



## **Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats**

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**Dr. Surin Pitsuwan**

Secretary General  
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)  
Jakarta, Indonesia

Dear Dr. Surin:

The Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD), in line with its commitment to gender equality and non-discrimination, holds regular workshops and seminars on women's role in society.

In this connection, we on behalf of CALD would like to bring to your kind attention the plight of migrant workers in the region. The host countries and the countries of origin must work together to ensure humane treatment to these migrant workers and the culprits of any maltreatment must be dealt with severely. We request that relevant bodies of ASEAN take up the issue of migrant workers in a definitive manner. CALD believes that the question of migrant workers is a very important issue that needs political attention and support. Besides the road towards an ASEAN Community, especially AEC, necessitates a strategy, a plan, and a set of common standards for ASEAN migrant workers.

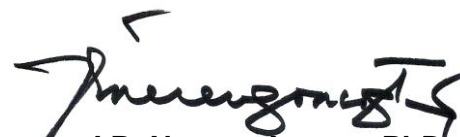
CALD believes that proper and equal treatment of migrant workers is not only a human right issue but a reflection of inclusive principles and the economic principle with regard to an essential factor of production. Migrant workers contribute positively to the economic development of the host country. It is therefore an obligation, apart from common hospitality, on the part of the host country to ensure the best of treatment and facilitation.

May we request that you kindly pursue the matter further.

Very truly yours,



**Rajiva Wijesinha, MP**  
Chairperson



**J.R. Nereus Acosta, PhD**  
Secretary General