ITEM 2

3. Migrant persons: Antonia Lilii, FIRST PASEFIKA FONO NETWORK

Talofa lava, Kia Orana, Malo e lelei, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Taloha ni, Halo ola keta, Ni sa bula Vinaka, warm pacific greetings! E nga mana, e nga reo, e nga Iwi, e rau Rangatira ma. tena koutou katoa. I am Antonia Lilii, a Samoan living in Aotearoa/New Zealand. I represent migrants from 25 countries that convened for the CSO and youth forum on 13-14 November.

When floods hit New Zealand this year, many temporary migrant farm workers, many of whom are Pacificans, lost their jobs, were stranded, and not properly compensated. This is only but a peak into their vulnerability, many of whom were treated like modern day slaves, some housed in freezing and damp accommodations, their passports taken “for safekeeping”, threatened not to join or form unions or else they will not be allowed back for the next season. Without decent jobs back home, with their island countries slowly submerging in rising sea water, many Pacificans are forced to endure.

This is the reality of migrants across Asia Pacific. The general erosion of migrants’ rights is unaddressed in the population and development discourse. And while migration is seen positively, migrants and refugees are perceived and treated otherwise.

I stand here before you today not only as a representative of migrants and refugees, but also as a trade unionist, women human right defender, a climate activist, a mother.

The present is not only at stake in the decisions made by governments, but the future of millions of our youth and children. Here are some recommendations coming from the Call to Action CSO and Youth Forum statement:

- Uphold international human rights and decent work standards for all.
- Provide access for all migrants and refugees, regardless of status, to health, including sexual and reproductive health rights, services, justice and pathways to citizenship.
- Protect women migrant leaders and women human rights defenders from all forms of violence, harassment and intimidation.
- Address the root causes of forced migration and displacement by creating jobs back home, justly and peacefully resolving political conflict, fundamentalism and war, and the climate crisis.
- Finally, value migrants and refugees for their rights and wellbeing, not only for their economic contribution to society. Ensure their meaningful participation here and all advocacy spaces, like the Global Compact for Migration, while addressing challenges like xenophobia, language and digital divide.

For many years others have spoken on our behalf, now we speak for ourselves.
atu ai lagona o manatu ma mea moni o lo'o a'afia ai nai ó matou laufanua aemaise tagata Pasefika, e lé mo nei ae mo le lumana'i ole Pasefika, o fanau, aemaise atunu'u uma ole lalolagi Atoa!

Fa'afetai lava