

The header features a dark orange background with a black silhouette of a world map. White lines and yellow dots are overlaid on the map, representing a global network or data flow. The text 'GAATW E-Bulletin' is positioned on the left side in white, bold, sans-serif font.

# GAATW E-Bulletin

08.2021



Dear friends,

Subscribe!

In many parts of the world, our sister organisations are battling a (re)surge of COVID-19 infections. We lost friends and comrades from India in the past few months and we hope that our members and friends in Indonesia, where the situation is particularly bad, are staying safe. Countries in Europe and North America continue to hoard vaccines, while many in Asia, Africa and Latin America are struggling to secure anywhere near enough doses. Even when this eventually happens, misinformation on social media, especially Facebook, will probably hamper vaccination efforts – as is already happening in the Global North.

In other tech news, it was recently revealed that software developed by an Israeli company, and likely backed by the state, has been used for unauthorised surveillance of journalists, human rights defenders, and political opposition leaders. The assault of autocratic governments, corporations, and technology companies on democracy, human rights, and social cohesion is relentless.

The climate crisis is dominating the news too, from heatwaves and forest fires in the US, Canada, Russia, and Southern Europe to droughts in Brazil and Madagascar, to floods in Germany, India, China and Philippines. And, as if we needed more proof of how disconnected from reality the billionaire class is, two rich white guys actually tried to [leave the planet](#).

On a more positive note, in June we saw the [entry into force](#) of the ILO Convention C190 on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work, which is now ratified by six countries – Argentina, Ecuador, Fiji, Namibia, Somalia and Uruguay. Together with Recommendation No. 206, the Convention recognises the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment and provides a common framework for action.

Also in June, we marked the [tenth anniversary](#) since the adoption of another ILO Convention – on Decent Work for Domestic Workers. We celebrate these achievements and join our comrades from the women's rights and labour rights movements in calling on governments to protect the rights of women workers, including by ratifying and implementing these instruments.

Lastly, if you haven't done so yet, please see our most recent [blog post](#) on the

occasion of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons that was marked on 30 July. In it, our International Coordinator Bandana Pattanaik reflects on what the meaningful inclusion of victims, survivors, and workers in anti-trafficking work can and should look like.

Our fight continues.

As always, we welcome your feedback and input for this e-Bulletin at [borislav@gaatw.org](mailto:borislav@gaatw.org)

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## Interview: Tenth Anniversary of *Anti-Trafficking Review*

We launched *Anti-Trafficking Review* - the first open access, peer-reviewed journal that focuses on the issue of human trafficking - in 2011. On the occasion of this tenth anniversary, the journal Editor, Borislav Gerasimov, spoke to three of the women who conceptualised and launched the journal and have continued to support it in various capacities: Bandana Pattanaik, Caroline Robinson, and Rebecca Napier-Moore.

They discuss the need for a specialised journal, why open access, some of the contributions it has made over the years, as well as potential future directions. [Read the interview.](#)

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## News from the GAATW International Secretariat



### First Round of Women Workers for Change Series Comes to a Conclusion

In early 2021, GAATW and 22 member and partner organisations in Nepal, Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Uganda, Ethiopia, Argentina, Colombia and Mexico kickstarted the 'Women Workers for Change' (WW4C) series — a praxis-oriented discussion on ways to strengthen women workers' collectivisation globally. We held online discussions to understand what women workers who engage in unpaid and paid labour define as 'change' in their lives. How do they want to participate in creating change? We explored how rights organisations can improve our accountability towards women workers and include their voices and perspectives in our work. We shared challenges of organising and strategies of success. [Read more.](#)



### New Issue of *Anti-Trafficking Review*: "Trafficking in Minors"

In April, we published the [new special issue of \*Anti-Trafficking Review\* themed 'Trafficking in Minors'](#) and guest-edited by Brenda Oude Breuil. It explores the phenomenon of child trafficking and related ones, such as adolescents' independent

migration, child labour, online sexual exploitation, forced criminality, and commercial gestational surrogacy. In seven full-length research and conceptual articles, and two short articles, authors analyse these issues and their representations in media and popular discourse, campaigns, the work of frontline practitioners, and government policies. [Read more.](#)



## Strengthening Intersectional Analyses and Responses to Labour Migration

In April, we launched a six-part series titled [“Feminist Fridays: Conversations about Labour Migration from a Feminist Lens”](#), in collaboration with Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID), Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX), Solidarity Center, and Women in Migration Network (WIMN).

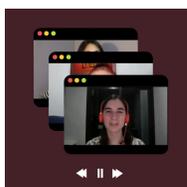
In these sessions, we reflected on how to undertake the complex work of standing in solidarity with migrant workers and celebrating their agency while also highlighting the abuse and exploitation they face. Feminist academics, civil society leaders, and migrant workers themselves discussed how to better understand and represent the lived experiences of migrant workers, especially women, who are overrepresented in low-paid and precarious jobs in the informal sector, and who have absorbed even greater caring responsibilities during the pandemic. [Read more.](#)



## Call for papers: Migration, Sexuality and Gender Identity

*Anti-Trafficking Review* published a new call for papers for a Special Issue themed ‘Migration, Sexuality, and Gender Identity’ guest-edited by Svati P. Shah. The aim of this issue is to analyse the experiences of LGBTU+ people with migration, asylum, informal labour, trafficking, community building away from home and more. In addition to full-length conceptual, research-based, or case study thematic papers, the special issue invites short, blog-style articles related to the issue’s theme, particularly contributions from queer migrants (including refugees, victims of trafficking, sex workers and others) and community advocates.

The deadline for submissions is 15 November. For more information, see the [full call for papers](#) or email the editorial team at [atr@gaatw.org](mailto:atr@gaatw.org)



## Video Series: Looking Back, Looking Forward: The UN Trafficking Protocol at 20

In 2020, a number of events marked the twentieth anniversary of the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol. As we attended some of them, we were often disappointed that NGOs, particularly women’s organisations and service providers from the Global South, were not invited to speak. To highlight some of these perspectives, we produced [a series](#) of eleven videos. We spoke with Bandana Pattanaik, the GAATW International Coordinator, Archana Kotecha from Liberty Shared and the Remedy

Project, Hong Kong, Simanti Dasgupta from the University of Dayton, Ohio, USA, Martina Vandenberg from the Human Trafficking Legal Center, USA, Marija Andjelkovic from ASTRA, Serbia, Graziella Rocha from ASBRAD, Brazil, Ishita Dutta from IWRAW-AP, Malaysia, Nadia Kozhouharova from Animus Association, Bulgaria, Laura Agustín, author of *Sex at the Margins*, Betty Pedraza from Espacios de Mujer, Colombia and Jackie and Diane from Voice for Sexual Rights, Philippines. [Read more.](#)

## News from GAATW Member Organisations



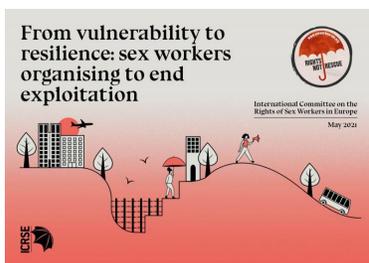
### New Member: Shanti Foundation, Nepal

Shanti Foundation is a non-profit community-based organisation by and for human trafficking survivors and women living with HIV established in 2016. It aims to transform their grief and shame into courage and power so that other women and girls like them don't have to face the same stigma and discrimination. The Foundation works for the successful reintegration of human trafficking survivors and HIV/AIDS-infected/affected women, youth of all genders, and children through counselling, prevention and protection, treatment, and the development of sustainable livelihoods and economic empowerment. See their complete profile on the [GAATW website](#).



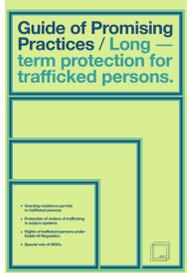
### Labour Conditions in the UK Hospitality Sector

In July, FLEX published the report *"To help workers, I would tell the Government to..." Participatory Research with Workers in the UK Hospitality Sector*. This is the second of three working papers exploring the experiences and drivers of labour abuse and exploitation in three understudied low-paid sectors of the economy in the UK: cleaning, hospitality and the app-based courier sector. This latest research highlights key workplace issues in the hospitality sector, finding it to be a high-risk sector for labour abuse and exploitation, with workers experiencing frequent issues with pay, inability to take time off sick, dangerous working conditions and work-related violence. [Read more.](#)



### Sex Work, Migration, Exploitation and Trafficking

Sex workers globally organise, unionise and develop and share initiatives to protect themselves and their peers from violence, exploitation and human rights violations. Many sex workers' organisations also play a vital role in preventing children from entering into the sex industry and supporting women who have been trafficked into it. As critical enablers for addressing violence and exploitation in the sex work sector, they contribute to the creation of more resilient communities, despite having no or limited funding. ICRSE's new report, *From vulnerability to resilience: sex workers organising to end exploitation* aims to support the recognition of the work of community-based and community-led programmes in the field of anti-trafficking. [Read more.](#)



## protection for trafficked persons

Trafficked persons' access to long term or permanent residence is critical for their safety, stability and future perspective. The regularisation of their stay is an integral part of their right to effective remedies and access to justice and it should be granted in the practice. Starting from the identification of gaps and barriers in the effective protection of trafficked persons, this new Guide shares promising existing practices in line with a coherent referral to the

most appropriate channel of protection securing their rights and access to a durable solution. [Read more.](#)



## Update from Our Members in Latin America

The COVID-19 pandemic struck Latin America and the Caribbean at a time of low economic growth, rising inequalities and growing social unrest. The impacts of the health and socioeconomic crises have laid bare

existing structural gaps in the region: poverty, vulnerability, high levels of inequality, labour informality, and limited or no access to social protections. With slow vaccination rates in most countries, overburdened hospitals and the world's highest death rate per capita, South America has now become the focal point of the pandemic. [Read more.](#)



## Save the Date: Trafficking in Human Beings and Data Policy

Data collection and analysis on trafficking in human beings and exploitation are essential in order to determine the extent of this human rights violation, develop political action plans and measures for the protection of trafficked persons as well as to fight the

crime. At the same time, data collection is associated with a variety of challenges and different interests.

At this conference, scheduled for 14 and 15 October 2021 in Berlin, KOK, the German NGO network against human trafficking, will discuss the topic of data collection on trafficking in human beings and exploitation in the context of current developments in Germany with experts, practitioners and politicians. Specific questions to be discussed include: Which goals can and should data collection on trafficking pursue? How can international legal requirements be implemented? Are there best practice examples in other countries, what do they look like and what is the state of affairs in Germany? Participants will also discuss challenges in ensuring comprehensive data protection for marginalised groups on the one hand and civil society, especially for specialised counselling centres for trafficked persons, on the other.

For more information, [contact KOK.](#)

## New Journal: 'Human. Society. State: Gender Perspective'

La Strada Ukraine founded this new academic, open access journal because of the identified need to bridge women's rights perspectives



and academia, and strengthen the response to anti-gender initiatives and backlash against women's rights globally.

The journal invites academics, PhD and post-graduate students and civil society activists to share their conceptual and empirical work. It will highlight gender policy ideas in different areas of social life and the knowledge gained from science and research. It will focus on the fields of law, state management, psychology, sociology, social work

and others.

The journal will publish in Ukrainian and English with at least two issues per year. For more information, and to make a submission, visit the journal's [home page](#).



## ASTRA Spotlights the Role of NGO in Combating Human Trafficking

ASTRA – Anti-Trafficking Action launched a campaign **20 YEARS OF FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING – 20 YEARS OF FIGHTING FOR PEOPLE**. The campaign emphasises the role and achievements of the civil sector in the prevention of human trafficking and protection of victims. It coincides with

the twentieth anniversary of Serbia's ratification of the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol. [Read more.](#)

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## Resources

### **Rights at Risk: The Observatory on the Universality of Rights Trends Report 2021**

Observatory on the Universality of Rights

Today, a complex and evolving network of anti-rights actors is exerting more influence in international and regional spaces as well as domestic politics, in particular, in relation to women's rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and LGBTI+ rights. Anti-rights actors employ a range of persuasive discourses to gain legitimacy, often co-opting the language of rights and justice to hide their true agendas. This report provides an analysis of key anti-rights actors, their discourses, strategies, and impacts. It also features inspiring short stories of feminist action, and knowledge-building exercises to help strengthen our collective resistance.

### **Safe Migration and the Politics of Brokered Safety in Southeast Asia**

Sverre Molland

Since the early 2000s, numerous non-governmental organisations (NGOs), UN agencies, and governments have warmed to the concept of safe migration, often within a context of anti-trafficking interventions. Yet, both the policy-enthusiasm for safety, as well as how safe migration comes into being through policies and programmes remain unexplored. Based on seven years of ethnographic fieldwork in the Mekong region, this is the first book that traces the emergence of safe migration, why certain aid actors gravitate towards the concept, as well as how safe migration policies and programmes unfold through aid agencies and government bodies. The book argues that safe migration is best understood as *brokered safety*. Although safe migration policy interventions attempt to formalise pre-emptive and protective measures to enhance labour migrants' well-being, the book shows through vivid

ethnographic details how formal migration assistance in itself depends on – and produces – informal and mediated practices.

Currently, several chapters of the book are open-access and the author is working on making more chapters open access.

### **The Work in Freedom Handbook: A critical glossary of terms relating to freedom and unfreedom in the world of work**

International Labour Organization

The purpose of this critical glossary is to deconstruct some of the commonly used concepts related to exploitation - such as forced labour, human trafficking, modern slavery, child labour, and more - in order to flag their blindspots, merits and other characteristics. Each of these conceptual constructs implies a different way of seeing the world, a different history of understanding and a very different framework of action.

### **Freedom of movement for persons identified as victims of human trafficking**

Marika McAdam for ASEAN-Australia CounterTrafficking

This study offers insights into the restrictions that are placed on the freedom of movement of victims of trafficking in the ASEAN Region that may result as States responsible for protecting victims and prosecuting traffickers weigh their own interests more heavily than the rights of victims. It considers the tensions between victims' rights, for example, to freedom of movement and states' need for their testimonials in order to prosecute traffickers. How to balance those rights and needs are the questions at the heart of the Study. Ultimately, it aims to improve the understanding of why certain measures are applied and what actions could be taken to address negative outcomes.

### **Commercial Gestational Surrogacy: Unravelling the threads between reproductive tourism and child trafficking**

Nishat Hyder-Rahman

Narratives of commercial gestational surrogacy (CGS) as 'baby-selling' often conflate or interchange the transfer of children born via surrogacy with trafficking in children or the sale of children, two sometimes overlapping but nonetheless distinct offenses. Moreover, anti-trafficking laws have been used to police cross-border CGS. But when do CGS arrangements fall within the category of legitimate 'reproductive tourism' and when do they amount to child trafficking? This article explores intersections between human trafficking laws and CGS, vis-à-vis the child, charting the relevant trafficking laws in the context of international surrogacy, and analysing whether trafficking laws are an appropriate mechanism through which to regulate CGS. It concludes that while child trafficking might occur via surrogacy, CGS in itself is not child trafficking under international law.

### **State of occupational safety and health practices at workplace for domestic workers in COVID-19 and possibilities for action**

International Labour Organization

This report is an update of ILO's 2015 study of the impact of migration restrictions on migrant domestic workers, *No Easy Exit: Migration Bans Affecting Women from Nepal*. However, it focuses on the policy formulation phase itself. The findings identify and characterise the ways in which stakeholders (governmental and otherwise)

formulate policy narratives, negotiate policies and regulations and invoke knowledge claims in order to justify regulatory and policy interventions related to women migrant workers, migrant domestic workers and associated thematic areas – including anti-trafficking frameworks, frameworks combatting forced labour, domestic work and more. The report was presented at a webinar organised by ILO New Delhi, which can be viewed [here](#).



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