TRANSIENT WORKERS COUNT TOO

▪ Society Registration /Unique Entity Number T04SS0088C
▪ Charity Registration No 01971
▪ Full member of National Council of Social Service

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To: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

United Nations, Geneva

Universal Periodic Review – Singapore. COVER LETTER

Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2) is pleased to submit our report for the Universal Periodic Review for Singapore, scheduled for January 2016. It comprises eight pages and 2799 words excluding headers, footers and footnotes (and excluding this cover letter).

TWC2, founded in 2004, is a registered charity organisation in Singapore. We assist migrant workers with problems they face related to their employment and stay in Singapore. In the past few years, we have seen between 2,000 to 3,000 cases a year – this large number gives us a comprehensive view of the trends, the application of State policies in practice, and the effectiveness (or not) of State-led remedies.

In the main, the workers come from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Philippines and Myanmar. Over 90% of the cases we handle are male workers, the rest female (largely domestic workers).

The chief issues workers bring are: workplace injuries, often complicated by medical treatment and compensation issues; salary non-payment; mistreatment and abuse; non-existent or prematurely-terminated jobs after they've been promised proper jobs and induced to come here to work.

TWC2 assists these workers through our social workers and experienced volunteers. We help workers navigate the available channels set up by the government for recourse, negotiate with their employers, follow up with hospitals, and provide advice to workers regarding their best course of action. We also provide direct services to workers who are out of work and without income, such as free meals, transport and housing subsidies, medical and surgical assistance.

The cases we see are carefully documented. Synopses of some of the cases are available on our website (www.twc2.org.sg)

TWC2 conducts surveys and research on a continuing basis, not only among workers who come to us for assistance, but also among workers who do not report any problems. Our research results are published on our website.

TWC2 does not receive any funding from the government or any government-affiliated source. We are thus able to offer an independent view of situation relating to the human rights of migrant workers in Singapore.

Should there be any questions, please feel free to contact us at:

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Treasurer