“WOMEN TO WOMEN DIALOGUES” AT WITS UNIVERSITY,

Johannesburg

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY (8th March)

The DFL campaign team in Johannesburg decided to celebrate International Women’s Day with “women to women dialogues”. Members of the campaign team set up quick conversations with young women workers and students on the Wits campus, young women students who are either already engaged in part-time employment in the service sector or who are preparing to enter the labour market. We used the opportunity to speak about the significance of March 8 and popularize the DFL campaign by handing out our DFL postcards.

The young women we chatted with were friendly, enthusiastic and interested in knowing more about women’s struggles. Many promised to pass on the DFL postcards to their friends.

Even though many of the young women knew little about International Women’s Day they expressed an interest in becoming involved in women’s struggles and the DFL campaign. One young woman was surprised and had the following to say: “you came to speak to us? We thought only our mothers are seen as women and celebrate Women’s Day.” Many of the young women also showed an interest in the mywage website. One young woman captured this sentiment: “a website called mywage, about wages, and it focuses on young women – this is surprising”.

The dialogues gave us an opportunity to understand the challenges young women workers and students face, safety and security being of particular concern. “It is dangerous using public transport returning to our homes after work or lectures perhaps being part of this campaign can help us find solutions to this difficulty”.

All in all our “women to women” dialogues proved to be a success and we hope to make it a regular feature of our DFL campaign work.

Other March 8 activities organized as part of the DFL campaign:

- Lunch time celebrations at Shopping Malls
- SACCAWU – “open day” discussion for young women workers on the 13 March