

A Knowledge Sharing Forum on Women, Work and Migration

7-9 April 2018

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Programme as of 02 April 2018

Day 1: Saturday, 7 April 2018		<i>(Venue: Galle face: Room 2/3, Galle Face Hotel)</i>
08:30	Registration	
09:00 - 09:30	Opening remarks by the Organisers 1. <i>Igor Bosc, Work in Freedom, International Labour Organization (ILO)</i> 2. <i>Bandana Pattanaik, Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW)</i>	
09:30 - 10:45	<u>Plenary Panel: Examining the Big Picture: politics, labour, and women's livelihoods in Asia</u> Moderator: <i>Marie-José Tayah, International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF)</i> This is a context setting panel which outlines the big picture of how misguided development paradigms, multiple discriminations and labour market inequalities impact on the lives and livelihoods of people, especially women. Panelists will address the implications of undermining workers' protection for economic growth in terms of both the current state-of-play and the future of workers' protection and decent work. While detailing the negative impacts, panelists would also share where they see examples of resistance and possibilities for change. Panelists: 1. <i>Ritu Dewan, Centre for Development Research and Action</i> 2. <i>Soma Kishore Parthasarathy, Mahila Kisan Adhikaar Manch (MAKAAM)</i> 3. <i>Namita Waikar, People's Archive for Rural India (PARI)</i> 4. <i>Misun Woo, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)</i> Q&A	
10:45 - 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 - 12:30	<u>Plenary Panel: Understanding Women's Labour Migration in Asia</u> Moderator: <i>Nalini Nayak, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) Kerala</i> This session will aim to deepen our understanding of migration, especially the global politics of border control and bans on female labour migration in Asia and elsewhere. How do we uphold rights of all migrant workers and critique policing of national borders and also not condone the policies that force people to leave? How do we uphold women's right to mobility and critique bans and yet not close our eyes to other rights violations that are at the root of distress migration? Out-migration is promoted without sufficient rights' guarantees in jobs abroad, yet rights at home are also at risk when land grabs by corporates are ignored and sustainable agriculture is under attack from trade agreements and agribusiness. How do we respect individual decisions to migrate and facilitate safe passage and yet ensure that alternative livelihood and employment options are available for women, should they decide not to migrate? How do we locate resistance within this challenging landscape? How do we base our advocacy on the lived realities of women workers? Panelists: 1. <i>Manju Gurung, Pourakhi Nepal</i> 2. <i>Sumaiya Islam, Bangladeshi Ovibashi Mohila Sramik Association (BOMSA)</i> 3. <i>Marie-José Tayah, IDWF</i> 4. <i>Sepali Kottegoda, Women & Media Collective, Sri Lanka</i> Q&A	

12:30 - 13:30	Lunch		
13:30 – 15:45	<p>Parallel Workshops: Women’s lives impacted by policy decisions</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Thematic Group 1: The impact of economic uncertainty on women’s livelihoods: learning, sharing and strategies for resilience Facilitators: <i>Suneetha Eluri, Independent Consultant; Muktashree Chakma, Supporting People and Rebuilding Communities (SPARC)</i></p> <p>a. What are the impacts of the current economic models (e.g. the gig economy, rural and urban development) on decent work standards and women’s ability to secure decent livelihoods? b. What has been the impact of policy decisions on workers’ rights? What are the implications of weakening workers’ rights for women and, what strategies have been adopted to cope? c. How are women resisting?</p> </td> <td> <p>Thematic Group 2: The impact of development policies on women’s mobility: learning, sharing and strategies for resilience Facilitators: <i>Sr. Lissy Joseph, National Workers Welfare Trust; Praveena Kodoth, Centre for Development Studies</i></p> <p>a. What are the impacts of the current development models (e.g. migration as development strategies, rural and urban development) on migration? b. How have State policies (e.g. travel bans) in sending and destination countries impacted women’s mobility and ability to seek decent livelihoods? c. What are the examples/instances of resistance?</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Thematic Group 1: The impact of economic uncertainty on women’s livelihoods: learning, sharing and strategies for resilience Facilitators: <i>Suneetha Eluri, Independent Consultant; Muktashree Chakma, Supporting People and Rebuilding Communities (SPARC)</i></p> <p>a. What are the impacts of the current economic models (e.g. the gig economy, rural and urban development) on decent work standards and women’s ability to secure decent livelihoods? b. What has been the impact of policy decisions on workers’ rights? What are the implications of weakening workers’ rights for women and, what strategies have been adopted to cope? c. How are women resisting?</p>	<p>Thematic Group 2: The impact of development policies on women’s mobility: learning, sharing and strategies for resilience Facilitators: <i>Sr. Lissy Joseph, National Workers Welfare Trust; Praveena Kodoth, Centre for Development Studies</i></p> <p>a. What are the impacts of the current development models (e.g. migration as development strategies, rural and urban development) on migration? b. How have State policies (e.g. travel bans) in sending and destination countries impacted women’s mobility and ability to seek decent livelihoods? c. What are the examples/instances of resistance?</p>
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17:00 - 17:45	<p>Learning Sessions:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Dance Movement Therapy Workshop <i>Srijana Pun Magar, Women Forum for Women in Nepal (WOFOWON), and Bhagwati Adhikari, Kolkota Sanved</i></p> <p>“<i>What’s the Point of Revolution if We Can’t Dance?</i>”, asked Jane Barry and Jelena Djordjevic in their 2008 book that chronicled the personal and political stories of activism that leave many of us fatigued, isolated and ill. The book also talked about strategies that activists have used to sustain themselves and their movements.</p> <p>Dance Movement Therapy is one such strategy. It is fun, it is relaxing and it is energizing. GAATW-IS has invited Srijana and Bhagawati, two young activists from Nepal to lead the session. Sign up, if you would like to join the session.</p> </td> <td> <p>Women Workers and the Media (17:00 – 18:30) <i>Namita Waikar, People’s Archive of Rural India (PARI), Vani Saraswathi, Janak Sapkota (tbc)</i></p> <p>How is different media used to share the stories of women workers and migrants? What are the ethical considerations and challenges with this? How are mainstream narratives and discourses around migrants, development and work contributing to inequality, racism and xenophobia, and how can media/journalism can challenge misconceptions and biases towards women’s work and migration? We will learn how journalists are addressing these questions in their work covering migrants' and workers' lives in South Asia and the Middle East, and also hear about the work of PARI, ‘The Grindmill Songs Project’ - a collection of over 100,000 folk songs composed and sung by the women of Maharashtra over generations, insights into village life and culture; gender, class, and caste issues; religion; relationships between women and their children, husbands, siblings, and larger communities; and various contemporary social and political concerns.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Dance Movement Therapy Workshop <i>Srijana Pun Magar, Women Forum for Women in Nepal (WOFOWON), and Bhagwati Adhikari, Kolkota Sanved</i></p> <p>“<i>What’s the Point of Revolution if We Can’t Dance?</i>”, asked Jane Barry and Jelena Djordjevic in their 2008 book that chronicled the personal and political stories of activism that leave many of us fatigued, isolated and ill. The book also talked about strategies that activists have used to sustain themselves and their movements.</p> <p>Dance Movement Therapy is one such strategy. It is fun, it is relaxing and it is energizing. GAATW-IS has invited Srijana and Bhagawati, two young activists from Nepal to lead the session. Sign up, if you would like to join the session.</p>	<p>Women Workers and the Media (17:00 – 18:30) <i>Namita Waikar, People’s Archive of Rural India (PARI), Vani Saraswathi, Janak Sapkota (tbc)</i></p> <p>How is different media used to share the stories of women workers and migrants? What are the ethical considerations and challenges with this? How are mainstream narratives and discourses around migrants, development and work contributing to inequality, racism and xenophobia, and how can media/journalism can challenge misconceptions and biases towards women’s work and migration? We will learn how journalists are addressing these questions in their work covering migrants' and workers' lives in South Asia and the Middle East, and also hear about the work of PARI, ‘The Grindmill Songs Project’ - a collection of over 100,000 folk songs composed and sung by the women of Maharashtra over generations, insights into village life and culture; gender, class, and caste issues; religion; relationships between women and their children, husbands, siblings, and larger communities; and various contemporary social and political concerns.</p>
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18:30 - 19:00	<p>Statement drafting meeting * participants are welcome to join and contribute to the discussions</p>		

Day 2: Sunday, 8 April 2018		<i>(Venue: Galle face: Room 2/3, Galle Face Hotel)</i>			
08:45 - 09:45	Recap and Introduction by GAATW				
09:00 - 10:30	<p><u>Plenary Panel: We are Workers (local and migrant)</u> Moderator: <i>Anannya Bhattacharjee, Asia Floor Wage Alliance</i></p> <p>Most jobs, whether they are at home or abroad, are temporary with very little provision for rights protection and with women disproportionately represented among those in temporary and part-time forms employment. Contractual jobs are on the rise even in the so called formal sector. What does ‘safe migration’ and ‘decent work’ mean in this context? What is the gender-based violence that women face at work places as citizen or migrant workers? What are the existing mechanisms to address those?</p> <p>The panel will address the questions above and highlight similarities and differences across sectors.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Chamila Tushari, Dabindu Collective</i> 2. <i>Srijana Pun Magar, Women Forum for Women in Nepal (WOFOWON)</i> 3. <i>Aarathi Pai, SANGRAM, India</i> 4. <i>Evangelina V. Ybo, United Filipino Organization Jordan</i> <p>Q&A</p>				
10:30 - 10:45	Coffee break				
10:45 - 12:30	<p><u>Panel Discussion: Working on ‘Safe-Migration’ in changing communities</u> Moderator: <i>Alfie Gordo, GAATW International Secretariat</i></p> <p>While abuse and exploitation of women workers in the process of migration and at work places are rampant, the experience of migration also empowers women. The group of ‘NGO workers’ who work with women in the communities of origin and destination are variously referred to as ‘community workers’, ‘peer workers’ or ‘field workers’. Some of them have first-hand experience of migration. Many have experiences of abuse and exploitation as well. They are the first person outside of the family that a woman considering migration talks to. In communities of destination, they are the bridge between the local ‘outreach worker’ and the migrant workers. The session will highlight the changes within and without as perceived by the community workers.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Gyanisara Rana , ABC Nepal</i> 2. <i>Shapla Akter , Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program (OKUP)</i> 3. <i>Manita Sapkota, Pourakhi</i> 4. <i>Seema Lakra, Samarthan</i> 5. <i>Khem Kumari Niroula , Women’s Rehabilitation Centre Nepal (WOREC)</i> <p>Q&A</p>				
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch – Group Photo				
13:30 - 15:45	<p><u>Parallel Workshops: We are Women (defending the rights of ALL women in the world of work)</u></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Thematic Group 1: Addressing gender-based violence in the workplace Facilitators: <i>Sepali Kottegoda, Women and Media Collective) Sara Khatib, Solidarity Centre Jordan</i></p> <p>a. What are the issues surrounding gender-based violence across different sectors? What are the</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Thematic Group 2: Addressing decent work deficits and rights’ violations in the workplace Facilitators: <i>Anannya Bhattacharjee, Asia Floor Wage Alliance, Dilrukshi Handunnetti, Journalist</i></p> <p>a. What are the issues decent work deficit and rights’ violations across different sectors? What are the</p> </td> </tr> </table>			<p>Thematic Group 1: Addressing gender-based violence in the workplace Facilitators: <i>Sepali Kottegoda, Women and Media Collective) Sara Khatib, Solidarity Centre Jordan</i></p> <p>a. What are the issues surrounding gender-based violence across different sectors? What are the</p>	<p>Thematic Group 2: Addressing decent work deficits and rights’ violations in the workplace Facilitators: <i>Anannya Bhattacharjee, Asia Floor Wage Alliance, Dilrukshi Handunnetti, Journalist</i></p> <p>a. What are the issues decent work deficit and rights’ violations across different sectors? What are the</p>
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	<p>implications for women living and working in their home countries/local context and those that are not?</p> <p>b. What are the remedies available to women workers – as workers in their home countries/local context, and as non-citizens? What strategies (formal and informal) are adopted?</p>	<p>implications for women working in their home countries/local context and those that are not?</p> <p>b. What are the remedies available to women workers – as workers in their home countries/local context, and as non-citizens? What strategies (formal and informal) are adopted?</p>
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00 - 17:00	<p>Plenary Panel: Defending the rights of all women in the world of work Moderator: <i>Bandana Pattanaik, International Coordinator, GAATW</i> (This is the sharing session of the Workshop)</p>	
17:00 - 18:00	<p>Conceptual Clarity Discussions:</p>	
	<p>What is ‘safe and fair’ to you? <i>Marie-José Tayah, IDWF</i></p> <p>Developing an understanding of ‘decent work’ and migration concepts.</p> <p>(participants who plan to attend this discussion are strongly encouraged to read Antoine Pècouc’s work on <i>Depoliticising Migration: Global Governance and International Migration Narratives</i>, prior to the session. You can access the article here)</p>	<p>Violence in the World of Work <i>Igor Bosc and Bharti Birla, ILO</i></p> <p>International frameworks: the Convention on Violence in the World of Work – what you need to know?</p> <p>(participants who plan to attend this discussion are strongly encouraged to read the ILO 2018 Report on <i>Ending Violence and Harassment in the World of Work</i>, prior to the session. You can access the report here)</p>
<p>Day 3 Monday, 9 April 2018 <i>(Venue: Galle face: Room 2/3, Galle Face Hotel)</i></p>		
08:45 - 09:45	<p>Recap and Introduction by GAATW</p>	
09:00 - 10:45	<p>Plenary Panel: Collectivisation and Unionizing; Organising for Change Moderator: <i>Igor Bosc, Work in Freedom, International Labour Organization (ILO)</i></p> <p>Workers organising is rightly seen as a transformative strategy for change and has a long history across the globe. Organising among women, whether informal or formal, is at the core of the women’s movements. Similarly, unionizing is at the core of labour rights movements, acting as the driver for collective bargaining and workers’ empowerment processes. What is the current state of organising and unionizing among women workers in Asia? How do women workers who are not recognised as workers, organise themselves? Which organisations support formation of a collective identity for isolated and/or undocumented migrant workers by creating a friendly space for them? How do workers educate themselves and develop a collective identity? How do organized women workers address the patriarchal practices within their trade unions? What are the examples of solidarity between workers’ rights movements? What could be our strategies for addressing violence at work places? These are some of the questions that this panel will respond to.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Binda Pandey, General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (GEFONT)</i> 2. <i>Mervat Jumhawy, Al-Hassan Workers Centre, Jordan</i> 3. <i>Allison Finn, Anti-Racism Movement, Lebanon</i> 4. <i>BV Vijayalaxmi, All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)</i> <p>Q&A</p>	
10:45 - 11:00	Coffee break	

11:00 – 13:00	Parallel Workshops: Strategies for building cross-occupational solidarity, advocacy and networking	
	<p>Thematic Group 1: Creating spaces for workers’ solidarity and organising Facilitators: <i>Soma Kishore Parthasarathy, MAKAAAM, Raksha Kumar, Journalist</i></p> <p>a. Given shrinking spaces for organising across the world, what can be done to ensure that women workers have freedom to raise their voices against injustices?</p> <p>b. What are the suitable strategies to advocate for women’s inter-occupational solidarity including the use of new technologies and social media?</p>	<p>Thematic Group 2: Collective bargaining across occupations Facilitators: <i>Nalini Nayak, SEWA, Leah Sullivan, GAATW-IS</i></p> <p>a. How has collective bargaining protected women’s livelihoods? How can all women workers be included (e.g., migrant women workers)?</p> <p>b. What are the suitable strategies to improve solidarity across movements including the use of new technologies?</p>
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 15:15	<p>Plenary Panel: Strategies for building cross-occupational solidarity and advocacy Moderator: <i>Bandana Pattanaik, GAATW</i> (this is the sharing session of the Workshop)</p>	
15:15 - 15:45	Coffee break	
15:30 - 16:15	<p>Wrapping up: Solidarity and Advocacy Across Silos <i>Statement building session</i></p>	
16:15 - 16:45	<p>Closing remarks 1. <i>Simrin Singh, ILO Sri Lanka</i> 2. <i>Bandana Pattanaik, GAATW</i></p>	