPORT**



CASE 2

An Indian national arrived in Bahrain in March 2023 to work as a domestic worker. She lost her job after one month and did not receive any salary from her employer. The agent who brought her to Bahrain left the country without returning her passport. She became homeless, remained without a valid visa, experienced health issues, and was unable to support her family back home. MWPS provided temporary rent assistance and dry ration packages. The Society also secured donors to cover the cost of her outpass, immigration penalty, and return air ticket. She was repatriated on May 3.



CASE 03

A Cameroonian national was in Bahrain for the past four years. He initially arrived on a visit visa with the intention of seeking better opportunities and establishing a stable future. Despite his efforts, he was unable to secure employment or regularize his visa status. As a result, he was facing significant financial hardship and was unable to sustain himself. Considering these circumstances, he approached MWPS for support to return to Cameroon. The Society arranged for his repatriation by providing a flight ticket with support from a donor. He travelled back on May 3.

CONTD ON PGS 06 TO 11

CASE 04

A Sri Lankan national was employed by a company without obtaining a work visa. The employer had brought him to Bahrain on a visit visa and engaged him to work at a pet shop. His parents approached MWPS requesting assistance to facilitate his return to his home country. However, the employer was unwilling to release him. After reviewing the case, MWPS coordinated with the Immigration Office, who extended their support in facilitating his departure. As required, the Society obtained a letter from the Embassy and arranged for payment of the immigration penalties. He paid for his return ticket and travelled back to his country on April 19.

CASE 05

A Filipino couple was out of work from the first week of March 2026. The Philippine Embassy was arranging their repatriation. They approached MWPS to support their accommodation for one month, which was arranged by the Society.

CASE 06

An Indian national was physically assaulted by his sponsor for refusing to sign a letter agreeing to receive only half the salary. He was getting BD210 and was being paid less than BD100 after deduction of payments to SIO. He approached MWPS for support as the employer terminated his employment contract and did not pay his dues. The Society supported him by paying for issuing a power of attorney to the MWPS lawyer, who filed a case in the Labour Court to claim his dues and compensation for unjustified termination. The worker has returned to India as he was not able to find another job in Bahrain. The case is ongoing. When the dues are received through court, the lawyer will transfer the amount to the worker's bank account in India.

CONTD ON PGS 07 TO 11

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHER

MWPS is looking for volunteer photographers to support its communications and documentation work during the current distribution period. Photographs will be used on the Society's social media platforms and in the newsletter, with full credit given to contributors.



individuals can email
info@mwpsbahrain.org
with a brief introduction
and samples of their
work.



Be like a safety pin —

small, humble, but strong enough
to hold broken pieces together.



CASE 07

A Cameroonian national was working in a gym in Bahrain. The manager of the gym was forcing him to carry out illegal activities, which he refused to do in spite of being threatened with termination of services. The company terminated his services and lodged a false police complaint against him for theft. However, police did not pursue the case for lack of evidence. The employer was forcing him to return to his country as early as possible. His passport was withheld by the employer. The employer had collected money from him by promising to get him a ticket. He approached MWPS for assistance. The Society supported him by paying for issuing a power of attorney to the MWPS lawyer. The lawyer helped him to get back from the employer his passport and the money collected for the ticket. The lawyer also filed a labour case for his statutory dues, which is ongoing.



CASE 08

An Indian national had a runaway case filed against him by his previous employer. He approached MWPS to support his return to India as he did not have a job. He had managed the expense for the flight ticket, but he needed money to pay for the immigration fees. MWPS supported him in obtaining an exit permit from the Indian Embassy and arranged the immigration clearance. He was able to travel back on May 27.

CONTD ON PGS 08 TO 11

CASE 09

An Indian national was employed in Bahrain for the past four years. He has not received his salary for the last six months. During this period, it was reported that his daughter attempted suicide and was hospitalized. She was admitted to the ICU for five days and continued to exhibit suicidal tendencies. The family was distressed, and the father wanted to return to India urgently to be with her at the earliest. MWPS reviewed the case and verified whether there were any immigration-related penalties or restrictions. It was confirmed that there were no penalties against him. The Society provided a flight ticket for his travel back to India on May 12.

CASE 10

An Indian national arrived in Bahrain in August 2023 on a valid work permit as a domestic worker. Unfortunately, she faced serious health issues, and her visa was not renewed after August 2025. On eleven March 2026, she fainted because of severe diabetes and was rushed to Salmaniya Medical Complex by ambulance. Without employment and financial resources, her friends helped her with accommodation. She needed ongoing treatment and wanted to return to her home country. MWPS provided her with dry ration packages and assisted in her repatriation by paying the immigration penalties and arranging a ticket with the help of a donor. She travelled back on May 2.

CASE 11

An Indian national joined a company in Bahrain on seven January 2025 under a three-year contract with a monthly salary of BD350. During the month of March, he was placed on standby until twenty-one March 2026 with assurance of full salary payment and resumed work on twenty-two March 2026. However, on 10 April 2026, he was allegedly harassed by company workers and pressured to resign, while also being informed that he would receive only eight days' salary for March 2026. Despite reporting the issue to the company owner and later to police authorities, no resolution or salary payment was made. On April 16, he was denied entry to work, and subsequently received a backdated suspension letter followed by a termination letter instructing him to leave Bahrain unless he is able to change the job locally. He filed a complaint at the Police Station regarding unpaid salary, denial of work, and settlement issues. He approached MWPS seeking support for dry ration, local transportation, accommodation expenses, emergency requirements, and legal support. The matter was reviewed, and support was provided for a twenty-eight-day bus pass, dry ration voucher, assistance towards accommodation and daily expenses, and issuance of a power of attorney to enable the lawyer to proceed with the labour case for recovering his statutory dues. His case is ongoing.

CONTD ON PGS 09 TO 11

Bahrain's summer midday work ban prohibits outdoor work from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM during June, July and August. The ban is designed to protect workers from heat-related illnesses.

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**



CASE 12

A Sri Lankan national arrived in Bahrain on a visit visa approximately three years ago. She later approached MWPS seeking assistance to return to her home country to be with her mother who was unwell. Her visa had expired. She had paid money to an expatriate who had promised to help her get a visa, and the passport was with him. She was arrested for illegal stay. MWPS managed to find the person who was keeping her passport and collected it and delivered it to the police station. She arranged for the ticket expenses and returned to her country.

CASE 13

A Cameroonian national approached MWPS seeking support to obtain a Saudi visa to travel to Saudi Arabia to renew his passport so that he could apply for employment opportunities. Due to his passport nearing expiry, he was unable to secure a job for the past several months, which resulted in financial hardship. The Society assisted him in obtaining a Saudi visa. Earlier, MWPS had supported him with dry ration assistance on two occasions.

CASE 14

An Indian national came to Bahrain in 2019 to work as a helper in a company. After his contract ended, he continued working with a flexi visa and has had difficulty finding stable work. His visa expired in January 2026, and he has not been able to renew it. He was also not able to pay the LMRA fee for six months. His father passed away, and his mother was seriously ill. He wanted to return home but required support to do so. MWPS sought help from the LMRA for a return ticket, but it was denied because he owed six months of flexi visa fees. The Indian Embassy provided him with an exit permit letter. The Society arranged for his repatriation by paying the flight expenses. The immigration fees were paid with the support of a donor. He travelled back on June 16.

CASE 15

An Indian national came to Bahrain on a visit visa more than a year ago. He was trying to find a job here. He even paid someone to get a job, but he was cheated. He approached MWPS for support to go back home. The Society supported him by getting all the clearances required for his return by paying the penalties. He was able to arrange the ticket through his friends in India. On June 3, he travelled back home.

CASE 16

A Bangladeshi national was not able to get a visa, even though he paid a fine at the LMRA head office on 10 February 2026 for being at a worksite without a visa. Although he was told that he would be eligible to apply for a new visa after two months of paying the fine, he was unable to get a new visa because the LMRA system still showed an offence. MWPS coordinated with the LMRA, the Public Prosecution, and the Immigration Directorate to clear the offence, which was due to a technical glitch, and thereafter his employer was able to apply for a new visa.

CONTD ON PGS 10 & 11



The City Sleeps, But Not All Rest

From my window, I watch the city wind down. The cars thin out. The honking fades. The neon signs that once blazed against the evening sky flicker and dim. Shop shutters roll down with a metallic clatter. The pavements, crowded just hours ago with office-goers and families, now hold only the occasional straggler. The bicycles that zipped through traffic are parked. The voices that filled the air have softened into whispers. The city yawns, stretches, and settles into its nightly slumber.

It is a familiar rhythm, one we have all witnessed. The workday ends. The body tires. The mind switches off. And for most of us, there is a bed waiting, a door to close, a sanctuary to retreat to.

But not for everyone.

There are those in this city who do not rest when the sun goes down. The domestic worker who sleeps on the kitchen floor, just in case the employer calls. The labourer who shares a cramped room with a dozen others, no space to stretch, no privacy to breathe. The undocumented worker who has no room at all—just a rooftop, a park bench, an abandoned building. The one who lies awake, not because they do not want to sleep, but because the weight of unpaid wages, the fear of deportation, or the ache of missing a child back home will not let them.

They are part of the same city. They are the ones who built it, who clean it, who serve it. Yet when the lights go out, they remain invisible.

PG10 | VOL 03 | Q02 | 2026

This is why MWPS exists. Not to disturb the city's peace, but to remind it that peace must be for everyone. Our mandate is simple: no worker should be without shelter. No worker should go hungry. No worker should be trapped, unpaid, or forgotten. We are here for those who the city does not see.

The city will wake again tomorrow. The cars will return. The shops will open. The hustle will resume. And so will we.

Because the measure of a city is not how well it sleeps, but who it remembers when it does.

RAJI UNNIKRISSHANN
EDITOR,
MIGRANT VOICE



THE DOCKET CONTD FROM PG09

CASE 17

A Cameroonian national was diagnosed with severe kidney complications, liver enlargement, and multiple large pelvic masses. She was receiving treatment at Salmaniya Medical Complex. She was unable to pay for the required medical expenses and for her return ticket. After ascertaining her fitness to travel, a return ticket was arranged. MWPS also arranged the necessary medical clearance required for her travel. The Cameroonian community extended support towards her hospital expenses as well as immigration-related fines. She was safely repatriated on May 24. CONTD ON PG11

CASE 18

A Pakistani national on a visit visa was suffering from epilepsy and was admitted to Al Hilal Hospital. He did not have enough money for hospital expenses or travel. He requested MWPS support, and the Society was able to arrange for his repatriation with the support of a donor. He travelled back home on June 16.

THROUGH THE LENS

A VISUAL RECORD OF OUTREACH, AID, AND SOLIDARITY



THE RELIEF ROLL

WHAT CAME IN, WHAT WENT OUT, AND WHO IT HELPED

MWPS is deeply grateful to the following donors for their generosity, which enabled the society to respond to migrant workers in need. We thank our donors for their continued support—each contribution makes a difference in the lives of those we serve.



SCHOOL SUPPORTS WITH BD 500 DONATION

New Millennium School, Bahrain, presented a cheque for BD 500 to the Migrant Workers Protection Society during a handover ceremony at the school campus. Principal Arun Kumar Sharma handed over the donation to MWPS representatives Madhavan Kallath, Mohamed Gayaz Ullah, and Asong George, with students in attendance. The funds will support MWPS's ongoing efforts to provide legal aid, repatriation assistance, and basic necessities to migrant workers in need across the Kingdom.

GIFT CARDS FOR DRY RATIONS

The Lounge Bahrain presented 20 Lulu gift cards worth BD 10 each to MWPS at the Society's office. The donation was a collaboration with the American Women's Association. The Lounge Co-founder Raji Unnikrishnan handed over the gift cards to MWPS representative Karthikeyan A. The contribution will support MWPS's dry ration assistance for those in need.

OUR DONORS

CASH: The Week In Bahrain, Khaleeji Bank, National Bank of Bahrain, The British School of Bahrain, Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait, Mr. Sriraj Ramesan, Mr. Emmanuel Njoya, Mr. Aditya Dugar, Sri Sathya Sai Global Council Bahrain, Mr. Ranjan (The Bookmart), BGFC Ladies Wing, GSFS Ladies Wing, New Millenium School, Ebrahim K Kanoo, Livintis WLL, & Anonymous donor.

IN-KIND: The Lounge Bahrain, Sri Sathya Sai Global Council Bahrain, Sumati Aneja, and Pushpanjali. 169 people were supported through dry ration kits and supermarket voucher cards.