

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION**

**Convention concerning the employment of women during the night, adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation at its first session, Washington, 28 November 1919, as modified by the Final Articles Revision Convention, 1946**

*English and French official texts communicated by the Director-General of the International Labour Office. The registration took place on 15 September 1949.*

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**ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL**

**Convention concernant le travail de nuit des femmes, adoptée par la Conférence générale de l'Organisation internationale du Travail à sa première session, Washington, 28 novembre 1919, telle qu'elle a été modifiée par la Convention portant revision des articles finals, 1946**

*Textes officiels anglais et français communiqués par le Directeur général de l'Organisation internationale du Travail. L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 15 septembre 1949.*

No. 587. CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> CONCERNING THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN DURING THE NIGHT, AS MODIFIED BY THE FINAL ARTICLES REVISION CONVENTION, 1946<sup>2</sup>

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Having been convened at Washington by the Government of the United States of America on the 29th day of October 1919, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to "women's employment: during the night," which is part of the third item in the agenda for the Washington meeting of the Conference, and

Having determined that these proposals shall take the form of an international Convention,

adopts the following Convention, which may be cited as the Night Work (Women) Convention, 1919, for ratification by the Members of the International Labour Organisation in accordance with the provisions of the International Labour Organisation :

*Article 1*

1. For the purpose of this Convention, the term "industrial undertaking" includes particularly—

- (a) mines, quarries, and other works for the extraction of minerals from the earth;
- (b) industries in which articles are manufactured, altered, cleaned, repaired, ornamented, finished, adapted for sale, broken up or demolished, or in which materials are transformed; including shipbuilding, and the generation, transformation, and transmission of electricity or motive power of any kind;
- (c) construction, reconstruction, maintenance, repair, alteration, or demolition of any building, railway, tramway, harbour, dock, pier, canal, inland waterway, road, tunnel, bridge, viaduct, sewer, drain, well,

<sup>1</sup> For the date of entry into force of the Convention and the list of ratifications see Certified Statement on page 76.

<sup>2</sup> See page 3.

telegraphic or telephonic installation, electrical undertaking, gas work, water work, or other work of construction, as well as the preparation for or laying the foundations of any such work or structure.

2. The competent authority in each country shall define the line of division which separates industry from commerce and agriculture.

#### *Article 2*

1. For the purpose of this Convention, the term "night" signifies a period of at least eleven consecutive hours, including the interval between ten o'clock in the evening and five o'clock in the morning.

2. In those countries where no Government regulation as yet applies to the employment of women in industrial undertakings during the night, the term "night" may provisionally, and for a maximum period of three years, be declared by the Government to signify a period of only ten hours, including the interval between ten o'clock in the evening and five o'clock in the morning.

#### *Article 3*

Women without distinction of age shall not be employed during the night in any public or private industrial undertaking, or in any branch thereof, other than an undertaking in which only members of the same family are employed.

#### *Article 4*

Article 3 shall not apply—

- (a) in cases of *force majeure*, when in any undertaking there occurs an interruption of work which it was impossible to foresee, and which is not of a recurring character;
- (b) in cases where the work has to do with raw materials or materials in course of treatment which are subject to rapid deterioration, when such night work is necessary to preserve the said materials from certain loss.

#### *Article 5*

In India and Siam, the application of Article 3 of this Convention may be suspended by the Government in respect to any industrial undertaking, except factories as defined by the national law. Notice of every such suspension shall be filed with the International Labour Office.