

NEWS ADVISORY

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Qatar ratifies law on domestic workers

The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, on August 22, 2017, ratified Law No.15 on service workers in the home or the “Domestic Workers Law”.

The new law provides labor rights for domestic workers. It guarantees workers a maximum 10-hour workday, a weekly rest day, three weeks of annual leave, and an end-of-service payment of at least three weeks per year.

The Domestic Workers Law requires a written contract that details the type and nature of the job, salary, and other conditions.

The new law also sets out minimum requirements governing the employment of any domestic worker, which includes those performing housework, drivers, nannies, cooks, and gardeners, among others. It requires employers to treat workers “in a good manner that preserves their dignity and bodily integrity,” and not to harm the worker physically or psychologically, or endanger the worker’s life or health.

Employers must provide domestic workers with medical treatment for injuries or illness, and compensation for work injuries in accordance with the Labor Law. Employers must also provide food and adequate accommodation. The law prohibits employers from deducting a worker’s pay to compensate for recruitment fees and prohibits employers from forcing domestic workers to work while on sick leave.

The Domestic Workers Law establishes fines for violations.

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