

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE (STAR)

Mary Liew

Immediate Past President
National Trades Union Congress
General Secretary
Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU)

Nominated by the National Trades Union Congress. Supported by the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union.

Throughout her career, Mary Liew has always had the interests of workers at heart.

Before she was elected to the NTUC Central Committee in 2011, she had advocated workers' rights as a union leader since 1982.

Sister Mary's platform for advocating for workers expanded in 2012 when she represented NTUC as a Nominated Member of Parliament (2012 – 2014). She was subsequently elected as the president of the NTUC Central Committee in 2015.

Often regarded as a unifying force during her tenure with the central committee, Sister Mary demonstrated how unions can support communities and strengthen the social compact so no worker gets left behind as Singapore progresses.

As a Labour Movement leader, Sister Mary has championed the interests of all workers, from lower-wage workers to freelancers and professionals, managers, and executives (PMEs).

While her representation at the annual National Wages Council has helped secure quantitative guidelines for higher wage increases for lower-wage workers, she has also concurrently pushed for workplace fairness and career progression support for PMEs and increased protection and representation for freelancers and self-employed workers.

Thanks to her contributions, businesses and the workforce continue transforming and adapting to new economic environments, and more workplaces have embraced flexible work arrangements.

Sister Mary's advocacy to protect seafarers and recognise them as essential workers in the global economy during the COVID-19 pandemic has left an enduring mark.

She has provided practical and invaluable advice at the congress level (such as NTUC Industrial Relations, Membership and Training councils), the national level (such as Future Economy Council and National Wages Council), and the international level as an International Deputy Member of the Workers' Group in the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Governing Board and as Vice-President of the International Transport Workers' (ITF) Federation.

She is also a Board Director of NTUC Enterprise Co-operative Ltd.

For her contributions to the nation and her fellow workers, Sister Mary was awarded the Public Service Medal, Public Service Star (COVID-19), and Public Service Star (BBM) in 2017, 2022, and 2023, respectively.