



جمعية حماية العمال الوافدين
Migrant Workers Protection Society
(MWPS)

MIGRANT VOICE

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 03 | QUARTER 01 | JANUARY TO MARCH 2026

MISSION STATEMENT

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

STANDING GROUND

A new year turns. The region holds its breath.
None of us know what comes next.

But this much is certain: we will show up.

Not because it is easy. Because it matters.

"Hope is not the belief that everything will be fine. Hope is the certainty that something is worth fighting for — no matter the odds."

To every migrant worker far from home: we see you. We stand with you. We will not step away.

Team MWPS

STEPPING FORWARD

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

ENGAGING FUTURE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS



Five students from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland – Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI-MUB) visited MWPS office as part of their Community Engagement Project, a requirement under their academic programme.

Their focus was on understanding community needs, cultural sensitivity, and communication barriers. The students showed particular interest in learning about the services MWPS provides to migrant workers and exploring how they, as future healthcare professionals, can contribute in meaningful and appropriate ways. General Secretary Madhavan Kallath and Board Member Asong George attended the meeting, briefed the students on MWPS activities, and answered their questions.

STRENGTHENING TIES WITH LABOUR UNIONS

Representatives from the Bahrain Free Labour Unions Federation visited the MWPS office. The delegation included Deputy Chairman for Internal Organisation Affairs Khalid Ebrahim Alqooti, and Deputy Chairperson for Working Women's Affairs and Children Ghada Ali Qaed.

Discussions centered on the challenges that civil society organisations and trade unions face when responding to migrant worker complaints.



The Federation officials offered their support in case handling, engagement with relevant authorities, and advocacy for legal reforms. MWPS was represented by Vice Chairperson Evone Bhaskaran, General Secretary Madhavan Kallath, and Board Member A Karthikeyan.

CONTD ON PGS 09 & 10

VANTAGE POINT

REFLECTIONS BY MONA ALMOAYYED, CHAIRPERSON, MWPS

Stability in Uncertainty: Our 2026 Anchor

As we welcome the first edition of Migrant Voice in 2026, I want to begin by wishing each of you a hopeful and safe New Year. But let me be honest with you—since February 28th, the landscape around us has shifted. The certainty we once took for granted has given way to questions, tension, and a palpable sense of unease. In times like these, it is natural to feel unmoored—especially when you are far from home.

Yet, even as the map redraws itself, our commitment to you has not moved an inch. The Migrant Workers Protection Society has always been a Safe Harbour—steady, constant, and unwavering. That did not begin on February 28th. That is who we have always been.

This quarter, that truth was tested and proven again. Uncertainty arrived during Ramadan, and in that sacred time, a quiet community initiative called The Lounge stepped forward to raise funds for MWPS. Their generosity made the season truly meaningful, turning anxiety into solidarity. To everyone at The Lounge: thank you. You reminded us that even when the world feels unsteady, ordinary people choosing to care can light the way.



MWPS is now on LinkedIn. Follow us for updates on our work, legal awareness content, and ways to support migrant workers' rights.



“Our commitment to you has not moved an inch.”
Mona Almoayyed

Because of supporters like them, and because of our founding promise, we continue to stand firm. Our doors remain wide open. Since February 28th, we have doubled our case monitoring and strengthened our rapid-response network—not because we changed, but because that is what a Safe Harbour does when the storm picks up.

Do not let the noise shake your footing. You are not alone. Justice does not retreat when the wind changes direction. Neither will we.

Stay grounded. Stay safe. We sail these waters together.

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 01

A Sri Lankan national suffering from kidney failure approached MWPS for support. She had previously received free dialysis at Salmaniya Hospital but continues to require periodic treatment. Each session now costs approximately BD 120, which is unaffordable for her given her financial constraints. Given her medical condition and limited resources, it was advisable for her to return to her home country to continue treatment. MWPS assisted by finding a sponsor for her travel ticket on 7 January 2026. We also coordinated with the Sri Lankan Embassy and the Directorate of Immigration to complete all repatriation procedures.

CASE 02

Two siblings of Indian nationality worked for a restaurant for nine months but had not received wages for the last five months. Their workplace was closed for 13 days. The employer withheld their passports and CPR cards and evicted them from their accommodation. MWPS supported them in travelling to various authorities to lodge complaints and arranged dry ration for them.

The sponsor wrongly accused the siblings of theft, leading to their arrest. MWPS provided financial support for clothing inside the prison and arranged legal assistance through the MWPS lawyer. The case is currently ongoing in court. Efforts are also being made to negotiate with the sponsor for withdrawal of the case.

CASE 03

A Sri Lankan national arrived in Bahrain on a visit visa on 10 September 2023. Since his arrival, he struggled financially and survived by doing part-time jobs. Attempts to change his visa status were unsuccessful, and his situation deteriorated to the point where he could not afford even daily meals. He approached MWPS for assistance to return to Sri Lanka. MWPS followed up on his case with the Immigration authorities and the Sri Lankan embassy, successfully obtaining an exit permit for him. He departed Bahrain on 10 January 2026.

CASE 04

A Sri Lankan national was reported absent from work. She had undergone surgery and her health was failing, and she wished to return home. MWPS supported her with local travel expenses, medical costs, dry ration, paid the immigration cancellation fee, and arranged her flight ticket. She travelled back to her home country on 20 January 2026.

CONTD ON PGS 05, 06 & 09

CASE 05

A Sri Lankan national who had been working in Bahrain for nearly four years found her workload unbearable and wished to return home. She requested financial support for local travel and for visiting various authorities in Bahrain as well as her embassy. MWPS also assisted her with payment of the immigration fee and part of the airfare. She travelled back to her country on 28 January 2026.

CASE 06

A Sri Lankan national who had overstayed his visit visa in Bahrain was arrested and was awaiting deportation. MWPS supported him with documentation in coordination with the embassy and the Immigration Directorate, and facilitated his travel back to his home country.

CASE 07

Two Sri Lankan nationals were unemployed and due to join new jobs. They had no money for food and needed partial support for accommodation. The required assistance was provided.

CASE 08

A Kenyan woman was in Bahrain for approximately eight months, having arrived as a domestic worker. She faced abuse from her sponsor, against whom she has lodged a complaint with LMRA. She is currently unemployed and unaware of her visa status, having left her sponsor one month ago. She has been struggling with accommodation and daily needs and sought MWPS support as well as an update on her visa status. She was provided with a dry ration bag on 28 January. Her status was checked with Immigration, and it was found that her visa is valid until 14 February 2026. She currently has no case of fleeing against her. She informed MWPS that she is looking for a job and will reach out again if further assistance is required.

CASE 09

A Sri Lankan worker employed as a technician with a company for four and a half years was being asked to work excessive overtime hours. When he complained to the management, he was issued a warning letter for misbehaviour and was asked to stop working. He approached MWPS. We negotiated with the employer, and he has been allowed to continue working. The management has agreed to review the overtime hours to make them reasonable.

CASE 10

On the basis of a request from the Directorate of Immigration, MWPS covered the expenses for photographs required to issue exit permits for 50 individuals who had served their sentences and were about to be deported.

CONTD ON PGS 06 & 09

CASE 11

A Sri Lankan woman had a case filed against her by her employer, citing she ran away from employment. She approached MWPS for assistance to travel back to Sri Lanka. MWPS coordinated with the embassy and the concerned authorities, and her travel was facilitated on 3 February 2026.

CASE 12

A Bangladeshi national, working as a date palm pruner, approached MWPS for medical support due to severe pain in his left leg extending from hip to foot. We arranged for him to be taken to the hospital and also covered the medical expenses.

CASE 13

A Sri Lankan national who had lost his job in December 2025 was unable to pay part of the school fees for his daughter, who was in 12th standard. The school refused to allow the child to sit for the exam unless the fees were paid. MWPS managed to find a sponsor who provided the full amount required, ensuring that the child was able to take the exam.

CASE 14

A Sri Lankan woman arrived in Bahrain on a housemaid visa. Her passport was held by the agent, and a case had been filed against her, citing that she ran away from employment. Her visa was cancelled. She wanted to return to her home country and approached MWPS for support. We assisted her with local travel to the Sri Lankan Embassy, the agent's office, and the Immigration office, and helped her obtain an exit permit. She was scheduled to fly back on 1 March 2026, but due to the current situation, she is yet to travel. We continue to support her with dry ration.

CASE 15

A Sri Lankan woman, working as a housemaid, wanted to return to her home country as her child was unwell. She was unable to cover the full cost of the flight ticket. MWPS supported her in obtaining the ticket and coordinated bus travel to help her reach Dammam, as her flight was departing from Saudi Arabia due to the current situation.

CASE 16

A Ghanaian national who had not received his full salary from his previous employer approached MWPS for support. We assisted by covering the cost of issuing a Power of Attorney to the MWPS lawyer, who has filed a case against the employer to recover the statutory dues. The case is ongoing.

CONTD ON PG09

The Silent Essential

I saw something last month that has not left me.

It was the third week of Ramadan, just past midnight. The uncertainty that began on February 28th was still hanging in the air—thick, unspoken, everywhere. I had stayed late at a friend's place and stopped for petrol on my way home.

The station was nearly empty. But there was a cleaner—a man from Bangladesh, I learned later—on his knees, scrubbing the floor near the pumps. His name was Shafiq. He had been working since sunset. His hands were cracked. His back was bent. And when I asked him if he was tired, he just smiled and said, "Someone must do this. So everyone else can sleep."

That is when it hit me.

While the rest of us have been watching the news, refreshing our feeds, and worrying about what comes next—Shafiq and thousands like him have simply kept going. They have not stopped. They have not protested. They have not fled.

They have kept the water running. They have stocked the shelves. They have delivered the food. They have cleaned the hospital corridors. They have built and repaired and served—all while living far from home, often without the luxury of fear because the rent is still due and the family back home is still counting on them.

We call them migrant workers. But I have started to think of them differently.

They are the silent essential. The backbone that never asks for applause. The steady hand that does not tremble even when the ground beneath them shifts.

This editorial is not advice. It is not analysis. It is simply a thank you—from someone who finally stopped long enough to see.

To Shafiq. To every worker who showed up when the world felt uncertain. You held Bahrain together this quarter. And we owe you more than words can say.

But words are a start.

Stay safe.
Stay seen.

RAJI UNNIKRISHNAN
EDITOR,
MIGRANT VOICE



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

IN FOCUS

LEGAL GUIDES, MIGRANT RIGHTS, AND STORIES THAT MATTER

POWER OF ATTORNEY IN BAHRAIN – A PRACTICAL GUIDE

BY
ADV. MADHAVAN KALLATH

If you have a legal claim against your employer in Bahrain, you cannot pursue it alone. You need a lawyer. And for that lawyer to act for you, you need a Power of Attorney (POA). This guide explains how to issue a POA, whether you are in Bahrain or abroad, and how to ensure your claim moves forward even after you leave the country.

• WHY DO WE NEED A POA?

If you have any claims against your company for legal dues in Bahrain, you can proceed only with proper representation. The most effective way is to issue a POA in favour of a Bahraini lawyer, enabling him to file and pursue the case on your behalf.

• ISSUING A POA IN BAHRAIN

Best option: Issue the POA while you are physically in Bahrain.

Process:

1. Visit the Notary Public.
2. Request issuance of a POA in favour of the lawyer of your choice.

Once notarised, the POA is valid immediately — no further procedure is required.

• ISSUING A POA OUTSIDE BAHRAIN

If you cannot issue the POA while in Bahrain, you may issue it in your home country. In this case, additional steps are required to make the document valid in Bahrain.

• LEGALISATION PROCESS

FOR NON-APOSTILLE CONVENTION COUNTRIES

1. Sign the POA before a notary in your country.
2. Legalise it at your Foreign Affairs Ministry.
3. Attest it at the Bahrain Embassy in your country.
4. Finally, legalise it at the Bahrain Foreign Affairs Ministry.

FOR APOSTILLE CONVENTION COUNTRIES

1. Sign the POA before a notary.
2. Obtain an apostille from your Foreign Affairs Ministry.
3. Apostilled documents are accepted in Bahrain without further legalisation.

The Apostille Convention simplifies document legalisation among member countries. A single Apostille certificate replaces multiple embassy attestations, making documents like a POA valid in Bahrain without further steps.



IN FOCUS

POWER OF ATTORNEY IN BAHRAIN – A PRACTICAL GUIDE (CONTD)

• REPRESENTATION AND CLAIM PROCESS

1. Once the POA is in place, you may send the original to Bahrain and your lawyer can file and pursue the claim.
2. Personal presence is not required — the lawyer acts fully on your behalf.
3. If you prefer not to file the case while in Bahrain, you may instruct your lawyer to wait until after you leave.

• CHOOSING A LAWYER

1. Select a lawyer recommended by a trusted source such as your embassy or MWPS or any other civil society.
2. Make sure that you give the lawyer authority to receive the money on your behalf from the court.
3. Provide contact and the bank account details in your country so that when the claim is settled he would be able to send the money to you.

(The author is the General Secretary of MWPS. He can be reached at +973 3995 3988 or via email : madhavan@kallathandco.com.)

THE DOCKET

CONTD FROM PG06

CASE 17

A single mother, of Indian nationality was facing a severe housing crisis. For five days, she and her 17-year-old daughter were sleeping outdoors after their landlord disconnected the electricity and demanded that they vacate the apartment due to unpaid rent. MWPS supported her with one month's room rent, ensuring they had a roof over their heads.

CASE 18

A Pakistani national had been suffering from fever and cough for nine days. He had lost his job and lacked the financial means to seek medical treatment. He reported coughing up blood, which caused significant concern, and requested assistance to access medical care. MWPS supported him by arranging transportation to the hospital and covering his medical expenses.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID TRAINING

STEPPING FORWARD

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM), in association with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), conducted a Psychological First Aid (PFA) training session in March.



The online session focused on raising awareness about the importance of PFA, particularly in handling situations arising from the current circumstances in the country. MWPS was represented by General Secretary Madhavan Kallath and Office Administrator Benit Mary Joseph.

SESSION WITH THE VINE CHURCH BAHRAIN

STEPPING FORWARD



MWPS met with members of The Vine Church Bahrain for a session aimed at empowering migrant workers to safeguard their rights. The discussion focused on labour law and immigration-related matters.

General Secretary Madhavan Kallath delivered a presentation on the rights and responsibilities of migrant workers and responded to participant questions. Vice Chairperson Evone Bhaskaran and Board Member A Karthikeyan attended the session and addressed queries from the audience.

GHABGHA DELIGHT – A NIGHT OF SUPPORT FOR MWPS



The Lounge Bahrain, a social support platform, hosted the fourth edition of its Ghabgha Delight event on 18 February at Palavra Resort. Designed to support local NGOs and civil societies, the evening brought together government officials, diplomats, business professionals, community leaders, media representatives, and other invited guests during Ramadan for meaningful interaction. The fundraiser designated MWPS as its beneficiary, providing the Society with a platform to address an engaged and influential audience, share its mission, and inspire support. More than 200 guests attended. MWPS General Secretary Madhavan Kallath addressed the gathering, elaborating on the Society's mandate and the growing need for community support. Also in attendance were MWPS chairperson Mona Almoayyed and other board members.

SUPPORT FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS

Around 40 female domestic workers in Tubli benefited from a campaign organised by the Migrant Workers Protection Society. MWPS volunteers distributed boxes containing essential supplies, including rice, oil, salt, sugar, and other dry rations.

THROUGH THE LENS

A VISUAL RECORD OF OUTREACH, AID, AND SOLIDARITY



THE RELIEF ROLL

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

DRY RATION AND BLANKET DISTRIBUTION



MWPS successfully organised the distribution of dry ration kits across multiple locations. The aid reached individuals from various nationalities, including low-wage workers, unemployed individuals, and part-time domestic workers. A total of 427 dry ration kits, 50 supermarket gift cards, and 63 blankets were distributed to those in need.

CASH DONATIONS

MWPS extends its sincere gratitude to the generous donors who contributed to this initiative. Cash donations were received from Aditya Dugar, Noora Feleyfel, and The Week in Bahrain / The Lounge and BMMI.

DONATIONS IN KIND

MWPS extends its thanks to the many individuals and institutions that contributed dry rations. These include Nadeem School, Multinational School, Kids World Kindergarten School, and several other educational institutions. Generous support was also received from Y.K. Almoayyed & Sons, Sri Sathya Sai Global Council Bahrain, The Lounge Bahrain, the Manav Dharma Group, and the Sri Lankan Embassy.



In addition, blankets were donated by Abdulrahman Kanoo School – Diyar and Salmabad branches, while gift voucher cards were contributed by the Yousif and Aysha Almoayyed Foundation. MWPS gratefully acknowledges all these contributions.

