

## Understanding Domestic Work

- Influx of Haitian migrants has led to an increasing number of Haitian women and Dominican women of Haitian descent involved in domestic care work.
- The tasks of this work usually include child care, housekeeping services, and cooking.
- Average salary is approximately \$200 USD a month for live-in, full time help, though many make far less..
- They receive no benefits, labor protections, or social security.

## Overview

In the Dominican Republic, the intersection of sexism and racism has contributed to the unchanging oppression of *domesticas* towards political and cultural invisibility. This intersection has normalized inadequate policy, dehumanizing rhetoric, and geopolitical tensions, feeding an unequal and unrepresentative system that is both ignored and accepted.

## The Sexism of Informality

- Workers are often called *domesticas*, *muchachas*, or *chicas* and their work is often minimized to “helping out.”
- The informal word choice in reference to their work attributes the same informal value and respect to the field in Dominican culture.
- “Helping out” is considered “women;s work” . This interpretation of domestic work excludes these women from the formal economy.

## The Migratory Paradox

- Dominican sentiment towards Haitian migrants is overwhelmingly negative, usually based in a patriotic, exclusionary, anti-migrant ideology.
- The D.R. implemented a Birthright Citizenship Cancellation policy in 2014, leaving thousands of Haitians descendants stateless.
- The D.R. simultaneously has one of the highest rates of human capital flight, or *brain drain* in the world.
- About 70 percent of the fully educated labor force immigrates, mostly to the United States or Spain.
- The country also leads in world's largest recipient of remittances as a percent of GDP.



Haitian and Dominican *domesticas* in Santo Domingo protesting, demanding benefits and representation.



## Inadequate Action: Looking Forward

- *La Asociación de Trabajadoras del Hogar (ATH)* and the *Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadoras Domesticas* has been mobilizing women to protest and demand an expansion of their rights.
- The movement, as well as the anti-Haitian citizenship policy have received international pushback..
- The voices of *domesticas* are perpetually hindered by lack of education, resources, and cultural norms.
- The government has acted inadequately.
- There is an increasing awareness of this injustice, and young people have been leading the movement.