

ABOLISH THE KAFALA SYSTEM

Migrant workers deserve protection from human rights abuses and exploitation



Qatar relies on 2 million migrant workers from low-income countries

These workers are almost solely responsible for building the infrastructure and powering the service sector of the entire country.

In exchange for this labour, they are only guaranteed a minimum wage of 750 Qatari riyals (\$206) per month



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Every country in the Gulf manages migrant residency and employment through the Kafala (sponsorship) system. Under this system, a local citizen or local company (the kafeel) must sponsor foreign workers in order for their work visas and residency to be valid. This means that an individual's right to work and legal presence is dependent on his or her employer.



With tight restrictions on changing employers, this dependency renders workers vulnerable to exploitation. Workers suffer abuses such as unpaid overtime, arbitrary deductions, delayed wages, withholding of wages, unpaid wages, or inaccurate wages.



Recommendations for the Qatar government



✓ Protect workers from recruitment and wage abuse

✓ Allow workers to form labour unions and organisations

✓ Institute a minimum wage in line with current costs of living

✗ Ban employers from withholding documents and personal items

✗ Penalise employers for unsafe or exploitative working conditions

✗ Stop the detention and deportation of migrant workers fleeing abusive sponsors