

e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

July 2016

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the new issue of the GAATW e-Bulletin!

The past three months have been exciting for the GAATW Secretariat. We welcomed five new members to our team - two Programme Officers in the communications and advocacy team, two Regional Programme Officers for South and Southeast Asia respectively, a Programme Coordinator and an external lead Researcher (see more below). Although our team is largely new and will need some learning time before functioning optimally, each one of us are committed to enrich the IS with our experience and expertise, give our best to the Alliance and contribute meaningfully to the movements for rights and justice.

The GAATW International Coordinator participated in the [ILO Interregional knowledge-sharing forum on migrant domestic workers](#) in Madagascar, the [4th Women Deliver Conference](#) in Copenhagen, and the [Global Meeting on Migration and Development 2016](#) in Charmey, bringing GAATW's knowledge and unique perspective of gender, migration, labour and human trafficking to these events.

As the world marked International Workers Day on 1 May, we asked in a [blog post](#) whether, seeing the gradual erosion of labour rights, May Day gives us a cause for celebration or is rather a time to reflect, re-strategise and reorganise? This question was not unfounded, as we witnessed hundreds of [worker rallies](#) around the world, some of which ended up in [violent clashes](#) with the police, like in Seattle, Istanbul and Paris. And as if to prove us right, just two weeks later French President François Hollande [vowed](#) that, despite massive protests, he will not back down from a controversial labour reform that will benefit businesses at the expense of workers.

But while French workers in the formal economy will still enjoy certain protections and have trade unions behind them, French sex workers were dealt a blow when the National Assembly voted in April to criminalise their clients under the guise of fighting human trafficking and promoting gender equality, despite the [opposition](#) of hundreds of sex workers, health, feminist and human rights organisations. At the EU level, the European Commission published a [study](#) on the gender dimensions of trafficking, and the European Parliament prepared a [report](#) on the implementation of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive from a gender perspective, both of which recommended the 'Swedish model' as a measure to combat trafficking. We joined our friends from the International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe, Tampep and La Strada International in urging Members of the European Parliament not to vote on the problematic texts, to no avail.

Although the Nordic winds of prostitution ideology may be blowing in Europe, South Africa is listening to sex workers and [may be moving towards decriminalisation](#), after the launch of the [National Sex Worker HIV Plan](#) in March. Amnesty International also published its long-awaited [policy on the obligation of states to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of sex workers](#), which we welcomed in a [statement](#). For our part, we started a new research project, which aims to explore if and how organising helps sex workers prevent and address abuses in the sex industry, including trafficking.

In Asia, as SAARC governments met to prepare their new action plan on migration, our new Programme Officer for South Asia wrote [an op-ed](#), urging them to listen to the women migrant domestic workers that they claim to want to protect and adopt measures that will work in their benefit. We also [reflected](#) on a recent visit to Jordan, where we held a focus group discussion with women migrant domestic workers from Bangladesh, to find out how they understand 'justice' and how they access justice after experiencing rights violations. On International Domestic Workers Day we wrote a short [blog post](#) about our and our partners' work in supporting and promoting the rights of women migrant domestic workers in Asia. We also submitted a [contribution](#) to the Indian government's consultation on the Draft Trafficking Of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2016. But then just last week we were reminded of the violent world we live in, after the terrorist attacks in Dhaka and Baghdad left hundreds of victims. We express our deepest sympathy with the victims of these cruel attacks and hope for a transparent investigation and justice.

In Latin America women took to the streets to protest the socio-political and economic environment and the pervasive gender-based violence and sexual violence that women endure. In Colombia women protested after Bogota's city government implied that [Rosa Elvira Cely](#), a homicide victim who had become a symbol of violence against women, was responsible for her own rape and death - a position that UN Women condemned in a [statement](#). Also in Colombia, after weeks of [police brutality](#), the *campesino* movement obtained a [partial agreement](#) with the government that recognised social protest as a right that must be respected and guaranteed by the state, meaning the end of criminalisation of social organisations. In Brazil, women [stood up](#) against the 'impeachment' of president Rousseff and the new interim president and government, which is already returning to structural adjustment policies and suppressing human rights. And in both Brazil and Argentina women [organised huge demonstrations](#) to oppose violence against women in 'macho' Latin America.

But even as life seems gloomy, we need to remember that it is colourful too. June was marked in many countries as Pride Month - an idea conceived by a feminist - and millions of people go out on the streets to celebrate love, equality and diversity. Even though this year's celebrations were tarnished by the horrifying homophobic attack in Orlando in the US, many cities will be waving the rainbow flag in the coming months, and Ukraine held its first major peaceful ['March of Equality' in Kyiv](#). So whether it rains, snows or shines where you are, we wish you happy and colourful summer months.

As always we welcome your feedback and contributions to future issues at borislav@gaatw.org.



News from the GAATW International Secretariat

New colleagues join the GAATW Secretariat

We are pleased to announce the expansion of our team with five new colleagues. In March we welcomed Leah Sullivan and Borislav Gerasimov to the Communications and Advocacy team. Leah has previously worked with Anti-Slavery International, UNDP and the EU Mission to the UN and Borislav has long work experience with our European members Animus Association and La Strada International. Together with Alfie Gordo, they will develop and implement GAATW-IS's Communications and Advocacy Strategy and strengthen GAATW's role and presence on the international arena. In April we welcomed Gita Jena as a Programme Coordinator and Maitreyi Gupta as a Project Officer South Asia. Gita has 25 years of professional career in the field of promoting gender, justice, equality and inclusive and just development with, among others, Oxfam/Novib. At GAATW-IS she will help strengthen our programmes and team. Maitreyi is an international women's rights lawyer from India and has worked on labour migration, human trafficking and violence against women with a regional focus on South Asia. She will analyse the laws and policies on human trafficking, labour migration and related themes in South Asia in order to identify implementation gaps. In July we welcomed Storm Tiv as Programme Officer Southeast Asia. Storm has previously worked with the Legal Aid Foundation in the US and Human Rights Watch in Southeast Asia and will be responsible for our engagement in this region. We also contracted Maria Stacey as an external lead researcher for our new project on sex workers organising. Maria has long experience with SWEAT in South Africa and strong connections with sex workers groups around the world.

More news from the GAATW-IS:

Launch of Anti-Trafficking Review Issue 6 'Prosecuting Human Trafficking'

On 31 May GAATW launched the sixth issue of the Anti-Trafficking Review 'Prosecuting Human Trafficking'. This issue analyses human trafficking prosecutions in different regions of the world and from a range of different perspectives...

Study visit to Kuwait

In May GAATW hosted a one-week learning trip for two partner organisations from India to visit partners and key stakeholders in Kuwait...

Training on Victim-Centred Approach

In June GAATW-IS presented at the UNITAR-CIFAL's 'Training on Enhancing a Victim-Centred Approach: Identification, Assistance and Protection of Trafficking Victims in the Asia-Pacific Region' in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea...

Participatory Learning Initiatives

In May GAATW-IS visited two migrant rights organisations in the Philippines - KAAGAPAY (Cotabato City) and Batis Center for Women (Manila), as part of GAATW's participatory learning initiative...

Work in Freedom Project Workshop in Bhubaneswar

GAATW-IS has been partnering with the ILO on the Work in Freedom project that focuses on the South Asia and Middle East migration corridor and aims to strengthen rights protection for women migrants into the domestic work and garment work sectors...

[Read all news from the GAATW-IS.](#)

From our Member Organisations...

Trafficking Routes in the Peruvian Amazon

GAATW member Capital Humano Social Alternativo, Peru, conducted a research into the modalities and routes used by human traffickers in the Peruvian Amazon to recruit their victims and lead them to the places where they are subjected to diverse forms of exploitation...

Regional Conference 'Protection of Victims of Trafficking - Rights-based Approach in Practice'

On 1 and 2 June ASTRA - Anti Trafficking Action organised a regional conference 'Protection of Victims of Trafficking - Rights-based Approach in Practice', in partnership with International Forum of Solidarity EMMAUS, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Women's Rights Center, Montenegro, Open Gate/La Strada, Macedonia and La Strada International in Belgrade, Serbia...

Creating an Enabling Environment for Migrant Domestic Workers: National Consultation in Nepal

On 24-25 June representatives from civil society, trade unions, National Human Rights Commission, INGOs, media and government met in Kathmandu to discuss ways to improve the protection of women migrant workers, particularly domestic workers, going abroad from Nepal...

La Strada International and GAATW-Europe Contribution to the Post-2016 EU Strategy on Human Trafficking

The current EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking Human Beings ends in 2016 and in April the European Commission launched a written consultation to develop its Post-2016 Strategy. The aim was to collect information and inputs regarding the objectives of the new Strategy and the work against trafficking in human beings in the EU...

Latin America Public Consultation on Combating Human Trafficking

Dalila Figueiredo, president of ASBRAD, a GAATW member organisation in Brazil, participated in the Third Public Consultation on Combatting Human Trafficking on 13 May in Argentina. There she shared the recommendations from our briefing papers: 'Towards Greater accountability - Participatory Monitoring of Anti-Trafficking Initiatives'...

Resources

[Directory of services for Indonesian Trafficking Victims](#)

Trafficked persons and exploited migrants require and are entitled to clear, concrete and comprehensible information about what support can be found in their districts and communities and how to access this assistance as they recover and reintegrate after exploitation. Yet many trafficking victims and exploited migrants do not know what services they are entitled to and how to access the different forms of assistance, which are often integral to their reintegration. This Directory of Services is intended to provide them with this critical information and, as such, is an important resource in assistance to trafficked persons.

[Beyond Trafficking and Slavery at the 2016 International Labour Conference](#)

Beyond Trafficking and Slavery published a special series on global supply chains during ILC 2016, with comments, analyses and real-time reflections on this important moment in the history of international labour relations. BTS will continue to focus on supply chain governance right throughout the summer, as the 2016 [International Labour Conference](#) could represent the beginning of the end for that model of production, and in turn for this phase of market expansion. It is hoped that the ILO can now initiate a process that *could*, with enough mobilisation, eventually lead towards a binding international convention on decent work in global supply chains.

[Education, training and skills: Women migrant workers in ASEAN](#)

This Policy Brief considers skills supply and demand in ASEAN in relation to women migrant workers, making recommendations to policy-makers, development partners, social partners and civil society that can improve access for women to skills development opportunities and better jobs. With ASEAN economic integration planning to introduce freer movement of skilled labour, there is a need to standardise and recognise qualifications and skills across the region to ensure efficient and mutually beneficial labour migration.

[Moving toward decent sex work: sex worker community research. Decent work and exploitation in Thailand](#)

This report by EMPOWER Foundation Thailand explores the protections offered to Thai sex workers under civil law and the application of other labour mechanisms to sex work. It provides an overview of the Thai sex industry and argues that to develop a reform process, people must hear how exploitation is defined and experienced by Thai sex workers. Decent Sex Work provides recommendations which are appropriate to prevent and address exploitation in sex work. The report uses labour definitions of the International Labour Organisation to categorise existing forms of labour in the Thai sex industry as 'Decent Work', 'Decent Work Deficits', and 'Unacceptable Forms of Work' and provides ways to improve and reform the Thai sex industry.

[Community Report on Exploitation: Unfair labour arrangements and precarious working conditions in the sex industry.](#)

This Community Report by the International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe aims to engage in a discussion over exploitation in the sex industry, while simultaneously challenging the neo-abolitionist definition of sex work as 'sexual exploitation'. It argues that this approach obscures the complex realities of sex workers' lives and work arrangements, and in consequence fails to address the diversity of exploitative working practices that do occur in the sex industry. Both sex work, as form of work and income-generating activity, and exploitation in the sex industry, belong to the realm of work and should be viewed and analysed through the lens of labour. This is to say that only by focusing on sex workers' working conditions, employment practices and arrangements under which sexual services are sold and exchanged can we come to a better understanding of and challenge exploitation in the sex industry.

[Employers' perspectives towards domestic workers in Kuwait](#)

To improve the living and working conditions of domestic workers in Kuwait the attitudes of employers towards domestic workers must be better understood. This report aims to explore general

attitudes and perceptions of employers towards domestic workers, as well as develop a better understanding of actual working practices and the employment relationship between employers and domestic workers. The research indicates that the majority of existing attitudes and practices among employers are deeply-rooted in societal norms, and therefore remain unquestioned and overlooked.

[Demand in the context of trafficking in the domestic work sector in seven European countries](#)

These studies examine the demand-side of trafficking in domestic work in Europe in its multiple facets (diplomatic household, domestic worker visa regime, au pair, child fostering, etc.). They are part of a series of studies conducted in seven European countries, from southern, central and northern Europe: Belgium, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands and the UK. Looking at the demand-side of trafficking in domestic work brings back at the core of the discussion: the private nature of the employer/employee relationship which often escapes regulation, monitoring and sanctioning. Domestic work is still largely undervalued and hardly perceived as a 'real' form of work.

[Responses to Demand in the Context of Trafficking in Human Beings: Regulatory measures from twelve national contexts](#)

Demand-side approaches are seen as important building blocks in efforts to prevent trafficking, complementing measures addressing the vulnerability of trafficked persons. Whether such demand-side policies actually succeed in preventing trafficking is both debated and not sufficiently investigated. This working paper describes recurring types of regulatory tools addressing demand in twelve national contexts. The paper finds that there are few policies specifically addressing demand in the context of trafficking in human beings. More commonly, policies address broader issues associated with trafficking, and thus may serve to address, but are not limited to trafficking. Structurally, the promotion of demand-side approaches has the potential to mainstream anti-trafficking policies across various policy areas. At the same time, given the broad focus of existing demand-side measures, demand-side approaches inevitably focus on broader issues of severe forms of exploitation, compliance with legal standards and human rights.

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