



## *PRESS RELEASE*

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### *HomeNet South Asia Hosts Its First-Ever Congress In Nepal*

*A regional network of home-based worker organisations, representing over 12,00,000, home-based workers, HomeNet South Asia is hosting a three-day Congress in Nepal's capital, between October 18 - 20, 2022.*

**Kathmandu, Nepal, October 1, 2022:** *HomeNet South Asia (HNSA) - a regional network of home-based worker organisations across South Asia - is hosting its first-ever Congress between October 18 and 20th, 2022, in Kathmandu, Nepal.*

*The Congress will see the presence of close to 200 women home-based workers (HBWs), worker representatives, civil society organisations from across the globe along with dignitaries from SAARC and UN Women. The event will also witness the presence of government representatives from across South Asia.*

*The historic summit is a celebration of and a showcase of solidarity of the home-based workers movement in South Asia - a movement that has been building since the early 1970s. The event coincides with the 22nd Anniversary of the [Kathmandu Declaration](#) that was adopted in 2000 and led to the genesis of HomeNet South Asia.*

*The theme of HNSA's Congress - "We Are A Movement, We Are A Sisterhood, We Are The Future!" - summarises the vision for the event. Over the course of three days, HomeNet South Asia is hosting a series of panels and discussions that highlight the prevalent and emerging issues that vulnerable*

women home-based workers face (it is estimated that there are over 67 million home-based workers in South Asia). These range from the lack of recognition as workers to exploitation in supply chains, being adversely impacted by climate change, inaccessibility to social security, and the lack of access to markets and decent work. These expert-led discussions will also serve to inform the Network's strategy and pave the way for the future of the movement in the region.

On October 20, 2022, HNSA will commemorate International Home-Based Workers' Day with a solidarity march on the streets of Kathmandu, Nepal. Armed with placards that showcase our demands, the march will bring visibility to millions of hidden home-based workers across the region.

At the sidelines of the Congress, HNSA will also feature a vibrant Artisan's Bazaar that feature the hand work of women home-based workers across South Asia, a photo exhibition that casts the limelight on the diverse, layered, and multi-faceted work undertaken by women HBWs, and a 'Solidarity Tree' that strings together the demands of these workers along with messages of hope, togetherness and a vision for the future.

#### ***About Women Home-Based Workers in South Asia:***

The unorganised, informal sector makes up a majority of the workforce in South Asia. And home-based workers (HBWs), particularly women, form a vital part of informal economies in the region. By definition, home-based workers are a category of informal sector workers who carry out remunerative work from their own homes or adjacent grounds or premises.

It is estimated that there are over 67 million home-based workers in just four countries of South Asia alone. These include Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. Millions remain in the shadows and go unaccounted for in national statistics.

Home-based work is very diverse. On one end, you can find home-based workers engaged in traditional industries like carpet weaving, basket making and embroidery. On the other, you will also find them in new-age industries like assembling micro-electronics or medical equipment.

A majority of HBWs are women. Their labour drives industry and economies while also keeping their families out of poverty. However, they are rarely recognised as workers and access to labour entitlements remain out of their reach.

For more information on home-based workers, log on [here](#) or contact us.

#### ***About HomeNet South Asia***

HomeNet South Asia Trust (HNSA) is a regional network of home-based worker organisations spread across eight countries. These include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Founded in 2000, the Network, today, represents over 12,00,000 home-based workers across South Asia, 95% of these workers are women.

*HNSA's initiatives include building solidarity among home-based workers and their organisations while also increasing their visibility. It advocates for relevant policies and programmes and aids in the creation of market linkages and decent work. As a regional network, HNSA builds platforms for knowledge exchange and learning among its members and develops their capacities while also implementing regional campaigns. For more information on HNSA's work, log on [here](#) or contact us.*

*You can also find out more on HNSA's social media handles - Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.*

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