

# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

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## October 2016

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the latest issue of the GAATW E-Bulletin!

One in every 113 people globally is now either an [asylum-seeker, internally displaced or a refugee](#). Against a background of increasing migration over the past 20 years, (the number of migrants globally approaches 250 million) people are responding to the changes and challenges that migratory movements present. Some of these developments are encouraging, as we see [shows of solidarity and support](#) between activists and refugees. Other developments have been disastrous. At a government and interstate level, we are seeing the proliferation of [xenophobic and anti-refugee language](#) by heads of states, carceral programmes which see refugees stuck in sub-human conditions, and agreements such as the EU-Turkey Deal which contravene international law and fly in the face of our common humanity. Restrictions on the right to migrate safely also expose more vulnerable migrants and refugees to the risk of exploitation. Better international governance and moral leadership on migrant and refugee rights is much needed.

September saw one such, unfortunately weak, initiative - the [Political Declaration on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants](#), adopted at the High-Level UN summit in New York. This text lays out the responsibilities of states to migrating people, however the 'commitments' made are vague and lack implementation plans. The declaration falls drastically short of what refugees and migrants urgently need now. Muted hope was offered by the '[Leaders Summit' hosted by US President Obama](#), in which some countries agreed to increase the numbers of refugees they would resettle. However, the success of this initiative will be seen only in its implementation - to date many of the countries have not fulfilled existing weak commitments to resettle refugees.

Alongside the political declaration, states have agreed to begin the process of negotiating two 'Global Compacts' - one on migrants, and another on refugees - to be completed within the next two years. The processes of negotiating the two Global Compacts on Migrants and on Refugees need the meaningful contributions of civil society and migrants, refugees and diaspora. As Eni Lestari, chairperson of the International Migrants Alliance and former GAATW Board member, said in [her powerful statement](#), states need to ensure 'its implementation will not create exploitation, displacement, forced migration, conflict and poverty'. It will be important for the GAATW membership to engage fully in this process to ensure that we can influence it in the interests of trafficked people, women and migrants.

Civil society groups are taking note of the expanding role of the private sector in the funding and influence over the design of development agendas and migration. The September UN event also saw an exclusive, invite-only private sector forum held between states, big corporates, funders and policy makers. Given the role of the private sector, particularly security companies, in border control and management as [this recent report](#) by the Transnational Institute shows, activists need to be aware of the dangers of the framing of migration as something to be 'managed', rather than as a human right. Given the proximity of corporations to the current migration policy sphere, and encouraged by anti-migrant and pro-securitisation rhetoric from world leaders, the risk of the predatory corporate behaviour in the migration policy sphere is real.

The current state of the Global Compact on Migrants only lays out a skeleton framework for a longer discussion. However, already the framing of some of the issues is concerning. GAATW and other civil society actors will need to work to ensure that combatting trafficking is guided by a rights-based analysis, and is victim-centred, rather than focusing on the types of prosecution and interventionist approaches that can be alienating and damaging to trafficked persons. We hope that GAATW members will join together throughout this period to make strong interventions on behalf of migrants, refugees and trafficked persons everywhere.

As always we welcome your feedback and contributions to future issues at [borislav@gaatw.org](mailto:borislav@gaatw.org).



## News from the GAATW International Secretariat

### Launch of Anti-Trafficking Review issue 7 'Trafficking Representations'



On 30 September we launched [the new issue of the Anti-Trafficking Review themed 'Trafficking Representations'](#) at the Foreign Correspondents Club in Bangkok.

Representations of human trafficking, forced labour and 'modern slavery' are pervasive within media, policymaking, and humanitarian debates, discourses and interventions. This issue of the Anti-Trafficking Review explores the ways in which different forms of representation erase the complexity of the life

trajectories of people who have experienced trafficking, as well as those of migrants, women, sex workers and others who are labelled as victims or 'at-risk' of trafficking. Contributions examine the specific visual material and narratives, both past and present, though which representations of trafficking and slavery are constructed and reproduced in film, TV, newspaper and public discourse. The articles investigate such images and narratives in Australia, Cambodia, Nigeria, Serbia, Denmark, UK, and USA and discuss the appeal held by popular representation of trafficking and the victim of trafficking. [Read on...](#)

### 13th AWID International Forum 'Feminist Futures: Building Collective Power for Rights and Justice'



GAATW participated in [the 13th AWID Forum](#) between 8 and 11 September in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil. The choice of the place was no coincidence - Salvador was the main port for trade of slaves in South America, but it is also a significant region in Black freedom movements. Neither were participants deaf to the current background of increasing tension in Brazil due to the impeachment of [Dilma Rouseff](#), and all through the Forum their disagreement were expressed by the cry "Fora Temer! Nao ao Golpe!" (Temer, leave! No to the coup!) [Read on...](#)

### Sub-regional Consultation Alliance 8.7

In September the ILO launched [Alliance 8.7](#) - a coalition of different stakeholders that has the aim of achieving SDG 8.7. The SDGs are a set of seventeen inter-related, mutually reinforcing and universally applicable goals to frame the global development vision for the next 15 years. Within each of the SDG adopted, specific targets have been identified which are essential to achieving the goals. For SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth, one of the essential targets is 8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms. [Read on...](#)

### Meeting of GFW-supported women's rights organisations working on human trafficking in South and Southeast Asia

On 9-11 August, the Global Fund for Women, in cooperation with GAATW-IS, convened the third

and last meeting of the 13 organisations from South and Southeast Asia funded within the mutual learning initiative. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the progress, learnings, current challenges and future opportunities that the partners see at the end of the three-year programme. [Read on...](#)

### **Access to Justice for Exploited Cambodian Workers in Thailand**

Our interaction with Cambodian migrant workers both in Thailand and Cambodia has made us aware that many Cambodian workers have abandoned their pursuit of justice after experiencing exploitative working conditions because of a lack of understanding of rights, laws, alternative options, and few examples of successfully pursued fair resolutions. Our research project carried out in conjunction with Legal Support for Children Women, our member organization in Cambodia, aimed to explore which areas in the legal system have helped Cambodian migrant workers and which areas still need improvement. We gained insights and recommendations from our analysis of interviews with workers and NGOs in both Thailand and Cambodia and also met with government officials, factory managers, village leaders, and family members of migrant workers to better understand the context of their experiences. [Read on...](#)

### **Training of community organisers in India**

In September GAATW-IS staff visited several organisations in the states of Jharkhand, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh in India to learn about the work they are doing as part of the ILO Work in Freedom (WiF) Project and to determine how best we can support them.

The organisations we visited focus on enhancing the capacity of community mobilisers, connecting women and adolescent girls with livelihood programmes in order to reduce distress migration, as well as unionising women in order to strengthen their awareness and negotiating ability. We conducted a training for community mobilisers so they can lead community-level meetings with the target group to provide them with information about safe migration and ensure support for girls and women who migrate, both in the origin and in the destination state. The goal is that women from villages are empowered and become leaders so that they become self-reliant and are not dependent on NGOs for support. The community mobilizers are seen by all organizations as the frontline workers. These organizations try to work with the Government to implement change, where they attempt to liaison with state rural livelihood missions and skill development missions to link families with income generation scheme, and skill building opportunities. [Read on...](#)

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

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## **From our Member Organisations...**

### **30 Years CoMensha**



This year CoMensha/La Strada Netherlands celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. CoMensha was founded in 1986 as STV (Stichting Tegen Vrouwenhandel - Foundation against Trafficking in Women) and was one of the first NGOs that placed the issue of

trafficking in women on the national and international agenda and worked to ensure better protection for victims.

STV was actively involved in the development of the Dutch Aliens Act which included the right to residence permit for victims of trafficking. STV also worked to bring the issue on the international agenda and promote cross-country cooperation among NGOs that assist victims - in 1994 STV was one of the co-founders of GAATW and in 1995 it established and began coordinating the first La Strada programme for prevention of trafficking in women in Central and Eastern Europe. [Read on ...](#)

### **Training on Women Workers' Health and Well-Being for Community Facilitators and Volunteers**

[Bangladeshi Ovhibashi Mohila Sramik Association \(BOMSA\)](#) and GAATW-IS organised a three-day health training with community facilitators and volunteers in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 22-24 September. The training focused on the main health issues faced by women migrant returnees and in raising awareness about malnutrition, reproductive health concerns and hygiene. Dr Mamata Pradhana, a health practitioner, facilitated the workshop and group exercises for 25 participants including staff from BOMSA. [Read on ...](#)

### **Third Latin America and Caribbean Congress on Domestic Workers: trafficking, migration, forced labour and labour exploitation.**

This Congress, organised by GAATW member [SINTRASEDOM](#), was held on 15, 16 and 17 October in Santa Marta, Colombia with the participation of domestic workers from Colombia, Honduras, Peru, Bolivia, Guatemala, Ecuador, The Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Chile and Mexico. The aim of the Congress is to advocate, exchange experience, unify concepts and strategies and promote organisational processes that strengthen the domestic workers movement in Latin America and the Caribbean. [Read on ...](#)

[Read all updates from members...](#)

If you would like to contribute your news to our members' section of the e-Bulletin, please email [borislav@gaatw.org](mailto:borislav@gaatw.org)

[www.gaatw.org](http://www.gaatw.org)

## **Resources**

### **[FLEX Working Paper: Access to Compensation for Victims of Human Trafficking](#)**

Access to compensation can play an important role in the recovery of survivors of human trafficking. Compensation awards can help them move on with their lives and reduce the risk of further exploitation. This paper considers the ability of victims of human trafficking and other forms of modern slavery to access compensation, one year on from the enactment of the Modern Slavery Act. The findings indicate that little has changed for victims seeking justice who are still facing significant legal and practical barriers to obtaining compensation for the abuses committed against them.

### **[Challenging corporate power: Struggles for women's rights, economic and gender justice](#)**

This paper explores how corporations in collusion with elites and other powerful actors are exerting their power to transform economic and political systems and illustrates how this power impacts women and oppressed peoples. The five stories of struggle captured in this report illustrate that women and oppressed groups around the world have the power to challenge the dominance of corporations. Each struggle, whether focused on labour rights in Cambodia, access to medication and public healthcare in South Africa, or the preservation of natural resources against large corporate mining and energy projects in Nigeria, Brazil and Mexico, uses cross movement collaboration in some way to defy corporate power.

### **[Sex Work, Immigration and Social Difference](#)**

Based on interviews with immigrant, migrant and racialised sex workers in Vancouver, Canada and Melbourne, Australia, this book challenges the 'migrant sex worker' category by investigating the experiences of women who are often assumed to be 'migrant sex workers' in Australia and Canada. Many 'migrant sex workers' in Melbourne and Vancouver are in fact, naturalised citizens or permanent residents, whose involvement in the sex industry intersects with diverse ideas and experiences of citizenship in Australia and Canada. This book examines how immigrant, migrant and racialised sex workers in Vancouver and Melbourne wield or negotiate ideas of illegality and legality to obtain desired outcomes in their day-to-day work.

### **[Responding to the health needs of survivors of human trafficking: a systematic review](#)**

This study aims to provide guidance to health providers on assessing and meeting the health needs of trafficked people through a qualitative analysis of peer reviewed and grey literature. Findings highlight the importance of interviewing possible victims in private, using professional interpreters, and building trust. For provision of care, key themes include the importance of comprehensive needs assessments, adhering to principles of trauma-informed care, and cultural sensitivity. Further prominent themes are the necessity of multi-agency working strategies and well-defined referral pathways.

### **[Same Same But Different: A Baseline Study on the Vulnerabilities of Transgender Sex Workers in Bangkok's Sex Industry](#)**

This study documents vulnerabilities to and cases of exploitation and debt bondage and physical and sexual abuse that transgender sex workers in Bangkok face. It is hoped that it will allow for a deeper understanding of this group, including their trajectory into sex work and potential alternatives. Additionally, the study aims to aid in the development of programming and social



services that meet the needs of this group holistically, looking beyond gender expression and social identity to address human needs and vulnerabilities that may often go overlooked.

### [Steps in the process of externalization of border controls to Africa, from the Valletta Summit to today](#)

This report analyses how the EU has taken steps to externalise its border control and has used development policy instruments to encourage African nations to deter migration. The analysis highlights the monetarisation of the relationship between the EU and Africa, with the dual aim of encouraging development and forcing African countries to cooperate on migration by closing their borders and by readmitting their nationals. This approach overlooks the real causes of most of the movements of people from the region, which are often totalitarian regimes, conflicts and the persecution of specific groups of the population. The report also highlights that development funds are not always used for development projects, but to strengthen border controls as well as frequently allocated to countries that infringe fundamental human rights.

### [Human Trafficking Vulnerabilities: A Study on Forced Marriage between Cambodia and China](#)

This report is based on a research project conducted in response to the increasing number of identified forced marriage cases between Cambodia and China. The report analyses recruitment, brokering, transportation and exploitation patterns as well the links between these; determines service needs among Cambodians trafficked to China for forced marriage, in China, during the repatriation process and upon return to Cambodia; and identifies opportunities for interventions to prevent forced marriages from occurring and to extend protective services to those in need, at both policy and programming levels. It recommends that the two countries establish regular, well-monitored migration channels including for marriage. Given strong and persistent push- and pull-factors, current restrictions only serve to make migrants who continue to move to China for marriage purposes more vulnerable to a abuse and exploitation.

### [No Turning Back: Examining Sex Worker-Led Programs That Protect Health and Rights](#)

Stigma, criminal laws, and punitive policing practices harm sex workers, including their health. In response, a growing number of authorities across the world have called for the decriminalization of sex work and support to sex worker-led organizations. However, the way sex worker groups engage with law enforcement, health providers, and their own communities to address these concerns has received much less attention. The six case studies presented in this publication-in Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, South Africa, and Zimbabwe-offer a look at real-life sex worker-led programming that has reduced police abuse, health risks, and other adverse impacts of bad laws and law enforcement on sex workers.

### [Providing Effective Remedies for Victims of Trafficking in Persons](#)

This paper also looks at the right to effective remedies for victims of human trafficking under international law, the scope of applying effective remedies and the challenges to providing remedies to victims at the national level, and offers practical recommendations to improve access to remedies (including specific recommendations for law and policy-makers, as well as non-State actors) and to facilitate related international cooperation.

### [Domestic remunerated work formalization policies in Latin America and the Caribbean \(in Spanish\)](#)

Eighteen million people are employed in Latin American households as domestic workers and almost 80 per cent of them are subject to informal labour conditions, lacking social security protection, earning very low salaries and working exhausting hours. This report highlights that informality affects mostly women, who represent 93 per cent of domestic workers in the region - about 16.5 million women. Therefore, improving work conditions for women domestic workers is key to reducing gender-based inequality.

