



HOMENET EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

THE ATTENTION OF:

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

PRIME MINISTER OF

**DECLARATION
OF HOME-BASED WORKERS**

Self-employed and sub-contracted workers in the informal economy represent a significant share of total workforce. A great percentage of self-employed are vulnerable and unprotected. The lack of regulatory environment and representative body expose them to extreme poverty.

Home-based workers are the most marginalized informal workers. They face difficulties with working conditions, low payment and do not have a written employment contract. They work across many manufacturing industries in the economy (textiles, garments, footwear) and are contracted by individual entrepreneurs or firms, often through an intermediary. They produce for global value chains.

The situation with self-employed workers is even more alarming. They expect exhibitions, fairs as the only market resource of their products and goods. They have invested funds for raw materials, equipment and supplies.

Our estimates show that unpaid family members work with them especially in small cities. This situation is very common in many counties as well.

Home-based work is a global phenomenon found in poor and rich countries and exists in all sectors of employment, including manufacturing, services, agro-based and food sectors.

Home-based work is an important source of employment especially for economically and socially disadvantaged women. The majority of home-based workers are women. Home-based workers make significant contributions to the national and global economies and are linked to the formal economy through value and supply chains and local markets.

Home-based workers are not generally incorporated into national data collection systems or into development programmes and thus their work and contribution remains invisible and unrecognized.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE POWER,

In light of the above, we the members of HomeNet Eastern Europe and Central Asia after discussing COVID-19 situation call to our government as follows:

1. Minimum wages per month as formal workers for the period of national emergency.
2. Ensure treatment of home-based workers impacted by COVID-19 even those who do not have adequate social and health insurance coverage.
3. Payment of taxes, rents, social security should be postponed in the next 2-3 months. Home-based workers will not have any income to cover expenses next month.
4. Mortgage loans and fast credits should be frozen.
5. Supporting centres and networks of home-based workers providing information and services.

We strongly believe in the political will of every government to support every citizen. We hope we can assist authorities to reach invisible workers.

We commit to support and foster every policy concerning welfare of home-based workers.

Signed the Declaration on 19.03.2012:

1. Albania – Vaska Karafali
2. Armenia – Hermine Vardan
3. Bosna and Herzegovina - Dobrila
4. Bulgaria – Violeta Zlateva
5. Georgia – Lavrenti Alania
6. Kazahstan – Aigyl Jarensikova
7. Kyrgyzstan – Svetlana Balalaeva
8. Macedonia – Ilyia Boevski
9. Montenegro – Lilia Cepic
10. Serbia – Zora Kajetz
11. Tadjikistan – Mukarrama Nadir
12. Turkey – Acyan Gune
13. Uzbekistan – Matluba Bazarova