



Message by Anita Thomas, Convener, NGO Coalition to End Violence and Harassment in the World of Women; Chair NGO Committee on Financing for Development; Representative to the UN, Women First International Fund (previously Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund)

My name is Anita Thomas. I serve as the Convener of the NGO Coalition to End Violence and Harassment in the World of Work and Chair the NGO Committee on Financing for Development. The Coalition, created in 2019, is a joint initiative of four substantive Committees of the Conference of NGOs, all based in New York, the NGO Committee on Financing for Development, NGO Committee on the Status of Women in New York, NGO Committee on Social Development, and the NGO Committee on Migration in partnership with the NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons, with a common goal to advance ratification of the International Labour Organization’s Convention No. 190.

The global community has made it clear that violence and harassment in the world of work must end. As the world of work is quickly changing, it is important more than ever to ensure the integrity and dignity of all workers and employers.

ILO Convention No. 190 is the first international treaty to address violence and harassment in the world of work including gender-based violence. This definition covers everyone who is working, regardless of their gender, status, or nationality, including interns or apprentices, persons who exercise the duties or authority of an employer, those in the public and private sectors, in the formal and informal economies, as well as in urban and rural areas.

Convention 190 provides a common framework for action and a unique opportunity to shape a future of work based on dignity and respect.

Together, during the 16 Day of Activism against gender-based violence, we stand with the ILO in calling on all UN Member States to ratify C190.