

**Working Group on Protections for Foreign Domestic Workers Working for Diplomats or  
Consular Officials – Meeting Summary – 25 October 2016**

**Attendees:**

AGD –s22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT – s22(1)(a)(ii)

DIBP –s22(1)(a)(ii)

Employment s22(1)(a)(ii)

s42

- s42

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**Action item 1:**s42

**Discussion of Salvation Army proposals for increased protections for private domestic workers and international precedents**

- DFAT advised it met with the Salvation Army on 6 October 2016 to discuss international best practice regarding protections for private domestic workers, including options for NGO interviews, right of stay for alleged victims of exploitation and training for private domestic workers.
  - DFAT noted the Salvation Army is advocating for NGOs to be able to conduct welfare check interviews with private domestic workers and for workers subject to exploitation to be given a right of stay in Australia to pursue civil remedies.
- AGD agreed to work with DFAT to develop responses to Salvation Army’s proposals for additional protections for private domestic workers.
- AGD noted the Government’s position on allowing visa holders a right of stay where they may have been subject to exploitation is being considered in the context of the Government’s response to the recent Senate Inquiry on Temporary Work Visas.

**Action item 2:** AGD to work with DFAT to respond to Salvation Army’s proposals around increased protections for private domestic workers.

**Draft employer declaration**

- DFAT sought Working Group members’ views on its draft Employer Declaration.
  - Working Group members noted the declaration does not have legal status but would have a normative function.
  - Employment requested to amend the wording of the declaration referring to Australian employment law.

**Action item 3:** DFAT to change the Employer Declaration words in paragraph 1: “under Australian workplace law and conditions” to “in accordance with Australian employment law”.