

New Neoliberal Wave - a risk for domestic workers' new labor rights in Brazil

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Brazil has been in international prominence in recent years for opposing reasons. Initially, serving as a good example to the world; then as a reason for harsh criticism. In the Lula da Silva government (2003-2010), the economy grew, surpassing the previous neoliberal decade. Redistributive and countercyclical policies were implemented. Since the global crisis of 2008, the country has focused on consolidating of its domestic market. In international politics, relations with Mercosur, Latin America and African countries were strengthened, with emphasis on the BRICS bloc (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). Following on to neodevelopment, Lula's successor, Dilma Rousseff, co-founded the BRICS Bank. However, for various reasons, Rousseff suffered an impeachment and her vice president took over, implementing neoliberal policies even bolder than those applied in the government of Fernando Henrique Cardoso (1995-2002).

In this sense, the present article will seek to show the impact of those changes under the workers' point of view. We will study the case of domestic workers not only because they are about 7 million Brazilians, but also because they did not have full labor rights until the legislative amendment of 2013. This change sought to increase the level of formal work in this professional category. But the international crisis was already pressing the country and Rousseff's departure accelerated this process, now sharpened by a new government without popular support. With the rising of the unemployment, domestic workers' conquered rights are at risk. In addition, the casual domestic worker (paid for working day), not protected by labor legislation, will tend to have its current precarious work relation even exacerbated. In this way, we firstly intend to investigate how the advance in the domestic workers' labor rights were possible to be implemented in Lula's and Dilma's governments. And, in a second moment, how a new neoliberal wave can affect it.

To carry out this study, we will analyze the literature on the subject, in addition to hearing the testimony of workers, employers and trade unions to identify the main risks and solutions that are being found. This case study is justified by the data of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics - IBGE, which shows us that this labor activity is carried out in Brazil, overwhelmingly by women. They accounted for 94.7% of domestic workers in 2003 and 94.5% in 2009. In addition, in 2009, 62.0% of these workers were black or brown. That is, the most vulnerable groups in the labor market and who are often the first to suffer the impacts of any economic change.