**CITATION: PATRICIA HORN**

Patricia (Pat) Horn was born in 1951 in Pretoria. She completed her high school education at Pretoria Girl’s High School in 1969. In the early 1970s she attended the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg where she became involved in student politics, women’s groups and worked in adult literacy projects. In 1975, she raised money to start a literacy project for factory workers in the Western Cape and later moved to Durban to start up a similar project in Durban. There, she began to work closely with trade unionists, which earned her a five-year banning order from 1976 until 1981.

Undeterred, and having completed a Bachelor of Arts degree with the University of South Africa in 1981, Ms. Horn resumed work with trade unions in 1982 (first as Branch Secretary and organizer for the Paper, Wood and Allied Workers Union (PWAWU) in Natal province and later the Chemical Workers Industrial Union (CWIU) in Natal province). For about ten years Patricia helped organise women’s committees in many male-dominated industries. Through this, she began to realise that many women workers were not covered by the trade union movements. Women were often engaged in informal work and, as a result were not unionised.

Although recent statistics indicate a large number of people in South Africa work in the informal economy (33% of non-agricultural workers in South Africa are informally employed), historically they have been marginalised and face significant constraints in their ability to make a living. For the past three decades, Pat has been organising women in the informal economy to help them build collective voice to demand their rights.

In 1993, she established SEWU (the Self-Employed Women's Union) - the first of its kind in South Africa. SEWU represented the interests of self-employed and survivalist women engaged in the informal economy, starting first as a provincial-level union and then growing to a nation-wide organisation. The organisation, under Pat’s leadership negotiated with municipal authorities in urban areas such as Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town to have better facilities for street vendors including toilets and clean tap water, shelters, storage, affordable overnight accommodation, safety and child day-care centres. These negotiations greatly influenced the development of the Informal Trading Policy which was adopted in 2002 by the eThekwini Municipality, the first city in the world to develop a policy on informal economy.

Pat also made efforts to organise informal workers for better rights and protections at the international level. In 2002, she helped establish StreetNet International which is an international alliance of street vendor organisations. Membership-based organisations (unions, co-operatives or associations) directly organising street vendors, market vendors and/or hawkers among their members, are entitled to affiliate to StreetNet International and today it has 52 affiliates from 46 countries.

Through StreetNet, member organisations are gaining an understanding of the common problems of street vendors, are developing new ideas to strengthen their organising and advocacy efforts, joining international campaigns to promote policies and actions that can contribute to improving the lives of millions of street vendors, market vendors and hawkers around the world. She currently serves as International Coordinator for the organisation.

She is not only distinguished in her service to informal workers - she has also been cited and published a number of academic journal articles and highlight influential policy documents. She has had a great influence in International Labour Office’s expanded definitions of ‘worker’ and ‘workplace’, which now includes the informal economy. Her work in organising, advocacy and collective bargaining has influenced policy discussions debates across the world.

In recognition of her contributions to society it is befitting that Patricia Horn is awarded an honorary doctorate degree from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.