Coalition on Labor Justice for Migrants in the Gulf

KUWAIT'S RECORD ON MIGRANT WORKERS' RIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Has Kuwait ratified ILO Domestic Workers Convention C198?	☒
Has Kuwait ratified ILO Conventions C087 on Freedom of Association and C098 on the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining?	☑
Has Kuwait ratified the UN International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families?	☒

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

UNDER THE PRIVATE SECTOR LABOR LAW:[1]

Are migrant workers in Kuwait able to establish trade unions, join trade unions as voting members, hold leadership positions, be members of the union board, or participate in collective bargaining?	☒
Are domestic workers in Kuwait able to join trade unions?[2]	☒

1 Private Sector Labor Law No. 6 of 2010.

2 In addition to not being able to join trade unions, domestic workers are also not protected under the private sector labor laws. There is a separate domestic workers law.

EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER LABOR LAWS

Are migrant workers protected against arbitrary deportations and travel restrictions without due process? [3]	
Are the Ministerial Decrees [4] outlining the minimum wage in each sector applied equally, without discrimination based on nationality? [5]	
Is the prohibition of passport retention applied equally for migrant workers across sectors? [6]	
Do migrant workers have the ability to access justice for workplace violations, regardless of their sector of employment? [7]	

3 Article 20 of the Amiri Decree-Law No. 114 of 2024 on the Foreigners' Residence Law.

4 For example, Ministerial Decision No. 14 of 2017, No. 2194 of 2016 and No. 22/2022.

5 See evidence in Coalition submission to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (July 2026).

6 See Ministerial Resolution No. 143/A/2010.60 (private sector); and Ministerial Decision No. 22/2022 (domestic workers) that allows passports to be confiscated if domestic worker gives consent. See submissions to UN CERD (2026) and Coalition Submission to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Kuwait (December 2024).

7 See evidence in Coalition Submission to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Kuwait (December 2024).