

e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GAATW e-Bulletin

January 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

Warm greetings from GAATW-IS and we hope that 2008 has begun well for all of you.

The past year has been a busy but rewarding year for GAATW. We held the 2nd Triennial Members Congress in November. The international and regional launch of the *Collateral Damage: The Impact of Anti-Trafficking Measures of Human Rights around the World* were held in September. The report has been widely disseminated among members and colleagues in various regions. As we commence our new programme, we hope that our lobby around the major recommendations of the report will be successful.

As you may know, recruitment process for several new positions in the IS has already started as some of our colleagues completed their contract at the end of 2007. We hope to have our new colleagues with us by March 2008.

In this issue, we bring you news from the UK, Bahrain, Guinea, Hong Kong and Tanzania and regional updates from Latin American members. We also update you on the latest international events. This year the Advocacy Updates will go out quarterly instead of monthly issues. Many of you may already have planned to attend the AWID Forum later this year. If you haven't yet, do send them your workshop ideas by 28 January. Some of you would also be going to the Vienna Forum in mid-February. Along with many members and friends GAATW-IS will also be there. In the next issue we will bring you an update on the Forum.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

UK to ratify Anti-Trafficking Treaty

The United Kingdom government has recently announced that they would ratify the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking by the end of 2008. British Home Secretary Jacqui Smith affirmed that the move underlines the government's attempt to curb trafficking. Currently 37 of the 47 Council of Europe members have signed the convention but only 11 have ratified it. Most of the member states are in the course of implementing it. In March 2007 the UK Government also published a comprehensive Human Trafficking Action Plan.

http://www.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26655&Itemid=2

Bahrain Parliament Approves Anti-Human Trafficking Law

The Bahraini parliament approved, on December 31, a law supporting the fight against human trafficking. The law will now be brought to the government and the monarch for approval. The new legislation will define the crime and set out the punishments and fines for those found to be committing it. A national committee for the fight against human trafficking is also to be established, for examining foreign workers' exposure to it.

http://www.thememriblog.org/blog_personal/en/4373.htm

Guinea's Children Face Threat of Abandonment, Trafficking

Authorities and aid workers in Guinea say children in impoverished areas are increasingly being abandoned by their families, leaving them on their own, exploited as workers, or at the mercy of traffickers. An official from UNICEF who coordinates activities between Guinea's government and the United Nations children's body explains that many of these children end up being coerced into becoming domestic workers, working in plantations or given platters to put on their heads and sell food in markets. Children are also victims of organ trafficking as they are dismembered and their body parts sold for medical purposes.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2008-01-13-voa21.cfm>

Trafficking campaign launched

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has embarked on a campaign to raise human trafficking awareness in Tanzania. The three-month campaign dubbed "Uwe sauti Yao" (Be their voice) was unveiled at a hip-hop rally in the capital Dar es Salaam, and followed by public service announcements on television and radio. Cases of international and domestic trafficking have increased in Tanzania, mostly internal trafficking. Women and children are also trafficked for sexual or labour exploitation to neighbouring countries as well as to the Middle East and Europe. IOM Tanzania in the last two years has assisted more than 120 victims of trafficking with support from the US State Department.

http://www.news24.com/News24/Africa/News/0,,2-11-1447_2239752,00.html

REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

New Publication: The Serviço à Mulher Marginalizada - SMM, (Service to Marginalized Women), a GAATW member in Brazil has launched a new publication: *Trafficking in Persons, a Political Approach*.

This publication tackles the different implications of trafficking in human beings as a cause and a consequence of Human Rights violations including issues like Migration (for example, there are thousands of migrants from Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru working in slavery-like conditions in the Sao Paulo garment industry, and many of these migrants are woman who are also sexually exploited), Gender, Human Rights and Race (since most of the woman trafficked in Brazil are afro descendents) and its nexus with Trafficking. You can find more information at: www.smm.org.br

The World Social Forum will take place from 22 to 26 January 2008 in the city of Belem, Brazil. On the 22nd January, Sodireitos, a member organization based in the city will participate in a workshop on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights and Human Migrations.

You can find the Programme of the WSF at: www.belemjaneiro2008.blogspot.com

Workshop in the Dominican Republic: From 03 to 05 December 2007, members of GAATW-REDLAC from Brazil (Sodireitos) and the Dominican Republic (COIN, CEAPA and MODEMU) gathered to finalize a common research on trafficking of women from Brazil and the Dominican Republic to Suriname. The workshop aimed at sharing the conclusions of the 3 commonly undertaken national researches, and at defining the final report structure and content. This is the first time that members of the REDLAC from 3 different countries (and speaking 3 different languages) have worked as a network in a common research.

The book will be published in Portuguese, Spanish and English -and maybe Dutch- in March 2008 and will be the first common publication of Sodireitos and the GAATW-REDLAC. For more information by contacting Sodireitos at: sodireitos@gmail.com

Indonesian Migrant Workers Protest the recent legislation:

The United Indonesians Against Overcharging (PILAR) carried out a protest action to dispute the new order of the Indonesian Consulate that practically binds Indonesian Migrant Workers (IMW) to the mercy of their recruiter for the first two years in Hong Kong. PILAR is an alliance of 18 Indonesian migrant workers' organizations in Hong Kong (including ATKI-HK, a GAATW member) that has been actively pushing for the resolution of the overcharging issue and the improvement of services for Indonesian migrants. The policy, contained in the Letter of Order 2258/2007 and addressed to the Association of Employment Agency on Hong Kong (APPIH), was implemented last January 1, 2008. The group is concerned that the new order will put IMWs in a situation that is even more vulnerable to abuses by recruiters. PILAR will continue to push for the demands of IMWs to the Consulate and will include the scrapping of the order.

Have you released a new report? Have you organised an important event? Does your campaign need support? We want to hear about it and so do other members and friends. If you need support, ideas, resources or information from other members on campaigns or activities you are running, the e-bulletin can help. Send us the brief message you may like to send out to other members through the e-bulletin. If it is urgent, we could consider sending the message out through our members' mailing list.

RESOURCES

Reports

The Civil Society Day of the Global Forum on Migration and Development End Report

The end report brings together the results of the discussions during the Civil Society Day at the Global Forum on Migration and Development last July 9, 2007 which was hosted by the Belgian government. The aim of the Civil Society Day was to bring non-governmental parties together to exchange ideas and experiences, and to prepare civil society's contribution to the Forum in the form of a set of conclusions and recommendations.

http://www.kbs-frb.be/uploadedFiles/KBS-FRB/05_Pictures,_documents_and_external_sites/09_Publications/EndReportMigration&Dev.pdf

Caught Between Two Hells

The research by the Burmese Women's Union (BWU) draws attention to the appalling working conditions and human rights abuses encountered by women migrant workers and girls in irregular situations and provides insight into the occupational hazards and harms migrants from Burma face in Thailand and China.

For copies, contact bwunion04@chmai2.loxinfo.co.th

Publications

Hotline for Migrant Workers has published a report on trafficking in persons entitled "Another Delivery from Tashkent: Profile of the Israeli Trafficker." This report focuses on the trafficker by examining the socio-economic background, criminal history and other information. This publication aims to deepen knowledge and stimulate public debate on

trafficking in persons and its implications. To download this and other reports, or for more information on the issues and the organisation's activities, please visit: <http://www.hotline.org.il/english/index.htm>

Trafficking in Humans: Social, Cultural and Political Dimensions

This forthcoming book published by the United Nations University (UNU) Press and edited by Sally Cameron and Edward Newman seeks to deepen understanding of the social, economic and political contexts of human trafficking: the recruitment and transportation of human beings through deception or coercion for the purpose of exploitation. The book includes experts with great experience of trafficking issues and it also gives a voice to 'critical' views which argue that trafficking challenges are inseparable from broader debates about human rights and migration.

<http://www.unu.edu/unupress/2008/traffickingInHumans.html>

To order: http://www.unu.edu/unupress/hq_howto.htm

Events

The **Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy (SAPA) General Forum 2008** will have its 2nd annual meeting of its members following the first which was held in Bangkok in February 2007. The GF is convened by SAPA Regional Steering Committee (RSC) in cooperation with Forum-Asia which is the local hosting organization. The GF, as the main meeting open to all members and partners, aims to develop common action plans based on common understanding of emerging challenges. In addition, it aims to evaluate SAPA's activities in terms of civil society response to them. Official website and contact of SAPA: <http://www.asiasapa.org> / sapa@forum-asia.org

The **Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking** will be held from **13 to 15 February 2008** under the framework of the United Nations-sponsored Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN-GIFT). The Vienna Forum will bring together representatives from Member States, UN system organizations, other regional and international organizations, the business community, academia, non-governmental organizations and other elements of civil society. The Forum will address issues on vulnerabilities and root causes of human trafficking, its human and social consequences as well as innovative approaches to solving complex problems.

For more information, please call +43.1.26060.4148 or email: viennaforum@unov.org
http://www.ungift.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=375&Itemid=687

2008 AWID Forum: Call for Proposals

From November 14-18, 2008, up to 1,500 women's rights activists from around the world will gather in Cape Town, South Africa to discuss the issue of building stronger women's movements globally. The 11th **AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development** invites proposals from anyone who works or has an interest in women's rights, international development, and social justice to contribute to this urgent discussion by submitting a proposal to organize a session at the 11th AWID Forum: The Power of Movements

To visit the website: www.awid.org/forum

Go to the AWID website: www.awid.org

Submit your proposal online: www.awid.org/forum08

Email or call AWID for more information *or* a Word version/hard copy of the application form: forum08@awid.org; +1 416 594 3773

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 28, 2008

" Women should have opportunities to share their experiences of activism and struggle in addition to sharing their experiences of oppression"
Respect and Relevance: Supporting Self-Organising as a Strategy for Empowerment and Social Change, GAATW 2007

The GAATW e-bulletin is sent out to all member organisations of the Alliance as well as to many of its friends and

sister NGOs worldwide.

- The e-bulletin is published every last week of the month. A Spanish version goes out three days after the English version. Sometimes additional follow up information and/or reminders are also sent via email to member organisations.
- Primarily a tool for communication between the International Secretariat and the Alliance members, the e-bulletin aims to cover a broad range of topics although trafficking related issues remain its special focus. We also use this e-bulletin to inform members about upcoming events and provide regular updates about the Secretariat.
- We strongly encourage members and friends to send us their input to the e-bulletin at info@gaatw.org
- If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at info@gaatw.org and we will delete your address from the list.

Please note that we have not inserted the advertisements that may appear on this message. GAATW International Secretariat is not associated in any of these ads over which we have no control.

e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GAATW e-Bulletin

February 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from the GAATW International Secretariat.

The Vienna Forum; a UN Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking (UN.GIFT) has just been concluded. A high profile affair, with participation of many celebrities this was once again an occasion where the NGO community listened to new and reiterated commitments made by representatives from the governments from around the world. We look forward to see that these commitments are realised in the coming years.

In our global highlights we feature a news report that Malaysia is applying stricter standards of hiring foreign migrant workers in to the country with the aim of reducing the number of migrants in the following years. This will be a major concern for most migrant workers in the informal sector, for they will be the hardest hit once the decision has been enforced. Good news in our legislative updates, Macao and Kuwait has formulated an anti-trafficking bill which will also include measures to support trafficked persons. In the members/regional updates section, we bring information about the voices of trafficked persons being represented in the Constitutional Assembly in Nepal, the timely enforcement of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, a successful case of compensation in Germany, and the campaign of Indonesian domestic workers group in Hong Kong.

For the Secretariat's update, we are pleased to announce GAATW's global campaign entitled 'Recognise Rights' which was launched on the eve of the UN Vienna Forum. We are grateful for the cooperation of LEFO-IBF (Intervention Center for Women Affected by Trafficking) in Austria and all our members and partners present in Vienna for making the event a success.

We urge our members, friends and partners to continue sending us your contributions about pressing issues, publications, blogs and latest campaigns.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

Malaysia: The government has decided to apply stricter standards for the hiring of foreign labour in Malaysia in order to reduce the number of non-Malaysian workers to 1.8 million by next year and to 1.5 million by 2015. Home affairs secretary general, Raja Azahar Raja, said that the government would allow skilled workers to stay for up to 10 years, but would not extend the permits of unskilled foreign workers who have been in the country for at least five years. Malaysia's treatment of the foreign minority groups has become grounds of concern in Asia and it has been seen to have an impact on its foreign policy. <http://www.merineews.com/catFull.jsp?articleID=129585>

Abu Dhabi: UAE backs global efforts to fight human trafficking. A UAE delegation to the Vienna Forum on human trafficking concluded a final round of panels and discussions with senior government and UN officials, NGOs and international experts on human trafficking. The UAE stated its commitment against all forms of involuntary labour and outlined its full engagement in promoting bilateral partnerships among countries of labour origin and destination to halt the crime at its source. The UAE is actively forging partnerships in all fields related to combating human trafficking, particularly in information sharing and cooperation. <http://www.gulfnews.com/nation/Government/10190419.html>

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Macao: The government of Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) has submitted a bill to the city's Legislative Assembly in a bid to strengthen its fight against human trafficking. Once passed by the assembly, the bill will give the government greater power to tackle activities both to and from Macao. In the meantime, the government is also planning to provide necessary assistance, such as legal advice, accommodation and medical services, to human trafficking victims.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-02/16/content_7615254.htm

Kuwait renews commitment to human rights. Kuwait reasserted Friday its commitment to all international conventions on human rights including those banning all forms of human trafficking. 'Kuwait has joined all UN conventions on human rights including the so-called Palermo Protocol, criminalizing human trafficking and increasing protection for victims. 'Kuwait has also developed a draft law on the implementation of the protocol and adopted other measures to combat human trafficking and improve human rights situation. 'The measures include launching temporary residential places for expatriate workers in Kuwait.

<http://www.arabtimesonline.com/kuwaitnews/pagesdetails.asp?nid=12323&ccid=9>

REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

Shakti Samuha (Empowered Group), a self organised GAATW member in Nepal successfully organised a programme on "the place of trafficking survivors in the Constitutional Assembly" which was graced by political party leaders lead by the Speaker of Parliament Subashchandra Nemwang as the Chief Guest of the program. Parliament members as well as the party representatives vowed to support Shakti Samuha to be represented in the Constitution Assembly. The guests further encouraged Shakti Samuha to continue with the campaign until the trafficking survivors will have a voice in the Constitution Assembly.

The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings entry into force on 1 February 2008 represents a major step in the protection of rights of the individuals who have been trapped in a modern form of slavery, said Amnesty International, Anti-Slavery International and La Strada International today. The groups called on the other 33 member states of the Council of Europe, as well as the European Union, to follow the lead taken by Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Georgia, Malta, Moldova, Norway, Romania and Slovakia by becoming parties to and implementing this Convention without further delay.

<http://www.antislavery.org/archive/press/latestpressrelease.htm>

To read the copy of the COE Convention, visit

http://www.gaatw.net/Resources/PDF_Conv_197_Trafficking_E1.pdf.

Ban Ying, Germany has released a press declaration about the **prompt solution through Embassy of Yemen to help the case of Ms. Hasniati** - a 30 years old Indonesian woman - who worked as a domestic worker of a Yemeni Diplomat (an Attaché) in Berlin. She was maltreated and not paid her salary. The Yemen Embassy has agreed to pay Ms. Hasniati her due salary. www.ban-ying.de

United Indonesians against Overcharging or PILAR along with other Indonesian formations such as GAMI had launched their campaign early this year to stop overcharging and demand the reduction of agency fee to one month salary following the international standard of practice of allowable fee for sending countries since middle of 2005. Last 10 February 1,000 Indonesian workers gathered at Victoria Park to call for the scrapping of the Letter Order 2258 implemented at the beginning of this year. The public forum was followed by a march rally and brief program in front of the Indonesian Consulate. After a series of protests and calls for action from various labour groups and unions, the Indonesian Consulate finally announced the withdrawal of Letter Order 2258, which stipulates conditions that binds the Indonesian migrant workers to their recruiters for the first two years of working in Hong Kong.

Have you released a new report? Have you organised an important event? Does your campaign need support? We want to hear about it and so do other members and friends. If you need support, ideas, resources or information from other members on campaigns or activities you are running, the e-bulletin can help. Send us the brief message you may like to send out to other members through the e-bulletin. If it is urgent, we could consider sending the message out through our members' mailing list.

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

On 13-15 February, the UN Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking (UN.GIFT) held the **Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking** at the Austria Centre, Vienna. The Forum was a huge event with over 1600 participants including government delegations, NGOs, the private sector, academics and UN representatives who met in both plenaries and thematic workshops. GAATW members from Europe, Asia and LAC were present and Betty Pedraza from Espacios de Mujer, Colombia, and Maria Tchomarova of Animus Association Foundation (La Strada Bulgaria) spoke on panels. From the GAATW IS, Eleanor attended and the IS also organised a stand in the NGO Exhibition room at which GAATW members displayed materials. Most attention, however, was on the celebrities who lent their support to the event, including Emma Thompson and Ricky Martin, who gave opening addresses, and a Canadian singer and Ukrainian pop star Ruslana who performed at the closing. The UNODC and a member of the Women's Leadership Council gave closing speeches to highlight the conclusions and recommendations that emerged from the three days of discussions. These speeches are available at www.ungift.org. UN.GIFT was established in March 2007 as a temporary initiative to coordinate global anti-trafficking efforts. It is led by a steering committee comprising various UN agencies and intergovernmental organisations, with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime playing a key role.



Campaign for the Promotion of Human Rights for All Trafficked Persons and Migrant Workers

In response to the major recommendations from GAATW's latest report *Collateral Damage*, which emphasises the critical need for a re-assessment of anti-trafficking initiatives around the globe, GAATW launched a **global campaign** entitled "Recognise Rights", on the eve of the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking to call on governments to make human rights a priority in dealing with trafficking, and to do more to create long term solutions to trafficked

persons. Some of the priority issues highlighted in the campaign include the need to provide trafficked persons with access to justice and compensation, and to create

opportunities for work in destination countries. The campaign will run until 2010 with activities at regional and global events. *For further information contact, Eleanor Taylor-Nicholson, Advocacy Coordinator, eleonor@gaatw.org*

Michelle and Alfie from the Communications Unit went to Hong Kong, SAR in end of January to begin with the **video advocacy plan in collaboration with the Association of Indonesian Migrant Workers in Hong Kong (ATKIHK)**, a GAATW member. The video plan aims to show the implications of policies regarding placement fee structures and conditional ties in the recruitment process amongst Indonesian domestic workers in Hong Kong. The video is set to be screened in July 2008.

GAATW-REDLAC meeting will take place in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic from 5-7 March 2008. We will bring you more news in the next ebulletin.

RESOURCES

Reports

Leaving the Past Behind? When victims of trafficking decline assistance

The research project was implemented by Fafo Institute in Norway and NEXUS Institute in Vienna and was generously funded by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The study considers the reasons that some trafficking victims decline assistance and examines the circumstances under which they do so. Understanding the reasons, experiences and perceptions of persons who do not participate in assistance programmes can play an important role in developing and tailoring anti-trafficking services to meet the needs and desires of as many trafficking victims as possible. The report benefits from the experiences of trafficked persons who have both accepted and declined assistance as well service providers and other as anti-trafficking actors.

The report can be downloaded for free, or if this should cause problems, please contact:

Anette.Brunovskis@fafo.no or Rebecca rsurtees@nexusinstitute.net

and they will send you a PDF file (1.32 mb):

<http://www.fafo.no/pub/rapp/20040/20040.pdf>

Exported and Exposed: Abuses Against Sri Lankan Domestic Workers in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, and the United Arab Emirates

Human Rights Watch released a report in November 2007 based on interviews with migrant Sri Lankan domestic workers who had returned to Sri Lanka after working in the Middle East. The 131-page report documents the serious abuses that domestic workers face at every step of the migration process. It also shows how the Sri Lankan government and governments in the Middle East fail to protect these women.

<http://hrw.org/reports/2007/srilanka1107/>

The report, **Children on the move** is based on a number of key studies undertaken by **Save the Children** in the southern African region. The report confronts the general understanding that child migration leads to trafficking and refugee movement, and reveals that children often cross borders unaccompanied, as a survival strategy. The report winds up that the region must take a more upbeat role in ensuring that children who migrate are better protected.

<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/docs/children-on-the-move.pdf>

Mapping the Realities of Trafficking Women in Cyprus

This report is the result of a research project conducted by the **Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies [MIGS]**. The main aim of the project was to gain and share awareness, knowledge and understanding on the phenomenon of trafficking in women in Cyprus for the purpose of sexual exploitation. MIGS is very much alarmed about the present situation in Cyprus with regards to trafficked women for the purpose of sexual exploitation and stresses that there is no evidence of tangible efforts either by the Cyprus government or the civil society to tackle it in a specific way.

http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?attachment_id=320

Child Trafficking in Europe: A Broad Vision to Put Children First - Summary Report

This Report published by the United Nations Children's Fund and released in January 2008 examines how the European region is responding to child trafficking. It assesses the legal, policy and implementation frameworks in place to address this phenomenon, which affects the lives of untold numbers of children and families in the region. To order a copy: <https://unp.un.org/details.aspx?pid=17592>

Events

The UN Committee on Migrant Workers will meet from 14 to 25 April 2008 in Geneva. It will adopt concluding observations on Bolivia and Syria as well as a list of issues on El Salvador, Colombia and Azerbaijan.

<http://www.december18.net/web/general/start.php>

On 28 February 2008, the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) and the University of Nicosia will host a conference on the exploitation of migrant women in domestic labour, including situations of modern slavery, marginalisation and labour rights violations. The conference is organised within the framework of the transnational project entitled "*Integration of Female Migrant Domestic Workers: Strategies for Employment and Civic Participation*", funded under the INTI Preparatory Actions 2005 Programme of the European Commission. Strategies for special protection and social integration will be discussed with NGO representatives, policy makers and migrant organisations. For information on the *agenda* and *registration form* for the conference please visit: <http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=331>

"For the international trade union movement, ensuring better protection for domestic workers is one of the keys to promoting decent work, which is at the heart of our action,"
Guy Ryder, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

The GAATW e-bulletin is sent out to all member organisations of the Alliance as well as to many of its friends and sister NGOs worldwide.

- o The e-bulletin is published every last week of the month. A Spanish version goes out three days after the English version. Sometimes additional follow up information and/or reminders are also sent via email to member organisations.
- o Primarily a tool for communication between the International Secretariat and the Alliance members, the e-bulletin aims to cover a broad range of topics although trafficking related issues remain its special focus. We also use this e-bulletin to inform members about upcoming events and provide regular updates about the Secretariat.
- o We strongly encourage members and friends to send us their input to the e-bulletin at info@gaatw.org
- o If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at info@gaatw.org and we will delete your address from the list.

Please note that we have not inserted the advertisements that may appear on this message. GAATW International Secretariat is not associated in any of these ads over which we have no control.

e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GAATW e-Bulletin

March 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from warm and sunny Bangkok. As the first quarter of the year passes, the GAATW-IS is gearing up for the many activities being planned for 2008. It promises to be a full and engaging year. Three new staff have joined the IS team to support the activities for campaigns, advocacy and research work for GAATW's three-year programme priorities. We are also preparing for the annual GAATW Board meeting that will be happening in early April.

We recognize that we are writing at a time when there is great upheaval in Tibet. After decades of repression, there is now a movement for change. In response to China's military crackdown against the protests in Tibet, a global call on China for restraint and dialogue to find a peaceful resolution for Tibetan people has come from many governments and individuals. One such action is an on-line petition organized through AVAAZ, an online activism organisation, which now has over one million signatures. We urge GAATW members to sign on: http://www.avaaz.org/en/tibet_end_the_violence/98.php/?cl_tf_sign=1 There are many more local and regional actions being organized in solidarity with Tibetan people all over the world, and we encourage everyone to show their support.

This month's bulletin brings you global news about the recent appointment of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, the UN's international campaign against gender-based violence and the developments on anti-trafficking measures at the national level. For the Regional/Member Updates, we are happy to share news from the recently concluded GAATW-REDLAC meeting held in the Dominican Republic and some updates from the GAATW members' work and campaigns. The resources section provides the reports on the situation of undocumented migrants from two countries in Asia, and an annual conference on combating modern day slavery.

In line with the advocacy work of GAATW, a separate Advocacy Update electronic bulletin will now be released on a monthly basis. We look forward to bringing you further developments on GAATW's work to promote the human rights principles in addressing the human trafficking issue.

We hope that you find this issue enriching and we always look forward to hearing your ideas and feedback.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

Ms Gulnara Shahinian appointed Special Rapporteur

On 26 March, the Human Rights Council appointed Ms Gulnara Shahinian as the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences.

Ms. Shahinian, who is from Armenia, has a long history of working on trafficking and smuggling issues at a national and international level, including as an expert in trafficking for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and as a member of both the UN expert group on trafficking and the Board of Trustees of the UN Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. GAATW welcomes the appointment of Ms. Shahinian and looks forward to working with her.

http://www.huntalternatives.org/pages/253_gulnara_shahinian.cfm

U.N. launches global campaign against gender violence

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will recruit men from around the globe to support efforts to end violence against women as part of a new 7-year campaign aimed at addressing such abuse. UN Secretary will call on male political leaders, artists, athletes, religious figures and businessmen to speak out as part of the Unite to End Violence Against Women initiative. The initiative will include efforts to win Security Council approval for the creation of a mechanism to monitor violence, engagement with individual governments to develop national plans, and requests to national legislatures to review laws and criminalize gender-based violence.

<http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/article.aspx?id=1701>

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Anti-trafficking agreement signed with Vietnam

Thai Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej opened a three-day visit to Vietnam with the signing of an agreement between the two countries on combating human trafficking, on 24 March. The memorandum of understanding on combating human trafficking was signed by the Thai Social Development and Human Security Minister Sutha Chansaeng and Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Public Security Le The Tiem. The agreement is part of a joint anti-trafficking initiative launched in 2004 between the six countries in the Mekong sub region, which also includes Myanmar, China, Cambodia, and Laos. Thailand is a relatively minor destination for Vietnamese trafficking victims, usually women, who are more often smuggled to Cambodia or China and forced into sex work, according to officials at anti-trafficking programs in Vietnam.

http://www.bangkokpost.com/breaking_news/breakingnews.php?id=126700

Uzbek Parliament adopts Anti-trafficking law

On 18 March, it was reported that the Uzbek parliament voted to adopt a new law on 13 March, which aims at combating human trafficking. According to an official press release issued by the Uzbek government, the new law will serve as a "reliable legal base for the prevention of human trafficking" and help to bolster the state effort to "fight the illegal exploitation, migration, and trade of human beings," according to the Jahon news agency. The press release also claimed that Uzbek law enforcement agencies have investigated over 1,000 reports from victims of human trafficking over the past three years, resulting in the formal initiation of over 700 criminal cases.

<http://www.legislationline.org/news.php?tid=1&jid=1>

REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

2nd GAATW-REDLAC Meeting



Dominican Republic, 5-7 March 2008

The members of GAATW in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) gathered in the Dominican Republic from 5-7 March to exchange information and experiences at regional and interregional levels, and to advance the development of regional coordination and actions. A total of 23 people representing 14 members from the LAC region, 1 member from Europe, 1 GAATW-IS representative, 4 non-members from Peru, Uruguay and the Dominican Republic and 3 consultants/donors participated.

REDLAC (the GAATW regional chapter in LAC) was launched in 2006 with the mission to facilitate joint actions at regional level among the GAATW members. During the 3-day meeting a common research on trafficking patterns, from the North of Brazil and the Dominican Republic to Suriname, undertaken by members in these countries was presented. Proyecto Esperanza from Spain presented its report on the evaluation of its direct assistance, which served to strengthen the links between countries of origin and destination. The Self-organised Groups (SOGs) in LAC also shared their work, and there were updates about the GAATW-IS 2008-10 Action Plan and the Vienna Forum. The meeting served to outline the GAATW-REDLAC Action Plan for the next year and to discuss the internal coordination and structure of the regional chapter. A new Coordinating Committee was elected with a 2-year mandate, and involves COIN (Dominican Republic), SODIREITOS (Brazil) and ECPAT (Guatemala).

For more information you can contact Nerea at the IS (nerea@gaatw.org)

MODEMU (the Movement of United Women), a member organisation in the Dominican Republic, organised its Congress on the 5-6 March 2008. The Congress gathered 306 sex workers from all corners of the country.

The Congress' programme included topics such as an analysis of MODEMU's work to date, discussions on the organization's main demands for advocacy, training on trafficking, and the approval of the organization's new Action Plan and Statutes, as well as the selection of MODEMU's new directive.

After the congress ended one participant stated: *I am seeing my partners growing and I really like it!*

Miriam Gonzalez, a member of MODEMU's directive said: *This congress showed that sex workers in the Dominican Republic are progressing in their effort to recover their sense of being. The event has also showed numerous challenges and new concerns to strengthen our work. It has been another milestone in our social compromise with us and the Dominican people.*

You can get more information by writing to: nerea@gaatw.org

LEFO-IBF Intervention Centre for Women Affected by Trafficking is celebrating its 10th anniversary with an event on 11 April at the MOYA -- Museum of Young Art, Löwelstraße 20 | 1010 Vienna. There will be a Press Conference with Doris Bures, the Austrian Minister of Women Affairs, at 10 in the morning, followed by a Reading at 6:30pm in the evening. For more information about the program please contact Philippa Stockert +43.1.79 69298, email: ibf@lefoe.at

The Centre for Human Rights and Development, a GAATW member organisation based in

Mongolia, has worked in 2006 and 2007 to collaborate with the State Supreme Court of Mongolia on a proposed amendment to Article 113 (Human selling and buying) of the Criminal Code. To prepare for this amendment, research was undertaken, including a comparison of other countries' criminal laws on human trafficking, reviewing bilateral agreements between Mongolia and other countries, and obtaining comments and recommendations from law enforcements group who work closely with victims. Based on this research, Article 113 of the criminal code was amended according to international standards and best practice. At the end of January 2008, the Mongolian Parliament adopted the amended criminal code. The date of implementation was 24 February 2008.

Foreign Domestic Workers' March for Pay Hike

The Asian Migrants Coordinating Body (AMCB) submitted a petition to the Hong Kong government that included the demands to: 1. Increase wages of foreign domestic workers to a level that is substantive and commensurate to the Hong Kong standard of living; 2. Remove the HK\$ 9,600 levy imposed on employers of foreign domestic workers, and; 3. Provide a just, transparent and scientific formula for the minimum wage review. Spokesperson, Eni Lestari, said that their reasons for such demands included the government reports and projection of continued economic development, the fact that FDWs who work a minimum of 12 hours day get a measly HK\$11 per hour, and the data that in countries whose economies are at par with that of Hong Kong's, the salary of FDWs here pales in comparison to their counterparts.

On 8 March the Euro 08 Campaign Against Trafficking in Women launched a petition for better protection for the victims of trafficking. The 'Euro 08 campaign against Trafficking in Women' is an initiative launched by more than 25 women's and men's organisations, Human Rights organisations, gender equality offices, counselling centres, faith organisations and trade unions. The campaign aims not only to raise awareness on the trafficking of women in Switzerland but also to mobilise its population on this very serious form of Human Rights violation.

For more information, please email: kampagne-em08@fiz-info.ch
<http://www.frauenhandeleuro08.ch/en/kontakt/>

Have you released a new report? Have you organised an important event? Does your campaign need support? We want to hear about it and so do other members and friends. If you need support, ideas, resources or information from other members on campaigns or activities you are running, the e-bulletin can help. Send us the brief message you may like to send out to other members through the e-bulletin. If it is urgent, we could consider sending the message out through our members' mailing list.

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

The International Secretariat welcomes new colleagues

GAATW-IS warmly welcomes three new colleagues who have recently joined the staff this month. Amy Bain from Washington DC will be working as the Programme Officer on Advocacy; Rebecca Napier-Moore from USA/UK will be working as the Programme Officer for Research and Training; and Zoe Bake-Paterson from Vancouver, Canada as the Communications and Campaigns Officer. A three and a half day New Staff Orientation was recently held on 20-21, 24-25 March 2008 at the GAATW IS Office.

Individual profiles of all IS staff will be added to the GAATW-IS website in the coming month.

RESOURCES

Reports

Forced Labour in North Korean Prison Camps

The cross-border migration of undocumented North Koreans into China is an issue of concern to Anti-Slavery International (ASI) because those North Koreans who are caught while crossing the border or who are deported by the Chinese authorities are subject to forced labour in North Korean prison camps. In light of the report, ASI calls on the North

Korean Government to amend their Criminal Code so that leaving the country without permission does not constitute a criminal offence, to take immediate action to prevent unconvicted detainees from performing forced labour and to abolish the use of forced labour in prison camps.

<http://www.antislavery.org/homepage/resources/PDF/NK%202007.pdf>

Undocumented migrants and refugees in Malaysia: Raids, Detention and Discrimination

On the occasion of the World Day for the elimination of racial discrimination, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM), its member organization in Malaysia, launch a report entitled *"Undocumented migrants and refugees in Malaysia: Raids, Detention and Discrimination"*. The report includes the current immigration context in Malaysia, the role and status of refugees and asylum seekers and recommendations based on the findings of the international fact-finding mission conducted by FIDH.

<http://www.fidh.org/?Undocumented-migrants-and-refugees>

Events

Freedom Network Conference

The Freedom Network USA will have its 2008 Annual Conference on 23-24 April in Atlanta, Georgia with the theme *"Action through Alliance: Partnerships in Combating Modern Day Slavery"*. Nationally known experts on Human Trafficking will be speaking on a variety of topics. Legal advocates, victim advocates, social service providers, ethnic, faith-based, community-based organization members, local and federal law enforcement, governmental representatives, and anyone else interested can attend. Registration Cost is US\$200.

To register: <http://freedomnetworkusa.eventbrite.com>

For inquiries, please contact cecilia@tapestri.org

Website: <http://freedomnetworkusa.org/docs/FreedomNetworkConference2008.pdf>

Website

The Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) launched a website titled *"Arab Women and Media"* on International Women's Day, 8 March.

<http://www.arabwomanmedia.net/>

Call for Nominations

The deadline for nominations for **Anti-Slavery International's 2008 Anti-Slavery Award** is 31 March 2008. If you would like to nominate an individual or organisation for the Award, please fill out and return the online nomination form at www.antislavery.org/homepage/antislavery/nomination.htm.

The winner of the Anti-Slavery Award must work on an issue of contemporary slavery; be involved in direct intervention with those affected and campaigning work against these abuses; and appreciate the need for the international attention that the Award offers.

For further information about the Anti-Slavery Award and previous recipients, please visit www.antislavery.org/homepage/antislavery/award.htm.

"Investing in women and girls' ... is about changing the systems and attitudes that discriminate against women and prevent them from fully participating in and benefiting from the economies and societies in which they live."

- UNDP Administrator Kemal Derviş

<http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2008/undp.shtml>

sister NGOs worldwide.

- The e-bulletin is published every last week of the month. A Spanish version goes out three days after the English version. Sometimes additional follow up information and/or reminders are also sent via email to member organisations.
- Primarily a tool for communication between the International Secretariat and the Alliance members, the e-bulletin aims to cover a broad range of topics although trafficking related issues remain its special focus. We also use this e-bulletin to inform members about upcoming events and provide regular updates about the Secretariat.
- We strongly encourage members and friends to send us their input to the e-bulletin at info@gaatw.org
- If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at info@gaatw.org and we will delete your address from the list.

Please note that we have not inserted the advertisements that may appear on this message. GAATW International Secretariat is not associated in any of these ads over which we have no control.

e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GAATW e-Bulletin

April 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

We dedicate this issue of the e-bulletin to the family and friends of the 54 Burmese migrants who died on April 9, 2008 in Ranong, Thailand, and to the 66 survivors of that tragedy. The migrants were being smuggled from Burma to work on the Resort Island of Phuket when they suffocated in the truck that was transporting them. This incident is by no means the first in which individuals, forced to leave Burma as a result of the regimes' economic and political policies, have died in Thailand. But the scale of the incident has brought the case to world attention.

We support the statements of those calling on the Thai Government to end discriminatory policies and practices against migrant workers, and for proper protection and assistance to the survivors in this case.

This month's Global Highlights features two joint statements on migrant rights protection and a news article on engaging media in the issue of safe migration for female workers in Bangladesh. There is also an update on the impact of anti-trafficking laws in Cambodia. Our regional update highlights a Brazilian anti-trafficking magazine and protests about the services for migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong and Macau. Relevant reports on women's rights, human trafficking and migration are also available under the resources section.

In addition, the GAATW IS takes this opportunity to thank the GAATW Board for its advice and commitment during the three-day GAATW Annual Board Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand early this month.

We also welcome to the Secretariat a new staff member, Liyana Pavon from the Dominican Republic. Liyana is now the Programme Officer for the Americas, which includes North and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

Bangladesh: Media urged to facilitate safe migration of female workers

The Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI), in association with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), organised a workshop with journalists, government officials and NGOs to increase cooperation in promoting safe labour migration for women. The event was part of the 'Proactive Media in Safe Female Labour Migration' project. The workshop discussed the importance of labour migration for development, female empowerment, journalism ethics and human rights standards. MRDI also stressed the difference between female migration and trafficking in women.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=29448>

Brussels: "Employers' Sanctions Directive: Will migrant workers pay the price of their exploitation?" As the Council and European Parliament consider a draft EU Directive on sanctions against employers of irregular migrants, European organisations have called on them to take a human rights approach. In a statement dated 15 April 2008, ENAR (European Network Against Racism), PICUM (Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants) and SOLIDAR, have urged decision-makers not to undermine efforts to tackle exploitation of vulnerable workers and noted that immigration control must be carried out within the framework of fundamental rights and in accordance with the values of the European Union. To read the full paper, go to:

http://www.enar-eu.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=15288&langue=EN

Thailand: Urgent action needed for Burmese migrants

The Action Network for Migrants (ANM, Thailand) and the Mekong Migration Network (MMN) have released a statement in response to the tragic incident that took place in Ranong, Thailand, on 9 April 2008, in which 54 Burmese migrants suffocated in the back of a truck bound for Phuket. In their statement, the group reminds the Thai Government of the root causes of illegal migration from Burma, and called on the Thai Government to take a human rights approach to migration. They also called on the Government to halt the deportation of the survivors, and provide them with assistance and compensation. To read the full statement, go to:

<http://csw.hkbiz.hk/wp-content/uploads/2008/04/anm.pdf>

Cambodia: APNSW and WNU issue statement to protect sex workers from AT Law

The Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW) and the Women's Network for Unity (WNU) have raised concerns about the increasing raids on sex workers in Phnom Penh and a number of other provinces of Cambodia. They state that these raids are a result of Cambodia's new anti-trafficking law and pressure from the US government and claim that women who do not wish for or resist rescue, risk being charged as traffickers. Sex workers who have experienced arrest reported abuse and robbery at the hands of police and denial of access to medical treatment. Organisations working on Human Rights in the region are encouraged to join in speaking out on these abuses. For more information, and to read the full statement by the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW) and the Women's Network for Unity (WNU), please contact APNSW:

Email: apnswbkk@gmail.com

Web: www.apnsw.org

The new Cambodia Anti-Trafficking Bill is posted on GAATW's Access to Justice Website.

JUSTICE UPDATE

Mozambique: Assembly Passes Bill Against Human Trafficking

The Mozambican parliament, the Assembly of the Republic, has recently passed a Bill imposing a penalty of imprisonment of 8 to 12 years for people found guilty of human trafficking, particularly for trafficking women and children. The Bill also sets out measures to protect victims and witnesses, including protection of the victims' identity during and after criminal proceedings, and entitlement to appropriate accommodation, medical and psychological care, counselling, free legal aid, and education or professional training. <http://allafrica.com/stories/200804100930.html>

Macau: Analysis of anti-human trafficking bill begins at Assembly

Macau's First Standing Committee started in April and has begun discussion of the "Combat Human Trafficking Crimes" Bill that has now been approved by the legislative assembly. It is unclear whether the Bill deals only with trafficking or also with human smuggling.

http://www.macaudailytimesnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=10060&Itemid=28

National Laws added to GAATW's Access to Justice website

This month we have added two new laws from Latin America to the Access to Justice Website: Mexico and Argentina. Both laws apply specifically to trafficking in persons and contain comprehensive definitions of trafficking, as well as protections for trafficked persons. The Mexican law guarantees trafficked persons an order of compensation in any trafficking case. The Argentinean law creates a Committee for Countering the Trafficking of Persons. At present, both laws are in Spanish only, but Liyana Pavon at the IS would be happy to answer any questions you have about them. Thanks to Amumra and Sin Fronteras for their contributions.

<http://www.gaatw.net/atj/>

UK and Ireland: Compensation awarded to trafficked persons

Several people in the UK and Ireland have been awarded compensation for trafficking in the past few months.

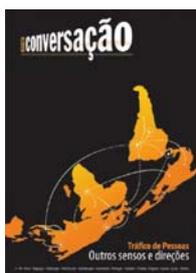
In December 2007, four women who had been trafficked to the UK from Eastern Europe received a total of £140,000 from the British Government, through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. This was possible following new interpretation of the Authority's guidelines, to officially recognize the trauma experienced by trafficked persons. According to the Guardian newspaper, 10,000 more women may also be eligible for such an award. This award was won through a test case brought by the Poppy Project, an organization that provides services to women trafficked into the sex industry in the UK.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2007/dec/16/immigration.ukcrime>

http://lastradainternational.org/documents/Newsletter_8_08.pdf

In February 2008, the Labor Relations Commission in Dublin ordered that a Pakistani man trafficked into Ireland receive compensation of €116,000. The man was employed in a restaurant in Dublin in conditions of forced labour, and his employer was ordered to pay compensation for gross breaches of employment law. Ireland currently has no anti-trafficking law (although one has been drafted and is expected to be passed in the coming months) and this case was thus seen as an important precedent for the prosecution of employers for extreme labour exploitation even without specific anti-trafficking legislation. For more information see Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI) www.mrci.ie or <http://www.antislavery.org/homepage/traffic%20news/index.htm>

REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES



IBISS launches a new magazine on trafficking in human beings
IBISS-CO (Instituto Brasileiro de Inovações pró- Sociedade Saudável), a GAATW member in Brazil, just launched the fifth issue of its magazine *Conversation*. This issue focuses on trafficking in Brazil and features articles written by anti-trafficking specialists in Brazil as well as case reports from the State of Mato Grosso do Sul.

Specifically focused on trafficking, this magazine is a new initiative in Brazil and is part of a series of actions supported by the “Secretária de Política para as Mulheres” a governmental body working to strengthen women’s rights through trainings, workshops and other activities.

Antônio Sardinha, coordinator of the IBISS-CO project ‘Right to Go and Come Back’ (Projeto Direito de Ir e Vir), said the new issue is the outcome of a national workshop on anti-trafficking policies and initiatives organized in October 2007 in the city of Campo Grande: “During the event there were many discussions and proposals that added so much to enrich the debate around anti-trafficking initiatives. We thought that putting these discussions together in one publication would contribute to the debate,” said Sardinha.

To receive the magazine, please contact: comunicacao@ibiss-co.org.br

Hong Kong, SAR: Indonesian migrants hit consulate for slow actions on demands



A protest rally headed by the United Indonesians Against Overcharging (PILAR) was held on 13 April to demand that the Indonesian Consulate improve its services for Indonesian migrant workers in Hong Kong and Macau. Protesters challenged the confiscation of passports by recruitment agencies, insufficient services for Indonesian migrants in Macau, the refusal to renew passports within one day, and called for the Consulate to offer major services on Sundays when most migrant workers have their day off. PILAR is an

alliance of 18 Indonesian migrant workers’ organizations including ATKI-HK, a GAATW member. <http://www.cooloud.org.tw/node/19360>

Have you released a new report? Have you organised an important event? Does your campaign need support? We want to hear about it and so do other members and friends. If you need support, ideas, resources or information from other members on campaigns or activities you are running, the e-bulletin can help. Send us a brief message that you would like to share to other members through the e-bulletin. If it is urgent, we could consider sending the message out through our members’ mailing list.

FROM THE SECRETARIAT



On 5-7 April 2008, the GAATW International Secretariat held its **Annual Board Meeting** at the Royal Princess Hotel, Bangkok. Board members from the Philippines, Poland, Thailand and Brazil attended the three-day meeting, together with the International Secretariat Staff. The meeting included presentations and discussion on the 2007 Annual Report, and the new Multi-Annual Proposal 2008-2010, which

outlines programmes and activities for the coming three years. There was also discussion on the opportunities and challenges in the coming years.

From 26 - 28 March 2008, Eleanor from the IS, attended the **Regional Conference on Lawyering for Social Justice and Human Rights** organized by the Alternative Law Groups (ALG), in Manila, Philippines. ALG is a coalition of 19 organizations in the Philippines that use law as a tool for the advancement of the rights of poor and marginalized groups. Almost 100 lawyers and advocates from around Asia attended the Conference, and discussed obstacles to access to justice for poor communities, as well as innovative strategies being used to assist various communities and groups to realise their rights. If you would like to know more about the meeting, you can visit the ALG website: www.alternativelawgroups.org or write to Eleanor at Eleanor@gaatw.org

Invitation to contribute - Upcoming Alliance News, Africa Edition

GAATW-IS is seeking contributions to the Resources Section in the upcoming July issue of the Alliance News. Twice a year a thematic newsletter is produced by the GAATW-IS that reflects the Alliance's work and debates/advancements around specific anti-trafficking issues. The July 2008 issue will focus on Africa: **Human Rights Protection of Trafficked Persons and Migrants**. Please send contributions to Michelle Taguinod at michelle@gaatw.org

Recognise Rights campaign included at the Freedom Network Conference

Jayne Huckerby, author of the US chapter of *Collateral Damage*, presented her findings at the recent Freedom Network Conference, held in Georgia, USA. She also informed delegates about GAATW's *Recognise Rights* campaign and called on interested organizations to join in. The campaign is being led by a working group of GAATW Member Organizations and IS staff. For more information or to participate in the working group, please contact Zoë at zoe@gaatw.org

RESOURCES

Reports

On the occasion of International Women's Day, **La Strada International** (a network of nine independent anti-trafficking NGOs in Europe) launched *Violation of Women's Rights: A cause and consequence of trafficking in women*. The report reveals how gender discrimination and violence is linked to trafficking. It argues that effective prevention of trafficking in women or protection of women at risk of trafficking can only take place if women's rights - in particular economic and social gender equality - are safeguarded and fulfilled. Gender equality and efforts to end violence against women must stand at the centre of any anti-trafficking policy or activity. The summary and recommendations as well as the full report can be downloaded at:

www.lastradainternational.org/Isidocs/431%20LSI-%20violation%20of%20womens%20rights.pdf

Southern Africa: Women Are Changing The Face Of Migration (Gender, Remittances and Development: Preliminary Findings from Selected Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Countries)

Published by UN-INSTRAW and the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), the study focuses on female migration from and between six SADC countries, namely Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, principally to South Africa. Through a combination of a literature review, focus group discussions and personal interviews, the study documents the changing role of women within migratory flows in Southern Africa, explores the potential impact of the increase in women who migrate independently as heads of households as well as migrants' access to financial and other services. <http://allafrica.com/stories/200804040549.html>

Books

50 Ways Local Government Officials Can Confront Human Trafficking in Their Communities

The third in the series of guidebooks from Humanatis, *50 Ways Local Government Officials Can Confront Human Trafficking in Their Communities* provides local leadership with a framework to organize community action, tips to ensure efforts are comprehensive, and a planning tool to help guide those efforts. To order a copy of this guidebook or others in the series please visit: www.humanatis.com/publications.html

Events

Final Conference project *Turnaround* Shedding Light on Nigeria on 30 May 2008 at SERMIG - Arsenal of Peace, Piazza Borgo Dora, 61 Turin, ITALY

"The project Turnaround aims at creating the necessary conditions to allow the Nigerian women victims of trafficking a less traumatic experience process (both forced and voluntary), fully respectful of their human rights and needs, and bearing in mind that it has to be considered as the first necessary step towards a complete and sustainable reintegration in their country of origin, avoiding secondary movements. A cooperative less traumatic, fully respectful of human rights, effective and sustainable model of repatriation of women victims of trafficking will be created, experimented and implemented according to concrete field experience."

For information, contact: Associazione Tampep Onlus, Corso Brescia n. 10 - 10152 Torino
From Monday to Friday from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. tel. 011-859 821 / fax. 011 - 240 73 44
tampeponlus@tampepitalia.it or BLINN Netherlands at info@blinn.nl [T] 0031 20 523 11 00.

"If Thailand's labour laws were followed across the board, fewer migrants would resort to illegal crossings or be susceptible to trafficking, and could travel and work with basic rights under law...It's time for the Thai and Burmese governments to implement transparent measures that protect the lives and basic rights of migrant workers."

Elaine Pearson, Deputy Asia Director, Human Rights Watch
<http://hrw.org/english/docs/2008/04/11/thaila18527.txt.htm>

The GAATW e-bulletin is sent out to all member organisations of the Alliance as well as to many of its friends and sister NGOs worldwide.

- o The e-bulletin is published every last week of the month. A Spanish version goes out three days after the English version. Sometimes additional follow up information and/or reminders are also sent via email to member organisations.
- o Primarily a tool for communication between the International Secretariat and the Alliance members, the e-bulletin aims to cover a broad range of topics although trafficking related issues remain its special focus. We also use this e-bulletin to inform members about upcoming events and provide regular updates about the Secretariat.
- o We strongly encourage members and friends to send us their input to the e-bulletin at info@gaatw.org
- o If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at info@gaatw.org and we will delete your address from the list.

Please note that we have not inserted the advertisements that may appear on this message. GAATW International Secretariat is not associated in any of these ads over which we have no control.

e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GAATW e-Bulletin

May 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from the GAATW-IS!

In celebration of Labour Day at the beginning of this month, we have included a number of updates on news relating to migrant workers rights - from Labour Day activities to an engaging resource addressing migration and the idea of 'open borders' to actions by self-organised migrants groups. GAATW supports the actions for the recognition of workers rights, especially workers in the informal sector.

The protection of all workers rights is included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - specifically the right to free choice of employment, to just and favourable working conditions, to equal pay for equal work, to just remuneration, to form and join trade unions, and to not be held in slavery or servitude - but we are a long way from realizing these rights for all workers. In the global highlights, we bring you discouraging news that the Swiss government has rejected the ratification of the UN convention on migrant workers. We urge legislators to centre the rights of migrant workers in developing and adopting measures that affects migrant workers and their families.

There has been a lot of activity among GAATW members, and we bring you news of LEFÖ-IBF's 10-year anniversary in Austria, the launching of *Day.Off* campaign from a transient workers group based in Singapore and an upcoming panel by GAATW-REDLAC members at the upcoming 'First' Latin American Congress on trafficking and smuggling in persons in Argentina. This e-bulletin also highlights some future opportunities to get involved - check out the GAATW IS section and our Resources section for more information on conferences and NGO submissions to the Human Rights Council.

We hope that you will find this month's issue enriching and we always look forward to your ideas and comments.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

LABOUR DAY ACTIONS

Lebanon: Put yourself in her shoes

On Labour Day 2008, a Lebanese campaign *Put yourself in her shoes*, organised by Human Rights Watch, called on Arab media in Beirut to help improve the lives of Lebanon's migrant domestic workers. A joint press conference was held by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Lebanon's Insan Association and Caritas specifically geared towards the Arab media as an appeal to Lebanese employers, recruitment agencies and the Lebanese government to ensure that these women are protected by law. Domestic workers' wages in Lebanon average between \$100-250 per month. They work up to 110 hours a week with no off days.

<http://www.menassat.com/?q=en/news-articles/3596-put-yourself-her-shoes>

Canada: Justice for Migrant Workers: Why We Will March

Justicia for Migrant Workers Ontario presented a statement to the Canadian Parliament's Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration, calling for Government to listen to the demands of migrant workers, and to engage in a discussion with the workers. The statement also included 14 recommendations made by the Justice for Migrant Workers (J4MW) organisation to improve protection and just working conditions for migrant agricultural workers. The presentation also highlighted a national activity on 1 May 2008 - people across Canada marching under the banner 'No One Is Illegal'. To read the J4MW statement, go to: www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=8859

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

Armenia ratifies the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking

On 14 April 2008, Armenia became the 17th member state to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. For Armenia, the Convention will enter into force on 1 August 2008.

http://www.coe.int/t/DG2/TRAFFICKING/campaign/default_en.asp

Thai 'Help Centre' to be set up in Germany

According to Thailand's Foreign Minister Noppadon Pattama, the first ever Thai protection centre will be set up in Frankfurt, Germany late this year to provide protection and assistance to Thai people overseas. The centre, called the Samakhom Rajamaitree which means 'Royal Friendship Association' in Thai, was chosen to be set up in Germany as some 100,000 Thai people live and work there.

http://nationmultimedia.com/2008/04/27/politics/politics_30071686.php

Switzerland: Human rights improvements on the cards, but not migrant rights

Switzerland agreed to step up action against xenophobia, ratify the protocol of the UN convention against torture and create a national body to help prevent torture. However, it rejected two recommendations calling for accountability in economic, social and cultural rights and the ratification of the UN convention on migrant workers. The Swiss ambassador to the UN, Blaise Godet, said measures contained in the latter convention were "difficult to achieve".

http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/news_digest/Human_rights_improvements_on_the_cards.html?siteSect=104&sid=9082441&cKey=1210691095000&ty=nd

JUSTICE UPDATE

China: Legal aid offices help migrant workers pursue rights

To help protect workers' rights, 21 legal aid work stations have been set up nationwide in China to provide free legal assistance, including legal consultations and case presentation. The network is supposed to expand to all provincial capital cities and mid-sized cities. These offices have also launched law awareness campaigns among migrant workers and distributed brochures encouraging them to seek legal aid to protect their rights. According to the network, an estimated 210 million migrant labourers are still facing problems that involve pay disputes, work injury compensation, health care and education of their children. http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-05/03/content_8094554.htm

Report on Nepal Trafficking Case Studies added to GAATW's Access to Justice website
This month we have added the report *Access to Justice for Traffic Survivors in Nepal: A study of court cases of five traffic survivors*, prepared by Rupa Dhital, Alliance Against Trafficking In Women and Children to the Access to Justice website. This report contains case studies of these five trafficked women who managed to return to Nepal and then went to the court to seek justice. These women, all from Sindhupalchok, Nepal, had been trafficked from their village to the red light districts of Bombay and Delhi in India. To read this report, go to: <http://www.gaatw.net/atj/>

REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

"First" Latin American Congress about traffic and smuggling in persons will be held on 4-6 June 2008 at the Social Science Faculty, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Congress sets out to generate a space of debate and exchange around the existing reflections, work, and research on the issue of trafficking and smuggling in persons in Latin America. The Congress will create an *Observatory* against trafficking and smuggling, and will launch a database. There will also be opportunity for participants to sample cinematographic, documentary, photographic and artistic works.

GAATW-REDLAC members have been invited to participate in different panels throughout the Congress. There will also be a presentation on the GAATW-REDLAC network, which will include results from the research study "Brazilian and Dominican women trafficked to Suriname: a tri-national research" carried out by GAATW members; and findings from *Collateral Damage* and the follow-up campaign, Recognise Rights. The Congress will be broadcast live by Feminist International Radio.

We will bring you more news about this Congress in the next e-bulletin. For more information, go to: <http://congresotrata2008.wordpress.com/>

TWC2 launches DAY.OFF



Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2), a GAATW member in Singapore, along with UNIFEM Singapore and Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics launched a campaign to drum up support for a regular DAY.OFF for domestic workers in Singapore. This is public education campaign aimed at encouraging employers in Singapore to voluntarily give their domestic worker a day off. Through campaign activities such as talks, events, news articles and a website, the

group hopes that people will become convinced of the importance of giving their domestic worker personal time off. To support the campaign, sign on at: www.dayoff.sg

LEFÖ-IBF Intervention Center for Trafficked Women celebrates 10th anniversary

LEFÖ (Information, Education and Support for Migrant Women), a GAATW member in Austria, opened up its Intervention Centre for Women affected by Trafficking (IBF) 10 years ago. After a decade of work, LEFÖ-IBF remains Austria's only victim protection organisation, and has provided counselling and support to more than 1,300 women.



To mark this anniversary, LEFÖ-IBF held a series of activities including a press conference, a reading, a photo slide show and an anniversary celebration on 11 April 2008 in order to sensitize the public, review the past years' developments and identify future perspectives. The press conference also highlighted some key challenges, including the need for a holistic approach in which the women affected are considered active players. For more information, go to: www.lefoe.at or email: ibf@lefoe.at

ATKI-HK survey findings presented at Indonesian migrant workers public forum

Eni Lestari, chairperson of the Association of Indonesian Migrant Workers (ATKI-HK), a GAATW member organization, spoke at a public forum in Hong Kong attended by 1,000 Indonesian migrant workers. She reported on a survey undertaken by ATKI-HK in January 2008 that revealed 40 percent of Indonesian migrants in Hong Kong do not have their passports in their possession as these were confiscated by their employment agencies upon arrival and during employment in Hong Kong. The survey named 40 agencies who are withholding passports. "Last month, we submitted the collected data on this issue to

Consulate. Up to now, no decisive action has been done against these erring agencies," Lestari said. For more information, go to: www.gaatw.org/

Rehabilitation Centre for Trafficked Persons opened in Nepal

A new Rehabilitation Centre and Shelter for trafficked persons has opened on 23 May 2008 in Sindhupalchowk District in Nepal. The Centre is one of three Government-funded shelter homes in Nepal that have been contracted out to NGOs. In Sindhupalchowk, the contract was won by three GAATW members - Shakti Samuha, Grimin Mahila Srijan Seel Pariwar (GMSP), and Mahila Atma Nirvarta Kendra (MANK) - who are working together to operate the centre.

Have you released a new report? Have you organised an event? Does your campaign need support? We want to hear about it and so do other members and friends. If you need support, ideas, resources or information from other members on campaigns or activities you are running, the e-bulletin can help. Send us a brief message that you would like to share to other members through the e-bulletin. If it is urgent, we could consider sending the message out through our members' mailing list.

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Annual Meeting of Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF)

The annual APF meeting is being hosted by the Malaysian human rights commission SUHAKAM from 28-31 July 2008. There is a closed meeting on 28 July, but NGOs can register to attend as observers from 29-31 July. Forum-Asia and International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) will co-organize an NGO meeting to precede the APF, which will be held 26-28 July. Discussions will focus on this year's theme which is corporate social responsibility. During the APF meeting, three national NGOs (possibly chosen during the preceding NGO meeting) will report on human rights issues.

GAATW members are encouraged to share with the GAATW IS their experiences of engaging with NHRs and if anyone from the members are planning to attend. Please write to Aneeqa Ahmad: aneeqa@gaatw.org

General Assembly Special Thematic Debate on Human Trafficking

The debate on 3 June, 2008 will comprise of two panel sessions on "Enhancing multilateral cooperation to prevent trafficking in persons" and on "Protecting victims of trafficking and cross-border cooperation in prosecuting traffickers in persons". There will also be opportunity for Member States and representatives of the private sector, civil society, NGOs and the UN system to exchange views. An additional seminar, **Countering human trafficking: Partnerships for protection and capacity-building**, has been organized by UNITAR for 2 June 2008.

GAATW IS staff, Amy Bain, Advocacy Officer, and Eleanor Taylor-Nicholson, Programme Coordinator, will be attending both the GA and the seminar. For more information, go to: <http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/ThematicDebates/humantrafficking.shtml> or <http://www.un.int/iom/Trafficking2008.html>

4th ASEAN Civil Society Conference (ACSC 4)

The ACSC 4 will be held in Bangkok, December 2008, preceding the ASEAN Summit. On 12 May 2008, IS staff Aneeqa Ahmad attended a meeting called by the local organizing committee of Thai national NGOs who have started planning for ACSC 4. In the meeting they shared results of their initial discussion and there was discussion on the current possibilities of civil society engagement with ASEAN governments and the current ASEAN Director General. The plans for ACSC 4 are just starting to be developed. This year, the focus will be on issues of Energy and also Food Security, although other issues pertinent to the region, like migrant work, will also be addressed.

If any South-East Asian country GAATW members are interested in participating, we would love to know about it and we will be happy to help out with logistics or any other planning as ACSC 4 will be in Bangkok this year. For more information, please contact aneeqa@gaatw.org

RESOURCES

References

The Network for Justice and Democracy (NGO) announced the publication of *International Perspectives and Nigerian Laws on Human Trafficking*. This book by Olaide Gbadamosi Esq, is a practical aid to understanding trafficking in persons and aims to encourage effective actions taken by the various international, regional, and national initiatives. It also contains an exhaustive list of appendices of international conventions, treaties and national legislation on trafficking in persons. To access the publication, visit: <http://www.justiceanddemocracy.org/Trrfic%20Bk.pdf>

The first of United Nations Inter-Agency Project's (UNIAP) maps on human trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS) have been released for Lao PDR and Cambodia. The maps show current knowledge of routes, sources and destinations of trafficking in persons and are intended to provide hands-on tools to raise awareness, identify gaps and priorities. These maps and datasheets will be available as they are developed at: <http://www.no-trafficking.org/content/SIREN/SIREN-reports.htm>

Migration Without Borders: Essays on the Free Movement of People (UNESCO)

The publication *Migration Without Borders* challenges conventional views on the need to control and restrict migration flows, and brings a fresh perspective to contemporary debates on migration. This book explores analytical issues raised by 'open borders' such as ethics, human rights, economic development, politics, social cohesion and welfare and how free movement is addressed and governed in Europe, Africa, the Americas and Asia. By introducing and discussing the possibility of a right to mobility, it calls for an opening, not only of national borders, but also of the eyes and minds of all those interested in the future of international migration in a globalising world. To view the table of contents and order a copy, http://publishing.unesco.org/details.aspx?Code_Livre=4578

The Forced Migration Review on Burma's Displaced Person by the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford is now available. The April 2008 (Issue 30) reflects the result of Burma's civil conflict which is still ongoing. For more information, please visit: <http://www.fmreview.org/FMRpdfs/FMR30/FMR30.pdf>

Events

The Founding Assembly of the International Migrants Alliance, a global alliance of im/migrants, refugees and displaced people will be held in Hong Kong on June 15-16, 2008. The theme of the assembly and international conference is '*Migrants and Refugees of the World: Unite to Defend and Fight for our Rights! Struggle Against Imperialist Attacks! Promote International Solidarity!*' GAATW IS staff members Aneeqa Ahmad and Rebecca Napier-Moore will be attending. For more information contact, ima.sect@gmail.com or visit their website at www.pinas.net/ima

The registration for the 2008 World Social Forum on Migration is now Open

The motto for this year's event is: Our voices, our rights - For a world without walls. Civil society, representatives of social movements, migrant associations and other individuals/organisations will gather on 11-13 September in Rivas Vaciamadrid (Madrid, Spain) to demand that governments stop violating the rights of migrants all over the world. If you are interested in participating, register an activity or be a volunteer, please go to www.fsmm2008.org

NGO Submissions for the HRC Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

The 3rd Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council (HRC) will be taking place from 1 - 12 December 2008. The UPR mechanism is a new innovation in the UN human rights system, under which each UN member state will be reviewed periodically - at this stage every 4 years - on its human rights record by the other member States of the Human Rights Council. NGOs can provide written submissions for the UPR, by sending it to UPRsubmissions@ohchr.org. The deadline for submission of reports for the 3rd UPR session is 14 July 2008.

" At a European level, the recently enforced Council of Europe Convention on Human Trafficking is breaking new ground...It is the first international convention that looks at trafficking as an issue of human rights and not just crime control, and guarantees a minimum standard of protection and assistance to the victims."

Klara Skrivankova, Trafficking Programme Coordinator for [Anti-Slavery International](http://www.france24.com/en/20080509-anniversary-abolition-slavery-modern-days-forced-labour-trafficking&navi=MONDE)
<http://www.france24.com/en/20080509-anniversary-abolition-slavery-modern-days-forced-labour-trafficking&navi=MONDE>

The GAATW e-bulletin is sent out to all member organisations of the Alliance as well as to many of its friends and sister NGOs worldwide.

- The e-bulletin is published every last week of the month. A Spanish version goes out three days after the English version. Sometimes additional follow up information and/or reminders are also sent via email to member organisations.
- Primarily a tool for communication between the International Secretariat and the Alliance members, the e-bulletin aims to cover a broad range of topics although trafficking related issues remain its special focus. We also use this e-bulletin to inform members about upcoming events and provide regular updates about the Secretariat.
- We strongly encourage members and friends to send us their input to the e-bulletin at info@gaatw.org
- If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at info@gaatw.org and we will delete your address from the list.

Please note that we have not inserted the advertisements that may appear on this message. GAATW International Secretariat is not associated in any of these ads over which we have no control.

GAATW e-Bulletin

June 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from GAATW International Secretariat.

Early this month, we received reports about the abuse of sex workers in Cambodia as a result of the implementation of the anti-trafficking law in the country. Testimonies from sex workers attest to the human rights violations being committed by law enforcement personnel. We are deeply concerned about this treatment of women who are already in a highly vulnerable situation - many are HIV positive and require daily medication. Sex workers rights organisations from around the world have strongly condemned these atrocities and demanded a policy change. We join them in urging the Cambodian government to review the implementation of their anti-trafficking law and provide justice to those who received abuse and maltreatment.

In this issue, we share with you news about the confirmation of Ms Joy Ngozi Ezeilo Emekekwe's appointment as Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, the passage of a new directive on the treatment of irregular migrants in the European Union, and developments in human trafficking in ASEAN. Justice updates bring news on the newly passed anti-trafficking laws in Azerbaijan, Mozambique and Thailand. We also have updates on the 1st Latin American Congress on Trafficking and Smuggling participated by seven GAATW members in Latin America and the Caribbean. We feature brief reports from the Secretariat about the meetings held in Argentina, Hong Kong and Thailand as well as two vacancy announcements in the IS.

In the next Advocacy Update, we will feature the report about the General Assembly Thematic Debate on Human Trafficking held in New York this month.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!! On June 20th the Human Rights Council confirmed the appointment of **Ms Joy Ngozi Ezeilo Emekekwe of Nigeria as the new Special Rapporteur on Trafficking**. The announcement was stated in the [HRC full report](#) which also includes the adoption of 13 resolutions and the appointment of mandate holders. GAATW's endorsement letter for Joy Emekekwe was strongly supported by 82 individuals and organisations around the world. To view the names of the signatories to the letter, go to <http://www.gaatw.net>.

Strasbourg: European Union passes tough measures on the return of Migrants

E.U. lawmakers voted to allow undocumented migrants to be held in detention centres for up to 18 months and banned from entering European Union territory for up to five years.

Civil society groups criticised the passage of the so-called “return directive” and viewed it as an ‘erosion’ of human rights standards. UNHCR also raised concerns about how the directive will affect the increasing numbers of people forced to flee their countries. European countries currently have different laws governing migration; most have no limit on the length of time a person can be held in immigration detention.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/19/world/europe/19migrant.html?ref=europe>

To read the press statement of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles, go to <http://www.december18.net/web/docpapers/doc6665.doc>

Malaysia: Claims that ASEAN is making strides in tackling human trafficking

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) has claimed to be making progress in tackling the problem of trafficking in persons, according to Melchor P. Rosales, the Philippines undersecretary for peace and order and transnational crime. He said ASEAN had pilot-tested courses in dealing with human trafficking, geared at law enforcement officers, public prosecutors and judges. Asean is proposing a convention to prevent and combat human trafficking in the region. The proposal will include improving the capacity of national criminal justice agencies to investigate and prosecute such cases, promoting common standards and approaches, repatriating victims, mutual legal assistance and extradition, and victim protection and support.

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/6/17/nation/20080617101412&sec=nation>

JUSTICE UPDATE

Lebanon: Few rights, low pay for 200,000 migrant domestic workers. Rights groups stated that migrant domestic workers, that make up 5% of Lebanon’s population, remain unprotected by labour laws and are subject to a range of abuses by their employers. “Domestic workers represent a large segment of labourers who are not being recognised as such. Over a third of the domestic worker population is denied time off,” said Nadim Houry, Beirut researcher for Human Rights Watch (HRW), which this month re-launched “Put yourself in her shoes” - a campaign to highlight abuses against domestic workers. It was stated that migrant workers suffer non-payment of wages, no given rest days, restriction of movement and poor working conditions.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=78865>

Azerbaijan: The OSCE Special Representative for Combating Human Trafficking, Eva Biaudet, commended Azerbaijan for passing anti-trafficking laws, and encouraged authorities to step up co-operation with non-governmental organizations to better identify victims. Special Representative Biaudet noted that unlike the situation in most OSCE countries, only a few victims in Azerbaijan are identified by NGOs. She also expressed concern about reports of victims sometimes being treated as criminals and penalized and even being harassed and insulted by representatives of the judiciary. She stressed the need for more awareness-raising among judges and prosecutors.

http://www.isria.info/RESTRICTED/D/2008/JUNE_21/diplo_19june2008_58.htm

New Thai anti-trafficking law comes into force that will recognise labour exploitation. The law, which strengthens protection for victims of trafficking, will be accompanied by a day of campaigning to raise public awareness of the problem. The new law will broaden the definition of victims to include men, and make it easier to prevent them from being summarily deported. It also contains provisions on compensation, and allowing trafficked persons to work in certain circumstances, while they wait for their trial to conclude. The new Thai law is available on the GAATW Access to Justice website at www.gaaww.net/atj. See also: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/7437016.stm>

Mozambique: Mozambican President Armando Guebuza has signed into law three bills to deal with trafficking of persons in the country. The bills were recently approved by the country’s parliament and had been sent to the presidency for signing. Mozambican authorities reported rescuing more than 200 children who were being trafficked to South Africa as of January 2008.

REGIONAL MEMBER UPDATES

The AMERICAS

GAATW-REDLAC activities during the 1st Latin American Congress on Trafficking and Smuggling (Faculty of Social Sciences, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 4 to 6, June 2008)

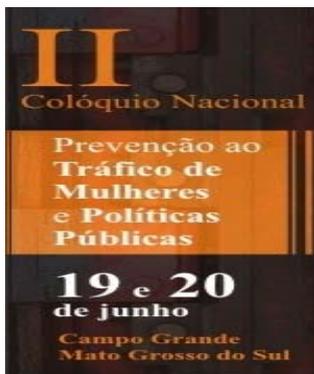
Seven GAATW members in Latin America and the Caribbean, AMUMRA (Argentina), IBISS-CO and Projeto Trama (Brazil), CECASEM (Bolivia), Espacios de Mujer (Colombia), CEAPA (Dominican Republic) and CHS-Alternativo (Peru), as well as Nerea (from the GAATW International Secretariat) participated in the 1st Latin American Congress on Trafficking and Smuggling. They held a two-hour panel to present REDLAC, the GAATW regional chapter, and some of the activities of this regional network has carried. More than 300 persons attended this presentation, which was a good opportunity to share GAATW-REDLAC work and its commitment to become a regional reference in the defence of the human rights of trafficked persons and migrants. GAATW members also presented their work and the main conclusions and recommendations of Collateral Damage were shared.

The Congress provided GAATW-REDLAC with its first opportunity to participate in a regional event as a regional network and to share its work with a wide audience. However, the network members were disappointed with the Congress overall, in that it lacked an overall sense of purpose (with no clear follow-up beyond the event), conceptual clarity (with concepts such as trafficking, prostitution, smuggling, migration, exploitation and so on being used synonymously) and time for interaction during the different panels. A [summary of the Congress](#) has been shared in Spanish among the GAATW members in LAC. For more information please contact the IS (liyana@gaatw.org and/or nerea@gaatw.org)

Also on the 4th of June, GAATW member AMUMRA and the Government of the city of Buenos Aires co-organised a roundtable on Prevention and Assistance to Trafficked Persons. The Roundtable took advantage of the presence of different GAATW member organizations in Argentina and asked them to share their work. This was a very good opportunity to advocate for the rights of trafficked persons to be put at the core of anti-trafficking work.

We would like to sincerely thank AMUMRA for their support to the GAATW-REDLAC activities in Argentina.

Second National Colloquium on Prevention of Traffic in Persons and Public Policies



On 19 and 20 of June, the “2nd National Colloquium on Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Public Policies and the 1st International Colloquium of Confrontation to the Traffic of People” was held by the State Committee for encountering trafficking in persons at Campo Grande Mato Grosso do Sul (South), Brazil in coordination with IBISS-CO (INSTITUTO BRASILEIRO DE INOVAÇÕES pró-SOCIEDADE SAUDÁVEL)

The aims of the event were to: discuss trafficking in the national and international context; discuss the strategies for and challenges to the implementation of the National Plan for Confronting Traffic in persons (PNETP) in Brazil and the role of government and civil society in this process. The representatives of GAATW-Brazil present at the Colloquium had written an Open Letter expressing their position on the implementation of the PNETP. For more information, e-mail IBIS-Co at ibiss.co@brturbo.com.br and scandola@terra.com.br. Website: www.ibiss-co.org.br

3-Day Congress to Stop Human Trafficking in Guatemala

ECPAT Guatemala was part of the opening ceremony of this three-day congress in which the United States Ambassador to Guatemala delivered the keynote address. The Congress took place on 11-13 June and was the first congress on trafficking to be held in Guatemala. Discussions focused on developing a shared platform for those working in public awareness raising, prevention and the rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked victims, to devise solutions, and also to better connect public institutions and NGOs working on human trafficking or related issues. For more information, go to www.congreso08.com.

EUROPE

NGOs (including Proyecto Esperanza) were part of the **Spanish Network Against Trafficking in Human Beings** demonstration held on the 22 May 2008 in Madrid demanding the Spanish Government to: sign the Council of Europe (CoE) Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings; finalise and implement the National Action Plan against Trafficking; and adopt protection measures that are not conditional on the collaboration of trafficked persons with the police.



“Spain is at the bottom of Europe, we have not signed the CoE Convention nor have we put any mechanism in place,” said Marta Gonzalez, coordinator of Proyecto Esperanza. Later that same day the Spanish government announced the approval before the end of the year of the National Plan on Human Rights that contains a Special Plan to fight against trafficking in human beings for sexual and labour exploitation. The next day (23 May) the Spanish government announced the start of the formal process for signing the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

Have you released a new report? Have you organised an important event? Does your campaign need support? We want to hear about it and so do other members and friends. If you need support, ideas, resources or information from other members on campaigns or activities you are running, the e-bulletin can help. Send us the brief message you may like to send out to other members through the e-bulletin. If it is urgent, we could consider sending the message out through our members' mailing list.

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Regional Report on access to justice services and the anti-trafficking legislation

GAATW'S Access to Justice Programme in partnership with Projeto Trama, a GAATW member from Brazil, had recently launched a new Regional Mapping of organisations and legal systems that support trafficked persons and migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). We aim to produce a Regional Report on access to justice services and the anti-trafficking legislation to facilitate the exchange of technical knowledge between professionals, activists and organisations who work on the issues of human trafficking, migration, gender, labour and human rights.

If you are an individual or part of an organisation working in this regional area, we invite you to join this collective effort by completing our 10-minute questionnaire posted on our website. We would appreciate if you can circulate the questionnaire to your network. To download, go to

http://www.gaatw.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=113&Itemid=88.

For more information and suggestions, please contact: liyana@gaatw.org or eleonor@gaatw.org.

Realizing Rights: Getting to know Self-organised Group (SoG) members in Latin America and the Caribbean (9 to 17 June 2008)

As part of the Realizing Rights Programme Bandana and Nerea visited AMUMRA (a SoG formed by migrant and refugee woman in Argentina). The objective of this visit was to learn more about the organisation, its members and allies and the work they do. In order to facilitate interaction and mutual learning among SoGs, Yenny Hurtado (from SINTRASEDON, another SoG formed by Colombian domestic workers) also participated in this visit.

It was a great opportunity to get to know these two member organizations better and to understand the context they work in. As part of the visit different meetings with migrants, lawyers, counsellors, governmental institutions etc were organized. On the last day Bandana participated in an event organized by AMUMRA on the occasion of the International Refugee Day in which refugees shared their experiences with representatives from the government, UNHCHR and NGOs in order to advocate for the implementation of the Argentinean refugee law and its action plan.

This was an initial step in the implementation of the Realizing Rights programme. From the IS we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Natividad Obeso, her family and all the women from AMUMRA for sharing with us their daily life and struggles in Argentina.

GAATW IS staff Rebecca and Aneeqa attended the founding assembly of **International Migrants Alliance (IMA) in Hong Kong from 14-17th June 2008**. IMA is a broad international alliance composed of migrant organizations of different nationalities. Majority of IMA's members are grassroots groups with migrants speaking for themselves. The first day of the two-day event consisted of panel discussions on various issues affecting migrants and the second day was devoted entirely to organizational matters of IMA. About 300 people, including a large number of migrant workers of Hong Kong, who have their day off on Sundays, attended the first day. GAATW IS attended the event to show solidarity and support this new alliance of migrants.

Congratulations to **Eni Lestari**, GAATW's international board member, and representative of our member organization ATKI-HK, who was elected the first Chairperson of IMA. The elections for the Executive Committee were held on the second day. For the next three years, the secretariat for the IMA will be in Hong Kong. For more information about IMA, visit <http://ima.pinas.net> or email ima.sect@gmail.com.

Rebecca and Alfie from GAATW-IS attended the **Roundtable Discussion on the Protection of Migrant Children** held on June 5-6, 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was organised by **Save the Children UK** with support from the International Labour Organisation Trafficking in Children and Women Project and the Southeast Asia Regional Cooperation in Human Development Project (SEARCH) of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The purpose of the meeting was to steer discussions on migration and child protection and with the aim to come up with policy recommendations to the national governments. The meeting discussed the links between children, migration and development in response to protecting this sector.

GAATW IS Vacancy Announcement

As you may know, in 2008 GAATW has started her new multi-annual program. To implement this program, we would like to find two new colleagues who can support us in our work in the Africa region this year and our international advocacy programme. You can download the job descriptions on our website at www.gaatw.org.

RESOURCES

Publications

“Neighbors in Need: Zimbabweans Seeking Refuge in South Africa”

The latest report by **Human Rights Watch** looks at South Africa’s decision to treat Zimbabwean’s merely as voluntary migrants, its failure to respond effectively to stop the human rights abuses and economic deprivation in Zimbabwe that cause its people to flee, and its failure to address their needs in South Africa. *Neighbors in Need* also presents the individual stories of Zimbabweans driven out of their country by the appalling conditions caused by Mugabe’s destructive economic policies.

http://hrw.org/english/docs/2008/06/19/safric19152_txt.htm

“They Respect Their Animals More’ - Voices of child domestic workers”

This recent report by **Anti-Slavery International** is the product of group discussions and individual interviews with more than 400 current and former child domestic workers from urban and rural areas in Benin, Costa Rica, India, Nepal, Peru, Philippines, Tanzania and Togo, to inform about the situation and needs of child domestic workers in order to better target programmes and policies. It also aims to encourage thinking about child domestic workers not simply as subjects of concern, but as social actors able to articulate their needs and capable of transforming their own lives, and the lives of others.

Visit this website on how to order a copy of the report:

<http://www.antislavery.org/homepage/resources/publication.htm#link5>

Compensation of Trafficked and Exploited Persons in the OSCE Region



This book published by the **OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)** analyses the right to compensation for victims of trafficking and how it is implemented in eight different OSCE states - Albania, France, Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The report looks at compensation options through civil, criminal and labour proceedings, as well as state compensation schemes, and presents recommendations to improve compensation

mechanisms for trafficked and exploited persons. The electronic version of the publication can be downloaded on the web:

www.osce.org/odihr/item_11_31284.html

The **National Labor Committee (NLC)** based in New York has released a 65-page report, **"The Toyota You Don't Know"** documenting serious human rights violations by the Toyota Motor Company in one of the sections of the report. The report covers the conditions given to foreign guest workers, mostly from China and Vietnam to Japan, who are stripped of their passports and often forced to work 16 hours a day, seven days a week, while being paid less than half the legal minimum wage. Guest workers who complain about abusive conditions are said to be deported. Access the report at

<http://www.nlcnet.org/article.php?id=562>

The report on **‘Combating Human Trafficking in the UAE 2007’**, released a year after the UAE National Committee was formed, highlights the country’s stance towards the crime, the efforts to counter it, the obstacles and challenges it has encountered, as well as plans for the future. The report also documents measures that reflect the UAE’s concern about the victims of this crime and their physical and emotional well-being. It also outlines the progress that the UAE has achieved with regards to the victim support network, noting the important work carried out by the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children and the new shelter in Abu Dhabi for victims of trafficking.

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticleNew.asp?section=theuae&xfile=data/theuae/2008/may/theuae_may674.xml

Events

The fourth [Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime \(TOC\)](#) will take place from 8-17 October 2008 in Vienna.

Civil Society Organizations working on issues related to the Convention including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons are welcome to participate as observers. For more information on civil society participation and for steps related to admission please follow the instructions indicated in this UNODC link [communication of Interest \(IGOs and NGOs\)](#) . Please note that the deadline for expressing your interest in participating is 31 July 2008

The 2nd Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) will be held on 27-30 October 2008 in Manila, Philippines. The GFMD is a government-led initiative that is open to all 192 United Nations Member States. The application for prospective delegates has been extended until July 15, 2008. To download the application, go to www.gfmd2008.org/delegation_info/delegate_app_forms.html

The Buhay Foundation for Women and the Girl Child headed by Ms. Nelia Sancho, GAATW International Board Member, will conduct a seminar workshop in Davao City (south of the Philippines) on trafficking, migration, labour exploitation and gender on the last week of July 2008. The purpose of the workshop is to dialogue with groups working on the ground against trafficking of Filipinas and the labour exploitation of women migrants - to clarify concepts as well as definitions of trafficking using the Palermo protocol as a reference, and the recommended human rights guidelines in the anti-trafficking work issued by the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner. For more information write to Ms. Nelia Sancho at neliasancho@yahoo.com.

Call for Papers

The Studies program of Latin America and the Caribbean - PROEALC - of the Center of Social Sciences of the University of the State of Rio de Janeiro and other social organisations invite the academic community for the 2nd INTERNATIONAL SEMINARY HUMAN RIGHTS, VIOLENCE AND POVERTY: the situation of children and adolescents in Latin America to be held on 5-7 November 2008. The selection of works for oral presentation will be based on the evaluation of the complete works that will have to be sent by July 30, 2008 July. For more information please contact: Liyana from GAATW-IS at liyana@gaatw.org.

Petition

Migrant rights organisations based in Canada are supporting Juana Tejada's appeal for Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to grant her permanent residency status. Juana Tejada, a Filipino national, arrived in Canada under the Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP) in 2003. After 24 months serving Canadian society through domestic work, she is now eligible to apply for permanent residency. But since she was diagnosed with cancer in 2006, CIC continues to deny Juana her right to stay in Canada. The groups supporting Tejada are appealing for reconsideration of the case to the Canadian government through Immigration Minister Diane Finley. If you would like to support Tejada's appeal, write to buhay.foundation@gmail.com.

"Refugees show incredible courage and perseverance in overcoming enormous odds to rebuild their lives. Ensuring that they get the protection they deserve is a noble cause because refugee rights are human rights - and rights that belong to us all."

UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres during the celebration of World Refugee Day on June 20, 2008

<http://www.december18.net/web/papers/view.php?paperID=6672&menuID=41&lang=EN>

The GAATW e-bulletin is sent out to all member organisations of the Alliance as well as to many of its friends and sister NGOs worldwide.

- The e-bulletin is published every last week of the month. A Spanish version goes out three days after the English version. Sometimes additional follow up information and/or reminders are also sent via email to member organisations.
- Primarily a tool for communication between the International Secretariat and the Alliance members, the e-

bulletin aims to cover a broad range of topics although trafficking related issues remain its special focus. We also use this e-bulletin to inform members about upcoming events and provide regular updates about the Secretariat.

- We strongly encourage members and friends to send us their input to the e-bulletin at info@gaatw.org
- If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at info@gaatw.org and we will delete your address from the list.

Please note that we have not inserted the advertisements that may appear on this message. GAATW International Secretariat is not associated in any of these ads over which we have no control.

e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GAATW e-Bulletin

July 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from GAATW International Secretariat.

In this issue, we seek to bring you interesting updates on global highlights about the reactions of 10 UN human rights experts on the proposed EU policy concerning undocumented migrants, the move by the Bangladesh government and ILO to include the protection of migrant workers in the SAARC agenda, and a glimpse of the situation of orphaned children in Burma after the devastation brought by Cyclone Nargis in May. Justice update focuses on the latest ratification to the Palermo Protocol, presentation of a draft resolution on human trafficking to the United Nation's ECOSOC. In members' update, LEFO-IBF has initiated a discussion on sustainable and credible politics against trafficking in women. Also, Shakti Samuha had organised a three-day anti-trafficking workshop where trafficking survivors were given space to talk about their stories and form collective actions. Regional update brings news about the Women's Human Rights Defenders network's appeal for solidarity and support to end all forms of violence against women. Despite the rainy weather and police resistance, the WHRDs stood firmly in asserting their rights and challenged the feudal and patriarchal structure that has always suppressed the women.

The GAATW-IS is pleased to share its brief report about the recent meetings attended by IS representatives, joint partnerships and consultations with members and allies. As we have completed the first half of the year, the International Secretariat reflected on the accomplished work from the thematic priorities in GAATW's three-year programme. After a rejuvenating staff retreat outside the premises of Bangkok, we start the second half of 2008 with a teaser of the July issue of the Alliance News focusing on Africa. The IS is also geared up in the upcoming 'GAATW Roundtable on Gender-Migration-Labour-Trafficking: Exploring conceptual linkages & moving forward' to be held in Bangkok from August 6-9. We will bring you more details in our next issue of the e-Bulletin.

We also share information on latest reports on the abuses against Asian domestic workers in Saudi Arabia launched by Human Rights Watch and a book on labour exploitation and forced labour in Portugal. Also, we feature campaigns and appeals for action which calls for ending violence against women and justice for comfort women survivors.

We also take this opportunity to announce that the registration date for the upcoming **Conference of Parties** to the Convention on Transnational Organised Crime in October is due today, July 31st. We prepared a briefer for more information and useful link to this event under Resources Section below.

If you wish to contribute an article or if you would like us to circulate any announcement of events, new publications or human rights related activities, please write to us at gaatw@gaatw.org. We also welcome suggestions on topics and subjects that you would like the IS to include in its regular bulletins.

Thank you.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

Reactions to the EU Return Directive

EU policy on returning **undocumented** migrants alarms UN rights experts

Ten independent United Nations human rights experts have expressed their concern at a recent European Union policy that seeks to synchronize standards and procedures for returning “irregularly staying third-country nationals”. The so-called **EU Return Directive**, was approved by the European Parliament on 18 June.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27414&Cr=Asylum&Cr1>

On 10 July the presidents of the **MERCOSUR countries** - Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil and Uruguay with associate members Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela - released a **joint statement rejecting the EU move towards “criminalizing irregular migration** and adopting restrictive policies especially directed towards the most vulnerable sectors in society.” <http://www.observatoriomercosur.org.uy/es/obsn187.php>

For information on criticisms against the Directive or on actions advocating against the EU Directive, see Regional/Member Updates in this issue.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) must protect migrant workers

The welfare and protection of migrant workers should be part of the SAARC agenda considering that South Asia provides 1.5 million workers to labour-receiving countries every year, says government and International Labour Organisation (ILO) officials.

<http://bdnews24.com/details.php?id=57447&cid=4>

Burma: Cyclone orphans take low-paid work to survive

Many children orphaned by Cyclone Nargis are being employed in low-paid jobs in the Irrawaddy delta and Rangoon, said monks in the region.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/LSGZ-7GCGVN?OpenDocument&query=human%20trafficking>

Belarus: Draft resolution on human trafficking presented in ECOSOC

A delegation of the Republic of Belarus presented a draft resolution in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) urging UN member states to expand international cooperation to tackle trafficking, including by means of making a contribution to the creation of global partnership against slavery and human trafficking.

<http://law.by/work/EnglPortal.nsf/0/3D5FC54EF6E5514FC2257489004F52D1?OpenDocument>

Bahrain: Protecting the Rights of Domestic Workers

In Bahrain, maids are supplied by local recruitment agencies at a fixed price stipulated in the contract. Many of these agencies violate these contracts by illegally taking three months advance of the maids’ salaries from their sponsors without informing them, said Suad Mubarak, assistant general secretary of women and child affairs at the General Federation of Bahrain Trade Unions (GFBTU). GFBTU calls for mechanisms to protect the rights of these workers including the right to access medical insurance, compulsory day off and other privileges for every worker:

<http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7011580240>

JUSTICE UPDATE

Uzbekistan adopts law to ratify UN Protocol on preventing human trafficking

On 8 July 2008, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov signed the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On ratifying Protocol on preventing and suppressing trafficking in persons, in particular, of women and children, and punishment for this, which supplements the United Nations Convention against transnational organized crime

(New York, 15 November 2000)". The Law was adopted by the Legislative Chamber on 23 June 2008 and approved by the Senate on 27 June 2008.
<http://www.turkishweekly.net/news.php?id=57673>

REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

The AMERICAS

Action on the EU Return Directive in Argentina and globally

AMUMRA, GAATW's member organisation in Argentina formed by migrant women, has announced a campaign against the EU Return Directive. This Directive establishes an 18-month detention period for undocumented migrants who can also be banned from re-entering the EU territory for five years. It also allows for the detention of children and the deportation of unaccompanied minors. To read the EU Directive, go to:

<http://www.statewatch.org/news/2008/may/eu-returns-directive-council-8812.pdf>

The Directive has received wide criticism from civil society, including GAATW members, and Governments, especially in Latin America. (See Global Highlights for more information on these criticisms).

On 28 August AMUMRA will demonstrate in Buenos Aires and will deliver a letter to the Parliament. They are inviting all GAATW members to join this campaign and lobby their own national governments.

You can endorse AMUMRA's petition by contacting: migrantesenargentina@yahoo.com.ar (Spanish) or liyana@gaatw.org (Spanish/English)

GAATW's **Recognise Rights campaign** will be supporting this action on the EU Return Directive, and will be launching a global initiative on 28 August to mobilise regional action.

World Congress III against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents

The Government of Brazil, UNICEF, ECPAT International, and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child are planning the World Congress III against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, to be held in Rio de Janeiro from 25-28 November 2008. One hundred and thirty country delegations and up to 3000 participants, including youth delegates, are expected to attend.

GAATW member, ECPAT Guatemala, is part of the coordination for this event, and some member organisations in Brazil have applied to participate.

More Information: Found <http://www.ecpat.net/WorldCongressIII/index.php>

COIN publishes "Sex Work, Trafficking in persons and HIV/AIDS" annex picture

COIN, a GAATW member organisation in the Dominican Republic, published a book on 2 July 2008 titled "Sex Work, Trafficking in persons and HIV/AIDS". This book is a report on a qualitative study on the situation of migrant woman in seven countries of the Caribbean, picking up the experience of the COIN. The countries include: Antigua, Dominica, French Guyana, Guadalupe, Martinique, Trinidad and Tobago, and Haiti.

For more information, contact COIN at: coin@codetel.net.do or www.coin.org

SWP Action Around Reauthorising the Trafficking Victims Protection Act

The Sex Workers Project and their allies are leading the effort to pass the USA Senate version of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorisation Act (TVPRA), which was passed by the USA House of Representatives in 2007 and makes moves to equate prostitution to trafficking. The Senate version, on the other hand, will offer much-needed protections to victims of human trafficking. For more information, go to:

<http://sexworkersproject.org/downloads/20080610-TVPRA-2007-FactSheet.pdf>

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Sex Worker Project, based in New

York, as new members to the GAATW Alliance.

EUROPE

Work-Migration-Rights strategies against women trafficking: International Symposium for further development of competences and forms of action

LEFO-Intervention Centre for Trafficked Women (IBF), a GAATW member organisation based in Vienna, Austria have put forward the question, *What measures should be taken in Europe to achieve sustainable and credible politics against trafficking in women?* This question will be raised at the symposium on 22-23 October in Vienna, Austria from an international perspective. During the discussion strategies will be developed which are applicable on different national contexts. GAATW-IS has been invited to participate and will raise and present critical questions from a global perspective. More information can be found on their website: www.lefoe.at

ASIA

Second National Conference of Trafficking Survivors

Shakti Samuha, a GAATW member in Nepal, organised a three-day-workshop of trafficking survivors of Central Region of Nepal from 30 June - 2 July. A total of 250 participants, including 153 survivors, participated in the workshop. The event was inaugurated by the Honorable Judge of District Court of Makawanpur.

The workshop included two days of closed, female-only sessions for survivors of trafficking. These sessions proved helpful in tracing the practical needs of trafficking survivors. The regional network "Shakti Sanjal" was also formed during the closed sessions.

An additional session with both survivors of trafficking and other participants was held on 2 July to address four themes - legal rights, government and non-government sector, political parties and media, and police. Representatives from the respective themes, including Chiefs; representatives of government, non-government, and private sectors; media personnel; and civil rights and human rights activists, sat side by side with survivors and discussed the theme.

A **25-point declaration** was formed during the workshop and this was read out by Charimaya Tamang of Shakti Samuha at the closing session.

Rally calls for Action in Nepal

The **Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs)** organised a huge rally in Kathmandu with the objective to lobby the government to form an investigation committee to hold an impartial and thorough investigation on the death of Laxmi Bohara; Formation of High Level Committee that deals with all forms of Violence Against Women and to end all forms of Violence Against WHRDs and to guarantee their security.

More than 500 WHRDs representing various movements and groups such as disabled people, slum dwellers and urban poor, land rights, health rights, and entertainment sector participated in this rally expressing solidarity to WHRDs from the far west region and mid west regions of Nepal. For more information, go to WOREC's website at www.worecnepal.org

Have you released a new report? Have you organised an important event? Does your campaign need support? We want to hear about it and so do other members and friends. If you need support, ideas, resources or information from other members on campaigns or activities you are running, the e-bulletin can help. Send us the brief message you may like to send out to other members through the e-bulletin. If it is urgent, we could consider sending the message out through our members' mailing list.

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

As you might know, during **8-17 October 2008**, the UNODC is hosting the next

Conference of Parties to the Transnational Crime Convention and its Protocols (COPS) in Vienna. This event brings together Government representatives from all UN member countries that have direct involvement in designing policies on trafficking and organised crime.

It is an excellent advocacy opportunity for GAATW, particularly to share the findings and recommendations of Collateral Damage. We will be organizing something for this event and encourage Members to become involved.

The main thing now is to arrange participation. Applications to attend the meeting as observers close Friday 31 July.

To apply, all organisations need to send a letter of application on letterhead, with a contact details form to the UNODC secretariat. See:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/CTOC-COP-session4-communication.html>

Se necesitan traductores voluntarios de español/ingles!

GAATW busca voluntarios para ayudar a traducir documentos, artículos, informes etc. del inglés al español y viceversa. La comunicación entre la/el voluntaria/o se realizará via e-mail por lo que su lugar de residencia es irrelevante. Si estás interesada/o en contribuir al trabajo de la GAATW por favor comunícate con liyana@gaatw.org, y si es posible adjunta tu CV y un ejemplo de alguna traducción que hayas realizado.

Global Forum on Migration and Development Parallel Events

Rebecca, from GAATW-IS, attended the Migrant Forum Asia/Migrant Rights International **planning meeting for GFMD civil society parallel events from 11-12 July**. Exact plans are still being worked out for the parallel events. See the MFA website:

<http://www.mfasia.org/mfaStatements/F126F-UpdatesOnGFMD.htm>.

It was agreed that events would begin on 22 October, for people who can make it (including self-organised workshops and/or regional meetings), followed by an opening, plenary and breakout groups from **25-26 October**. Organisations will be mobilising and holding press conferences **27-30 October**, during the official GFMD days.

GAATW is now on the working group for these parallel events. GAATW is also supporting alternative parallel events that are being planned by our members who are part of the International Migrants Alliance <http://pinas.net/ima/>.

We would like to coordinate with any members or allies who are attending any of these events. Please let us know if you will be attending GFMD by emailing rebecca@gaatw.org

GAATW is planning to host workshops at GFMD, as well as planning advocacy efforts before the events in October.

As part of the **Access to Justice Programme**, Eleanor from the International Secretariat visited Abuja, Nigeria, between 13-19 July to concretise plans for a **handbook on the rights of trafficked persons**. This is a joint project between GAATW, UNIFEM Abuja Office, and the Nigerian National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons. The Legal Aid Council, the American Bar Association, several NGOs including GAATW member WOCAN, and a private lawyer are also assisting with the writing of the Handbook. The Handbook is intended for those who are providing services or coming into contact with trafficked children and adults during the justice process, to assist them to take a rights-based approach. It is hoped that the Handbook will be ready for launch in December 2008.

ILO Training on the Labour Dimensions of Human Trafficking

Rebecca from the GAATW-IS was an observer at an ILO training held in Bangkok the week of 21 July. The training was held for ILO government, employers and workers constituents in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, presenting a labour framework as part of the ILO's Mekong Sub regional Project to Combat Trafficking in Children and Women.



GAATW-IS Mid-Year Staff Retreat

On 9-11 July, the GAATW- IS had its first mid-year Staff Retreat in Chantaburi, Thailand. During the three days spent together, we shared our joyful and sorrowful mysteries in our life and workplace, had silent meditation, enjoyed the view of surrounding hills and mountains, and relaxed to the sound of the waves and forest. The Staff came back to Bangkok

rejuvenated and ready to tackle the second half of the year. *Our special gratitude to Ms. Linda Walter* from Australia for facilitating the retreat and making it a truly rewarding experience for us.

La Strada International, Anti-Slavery International and GAATW are organising a **Consultation meeting on Compensation for trafficked person on 3-5 September 2008** in Berlin, Germany. Compensation for trafficked persons is an issue that has been advocated for by NGOs for many years, however, very little in terms of systematic progress has occurred. Recently the subject has begun to gain international attention. At the Consultation meeting NGOs from 16 countries in Europe, representatives from migrants rights organisations, trade unions and the legal community have been invited to set a basis for a **European Coalition on Compensation for Trafficked Persons** and discuss, develop and decide on a three year programme that will advocate at the national and international to effectively implement measures and policies that enable trafficked persons to seek compensation. For more information write to Nerea Bilbatua: nerea@gaatw.org

This month the IS had the opportunity to **welcome three representatives from two Mongolian member organizations: Mongolian Gender Equality Centre (MGEC) and Human Security Policy Studies Center (HSPSC)**. Ms. Ganbayasgakh Geleg of MGEC, Ms. Amber Erdenechuluun and Ms. Basca of HSPSC visited the Secretariat office here in Bangkok while on an exposure trip to Thailand to visit different organizations, especially those which run shelter homes or drop-in centers for trafficked persons, migrants in distress, or victims of abuse. During the course of their visit, they also went to Yor Ying, an information center for women migrants run by GAATW member, Foundation For Women (FFW).

Both MGEC and HSPSC are relatively new members, so it was an opportunity for the IS to learn more about the two organizations, the trafficking and migration scenario in Mongolia, and the current work going on in the country in this arena. We also had a fruitful discussion on how the GAATW-IS can work with the new members in order to strengthen the Alliance's network in the Central Asian region where we have very limited contacts.

STOPPED HERE

Upcoming Events

GAATW Roundtable on Gender-Migration-Labour-Trafficking: Exploring conceptual linkages & moving forward

GAATW is hosting a roundtable from 6-9 August, with an aim to clarify conceptual and political links between Gender, Migration, Labour and Trafficking, while keeping a gender analysis and human rights approach at the forefront. It will be a small gathering of academics and practitioners for knowledge sharing that will contribute to: advocacy strategizing, interventions in international fora and meetings, and development of GAATW training/workshop modules. This is part of GAATW's larger programme on linking gender, labour, migration and trafficking, which involves consultation with members at regional

consultations to be held in the next year, as well as ongoing e-communication.



Coming Out in August

The July/08 issue of the Alliance News will have a regional focus on Africa and will specifically look at the Human Rights Protection of Trafficked Persons and Migrants. This issue is the first in our Regional Spotlight Series, a four-part series in which we will be focusing on one continent or region in the world: Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas. In each region, we will give some context of the major debates and issues in trafficking and anti-trafficking as well as highlight some of the organisations working in the region. The next Alliance News issue in December 2008 will focus on Europe.

RESOURCES

Reports

As If I Am Not Human: Abuses against Asian Domestic Workers in Saudi Arabia

Human Rights Watch urged in its recent report that Saudi Arabia should implement labor, immigration, and criminal justice reforms to protect domestic workers from serious human rights abuses that in some cases amount to slavery. Employers often face no punishment for committing abuses including months or years of unpaid wages, forced confinement, and physical and sexual violence, while some domestic workers face imprisonment or lashings from spurious charges of theft, adultery, or “witchcraft.” Saudi households employ an estimated 1.5 million domestic workers primarily from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Nepal.

The report can be downloaded at: <http://hrw.org/reports/2008saudiarabia0708/>

Human Trafficking and Forced Labour: Case studies and responses from Portugal

The objective of this book is to study the phenomena of labour exploitation and forced labor to which immigrants and, in particular, victims of human trafficking are subjected in Portugal. It also sheds light on the treatment of Portuguese emigrants in select destination countries. The report is the result of a joint effort by the Portuguese Ministry for Labour and Social Solidarity, the Directorate-General of Studies, Statistics and Planning as well as the ILO to improve the understanding of human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation. To download the report visit: http://www.ilo.org/sapfl/Informationresources/ILOPublications/lang--en/docName--WCMS_093650/index.htm

Events

The Conference of Parties to the Convention on Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocols, including the Palermo Protocol will be held on October 8-17, 2008. Almost all governments will be present in this biannual meeting in Vienna to discuss what they have done to implement the Palermo Protocol and the Protocol on human smuggling. The event will be an excellent opportunity to meet with individuals in your Government who are working on trafficking, and to learn from other NGOs. All NGOs are welcome to apply to attend as observers, but the application must be in by July 31st. Representatives from the GAATW-IS will take part in this event. For more information see:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/CTOC-COP-session4-communication.html>

Campaigns

UN campaign to end violence against women backed by 10 more countries

Prime ministers and foreign ministers from 10 countries have [signed](#) on to the “Say NO to Violence against Women Campaign” - a move welcomed by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), which is organizing the drive. UNIFEM’s Executive Director Inés Alberdi said in a statement that the development “strengthens political will to combat violence against women everywhere, and the United Nations Secretary-General’s call for multi-year action on this issue.”

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27134&Cr=women&Cr1=violence>

Appeals for Action

'Comfort Women': waiting for justice after 62 years

Thousands of women known as "comfort women" were forced into servitude by the Government of Japan for the armed forces in the 1930s before and after the Second World War. In what became known as a system of "military sexual slavery", women were abducted, beaten, raped and coerced into providing sexual services for the Japanese military. **Amnesty International** has started an appeal for action to the Government of the Philippines to pass Resolution No. 124 calling for Justice for the Comfort Women.

To support and take action, go to

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/appeals-for-action/comfort-women-waiting-justice-after-62-years>

"Unless we address the illegal exploitation of immigrant workers, we cannot defend decent wages and better working conditions for the general community. By seeing immigrant workers as the problem, we are re-victimizing the workers rather than understanding that unscrupulous employers are the fundamental problem...It's driving them farther into the shadows, which makes it more possible to exploit them. If they don't allow undocumented workers to speak up, we're creating the conditions under which their rights are being violated."

Diego Low - Director, MetroWest Immigrant Worker Center

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/framingham/news/x223014837/New-group-aims-to-protect-immigrant-workers>

The GAATW e-bulletin is sent out to all member organisations of the Alliance as well as to many of its friends and sister NGOs worldwide.

- The e-bulletin is published every last week of the month. A Spanish version goes out three days after the English version. Sometimes additional follow up information and/or reminders are also sent via email to member organisations.
- Primarily a tool for communication between the International Secretariat and the Alliance members, the e-bulletin aims to cover a broad range of topics although trafficking related issues remain its special focus. We also use this e-bulletin to inform members about upcoming events and provide regular updates about the Secretariat.
- We strongly encourage members and friends to send us their input to the e-bulletin at info@gaatw.org
- If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at info@gaatw.org and we will delete your address from the list.

Please note that we have not inserted the advertisements that may appear on this message. GAATW International Secretariat is not associated in any of these ads over which we have no control.

e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GAATW e-Bulletin
August 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from GAATW International Secretariat,

This month's e-bulletin highlights GAATW's recent Roundtable on Gender-Migration-Labour-Trafficking Linkages held from 6-9 August in Bangkok. The participants reflected on how each of these themes is being discussed by academics, policy-makers and activists, and how the movements can work together. The discussion emphasised the need for re-framing trafficking from a more positive rights-based approach. A summary of this event can be found in the Updates of the Secretariat section of this bulletin, and a full report will be completed soon.

We also highlight a number of upcoming meetings and conferences on trafficking and migration happening in September and October. If you have additional events you wish to share with the GAATW network, or if you are planning to attend any of the upcoming conferences, we would love to hear from you.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

The International Day for the Remembrance of Slavery and its Abolishment on Saturday 23 August was observed with a United Nations call to all people to be resolute in seeking to abolish all forms of slavery. "Despite the arsenal of international instruments created to combat the exploitation of human beings ... the disturbing truth is that such flagrant violations continue," said Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural organization (UNESCO).

<http://www.myjoyonline.com/news/200808/19727.asp>

Ireland: UN Criticises Ireland's treatment of trafficked persons

The UN Human Rights Committee, in its review of Ireland's Human Rights record released last week, found that Ireland was not adequately protecting the human rights of trafficked persons. This is despite the passing of an anti-trafficking law earlier this year. Amnesty Ireland added in a statement: "Protections for victims are conditional and fall short of our international commitments under the European Convention on Action Against Trafficking" and called on the Government to make assistance non-conditional. Other concerns raised by the Human Rights Committee were the summary removal of undocumented migrants without due process or access to the courts, as well as the renditions of suspects by the United States Government through Irish airports.

<http://en.epochtimes.com/n2/ireland/un-confirms-iccl-concerns-on-human-rights-in-ireland-2136.html>

Bahrain: Call to review women's rights

Activists and campaigners in Bahrain continue to call for the protection of women's rights in the lead up to Bahrain's country report on its implementation of CEDAW that will be presented to the committee in October. Women's groups and human rights societies will also submit shadow reports. Activists and human rights groups are hopeful that Bahrain will lift the country's reservations to CEDAW - submitted due to conflict with Sharia law, traditions and Islamic principles - and will then be forced to pass a family law and other regulations.

<http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/Story.asp?Article=227154&Sn=BNEW&IssueID=31157>

JUSTICE UPDATE

South Africa: Bill to allow for prosecution of all forms of human trafficking

The South African National Prosecuting Authority has announced that a law is being drafted to criminalise all forms of trafficking and acts that contributed to but were not directly involved in the crime. An inter-sectoral task-force of prosecutors, government and civil society has formed to strengthen South-Africa's anti-trafficking efforts.

<http://www.buanews.gov.za/news/08/08081416151004>

REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

The AMERICAS

AMUMRA organizes public action on the EU Returns Directive



On 28 August, AMUMRA, an organisation of migrants and refugees in Argentina and a GAATW member, held an action against the European Union's Returns Directive. Buses carried supporters to the city centre for a rally, and then people marched to present a petition to the President of Argentina, Dr. Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner. The petition called for the President to call on European ambassadors and consulates to assist and protect migrants. "To accept the EU Returns Directive, or the absence of action in response to it, would imply our approval," says Natividad Obeso, president of the AMUMRA, in her statement.

GAATW-IS supported this action through an international media release and information sharing to its network.

EUROPE

New members of the European Union (EU) Experts Group on Trafficking from GAATW

On the 22 July, two GAATW members, Stana Buchowska, National Coordinator of La Strada Poland, and Evelyn Probst, Coordinator of LEFO-IBF, were appointed as new members of the EU Experts Group on Trafficking in Human Beings.¹ The Group comprises both government and NGO experts. During their three-year term, the Expert Group meets monthly to provide advice to European Commission (EC) decision makers on EC anti-trafficking policies, including analysis and revision of existing documents and policies.

"Monitoring the Observance of Human Rights for Victims of Trafficking in Persons"

La Strada Foundation Against Trafficking in Persons and Slavery, Poland

La Strada Poland has released a report analyzing the human rights protection of trafficked women who were participating in cases against their traffickers in Poland. The research considered cases that concluded between 1995 and 2006. During this time, 26 cases resulted in a verdict, 24 cases ended in a decision to discontinue the proceedings or to

¹ Link to the 22 July decision

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:194:0012:0013:EN:PDF>

refute the instituting of proceedings by the prosecutor, and 17 cases in which the women decided not to testify. Obstacles to accessing justice in Poland include limited translation services, prolonged proceedings, failure by the authorities to detect and detain the perpetrators, limited witness or victim protection, lack of information about legal rights, lack of legal representation, and absence of orders for the confiscation of trafficker's assets that could be used to pay compensation. The report makes recommendations to the Polish authorities about changes to the law and better treatment of trafficked persons.

The full report (in Polish) is available at La Strada Poland website:

<http://www.strada.org.pl> or for a brief summary (in English), you can contact Nerea at: Nerea@gaatw.org

Italy's "security package" leading to human rights violations

NGOs in Italy have expressed concerns about human rights violations committed against vulnerable groups as a consequence of Italy's "security package". The package of emergency laws and decrees is being implemented on the pretext of confronting urban degradation. However, it is resulting in further stigmatization and abuse of individuals such as sex workers (migrants and non-migrants); transgender people; trafficked women; migrants, especially Roma; and homeless people. Civil society organizations report that they are organising to respond to the situation.

For more information, please contact Pia Lucciole (Comitato per i Diritti Civili delle Prostitute) at: lucciole.pia@iol.it

Switzerland Petition to Protect Trafficked Women

On 8 March 2008 a large coalition of NGOs in Switzerland, including GAATW member FIZ, launched a petition to improve the protection of trafficked women as part of the campaign "Euro 08 Against the Traffic in Women". The petition, among other things, calls for the right to a residence permit, as well as for common standards for victims' protection across all the cantons in Switzerland. The petition will be handed to authorities in Bern on 11 September 2008 and will be accompanied by a press conference and a public action at the Federal Building (Bundeshaus). The campaign calls on others to join in this action and to distribute this information to their networks.

For more information, please contact: info@traitedesfemmes2008.ch

ASIA

Jordan: Join forces to protect foreign domestic workers

On 26 August, migrants' rights representatives from 15 countries called for greater cooperation between the Jordanian authorities, international agencies and civil society for the protection of foreign domestic workers. A high-level roundtable forum on the situation of foreign domestic workers was hosted by the ADALEH Center for Human Rights Studies and co-organised by UNIFEM and CARAM Asia. The representatives, speaking on behalf of domestic workers associations and rights groups in Asia and the Middle East, welcomed Jordan's recent move to amend the labour law to include the protection of all domestic workers, but emphasised the need for implementation to begin as soon as possible.

Eni Lestari, representative of the Asian Migrant Coordination Body and GAATW board member, called on the Jordanian government to work closely with civil society and migrant worker groups to allow migrant workers to unionize.

http://www.aliran.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=695:join-forces-to-protect-foreign-domestic-workers&catid=55:2008&Itemid=40

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

GAATW Roundtable, 6-9 August 2008, Bangkok

'Gender-Migration-Labour-Trafficking: Exploring conceptual linkages and moving forward'

The GAATW Roundtable on Gender-Migration-Labour-Trafficking Linkages was held in Bangkok earlier this month, hosted by the GAATW-IS. The Roundtable was the first step in an on-going discussion with members, allies and friends about how these themes are being

linked by both policy-makers and those working on the ground. The discussion was very enriching for all involved and allowed participants to reflect on global changes in policy on migration and trafficking, and the need for building bridges across movements.

The eight participants of the Roundtable all had addressed the 'linkages' either in theory or practice, as academics and/or activists, and came from different regions of the world. They were Dovelyn Rannveig Agunias, MPI (Migration Policy Institute), USA; Ratna Kapur, Centre for Feminist Legal Research, India; Lenore Lyons, University of Wollongong, Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies, Australia; Jackie Pollock, MAP (Migrant Assistance Programme) Foundation, Thailand; Ranabir Samaddar, Calcutta Research Group, India; Jyoti Sanghera, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Nepal; Mario Serrano, Servicio Jesuita Para Migrantes y Refugiados, Dominican Republic; Elena Tyuryukanova, Migration Research Centre, Russia.

Sessions included discussion of hierarchies created by categorising migrants, understanding concepts such as 'irregular' and 'managed migration', noting the way in which anti-trafficking has become a highly specialised field and isolated from other fields, how to introduce the human rights message when talking to governments about migration, and plans for the upcoming Global Forum on Migration and Development.

Some of the messages that emerged from the discussion were:

- Mainstream discussion and policy on trafficking has led to 'collateral damage' in the form of violations of the rights of trafficked persons, migrants and women. We should learn from this in our future advocacy.
- Anti-trafficking, migrant rights and labour rights movements are calling for many of the same things and inter-movement dialogue and joint advocacy is essential.
- All movements are complex and all have their own tensions. Different organisations and movements will align with each other at different times.

Some suggestions for GAATW were:

- This discussion is very timely and should be continued and broadened.
- Continue using positive and affirming rights advocacy when advocating for the rights of trafficked persons, rather than focus on violations. For example, emphasise the right to freedom of movement and to bodily integrity for all.
- Building on the long history of advocating for the rights of migrant women, start learning more about the labour rights movement and how our messages and actions can support each other.
- Contribute gender analysis to migration and labour discussions, and bring the experience of migrant women into these discourses.
- Consider also how the market/ corporate sector could be allies in protecting the rights of migrant labour, and in demanding protections from governments.

APF Forum, Kuala Lumpur, 28-31 July 2008

The Asia Pacific Forum is the secretariat supporting the work of 17 national human rights institutions around Asia and the Pacific. Each year the Forum brings together the national institutions (NIs) to discuss their work and topics of emerging human rights interest. This year the topic was the human rights obligations of trans-national corporations, which is a crucial issue for the protection of migrant workers. As the only regional event with a specific human rights focus (in the absence of any human rights mechanism or charter in Asia), this forum is an important opportunity for human rights advocacy. Prior to the event, Forum Asia together with the International Service for Human Rights and IWRAW-AP held a four day civil society meeting to support NGO engagement with the Forum. Eleanor from the GAATW-IS attended the both the CSO meeting and the Forum, to encourage NIs to monitor the human rights impacts of anti-trafficking laws in their countries.

Upcoming Events

September and October are very busy months for both member organizations in the Alliance and the GAATW-IS. Some upcoming highlights, previously featured in the e-bulletin include:

Conference on Compensation for trafficked person on 3-5 September 2008 in Berlin, Germany. The meeting is being organised by La Strada International, Anti-Slavery International and GAATW-IS. For more information, please contact Nerea Bilbatua: nerea@gaatw.org

Human Rights Council, 8-26 September

The 9th session of the Human Rights Council will begin in the second week of September. The new Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Ms Gulnara Shahinian of Armenia, will present her first report to the Council. The GAATW Advocacy Team will attend and also meet with her to learn more about her plans for the mandate.

World Social Forum on Migration, 11-13 September

The World Social Forum on Migration will be held in Madrid in September. GAATW-IS and some members will be present and are planning two presentations on Collateral Damage and the Recognise Rights Campaign. We look forward to hearing from any other GAATW members, allies or friends who will be attending this conference.

For more information, please contact Zoë Bake-Paterson: zoe@gaatw.org

Pre-GFMD Conference on Women's Rights, 25-26 September

A large civil society meeting entitled "Seizing Opportunities, Upholding Women Workers Rights" will be held in Manila on 25-26 September 2008. The conference is being convened by the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) in partnership with several NGOs and UN organisations. Eleanor Taylor-Nicholson from the GAATW-IS is presenting at this event. For more information, please contact Rebecca Napier-Moore: Rebecca@gaatw.org

UNODC Conference of Parties to the Convention on Transnational Organised Crime and related Protocols, 8-17 October 2008

This Conference is the main international discussion of the Palermo Protocol being implemented by states. GAATW-IS and members will be participating in this event to meet with member states and advocate for better protections of the the rights of trafficked persons, and better monitoring by States of their activities. For more information, please contact Eleanor Taylor-Nicholson: eleanor@gaatw.org or Zoë Bake-Paterson: zoe@gaatw.org

European Regional Consultation, 24-26 October

GAATW-IS is organizing the European Regional Consultation from 24-26 October in Vienna, with assistance from LEFO-IBF (based in Vienna). The three-day event will be an opportunity for members in the region to exchange experiences, learn from each other, receive inputs from the GAATW-IS, and develop a common regional response to the anti-trafficking scenario. For more information, please contact Nerea Bilbatua: Nerea@gaatw.org

RESOURCES

Reports

Africa's Human Rights Architecture

This volume compiles the discussions during a policy seminar organized by the Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR) in Cape Town, South Africa, in June 2007. It attempts to address three questions on human rights in Africa: Why do human rights violations remain rife on the continent? Why has Africa been slow in responding to human rights violations? And What is the AU doing to mitigate human rights violations? The full report can be downloaded in:

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900sid/EVOD-7FVGUF/\\$file/HRbook_synopsis.pdf?openelement](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900sid/EVOD-7FVGUF/$file/HRbook_synopsis.pdf?openelement)

On 20 August 2008, Amnesty International Scotland launched a review of trafficking of persons in Scotland. The Report, “Scotland Slaves” looks at trafficking in Scotland and reviews the responses of both the Scottish and the UK Governments in protecting the rights of trafficked persons in compliance with the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, which the UK Government has signed but not yet ratified. The report can be downloaded from:

http://www.amnesty.org.uk/uploads/documents/doc_18605.pdf

“Protections for victims are conditional and fall short of our international commitments under the European Convention on Action Against Trafficking...I am calling on the Government to accept the UN’s recommendation to allow trafficking victims to remain in the state even if they do not cooperate with the Gardaí in prosecuting alleged traffickers.... This would be an important step for the Government in meeting the minimum standards for the protection of these women who have been subjected to horrific abuses.”

Executive Director Colm O’Gorman, Amnesty International, Irish Section

<http://en.epochtimes.com/n2/ireland/un-confirms-iccl-concerns-on-human-rights-in-ireland-2136.html>

The GAATW e-bulletin is sent out to all member organisations of the Alliance as well as to many of its friends and sister NGOs worldwide.

- The e-bulletin is published every last week of the month. A Spanish version goes out three days after the English version. Sometimes additional follow up information and/or reminders are also sent via email to member organisations.
- Primarily a tool for communication between the International Secretariat and the Alliance members, the e-bulletin aims to cover a broad range of topics although trafficking related issues remain its special focus. We also use this e-bulletin to inform members about upcoming events and provide regular updates about the Secretariat.
- We strongly encourage members and friends to send us their input to the e-bulletin at info@gaatw.org
- If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at info@gaatw.org and we will delete your address from the list.

Please note that we have not inserted the advertisements that may appear on this message. GAATW International Secretariat is not associated in any of these ads over which we have no control.

e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GAATW e-Bulletin

September 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from GAATW International Secretariat. This month's ebulletin captures a number of efforts by our member organisations, from the Caribbean, to Nepal, to Europe's upcoming EU Anti-Trafficking Day, to India. We are excited to continue to share with you the many activities and developments happening around the world.

We also warmly welcome to the Secretariat Nkirote Laiboni, from Kenya, who will organise the African Regional Consultation in November 2008 and Sanghamitra Chanda, from India, who will be the Asia Regional Programme Assistant for the remainder of the year.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

Call for States to establish reporting and monitoring mechanisms to fight human trafficking

The OSCE held a two-day seminar in Vienna, which brought together more than 60 government officials with responsibility for anti-trafficking activities in their countries. Speaking at the seminar on 23 September, Eva Biaudet, the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking, appealed to countries to establish national monitoring and reporting mechanisms to document the scope of human trafficking. "We lack an overall picture of the scope of the problem, of trends. We even lack an accurate assessment of the results of our action," said Biaudet.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-09/24/content_10099818.htm

Jordanian government drafting human trafficking law

The Ministry of Interior will begin to draft legislation to ban trafficking and investigate conditions of foreign workers in "Qualified Industrial Zones" and other areas after receiving complaints that employees in these zones were badly treated. The Interior Ministry spokesman said that the new law will be based on international human rights laws and agreements between countries that ban human trafficking.

<http://www.humanrights-geneva.info/In-Jordan-government-under,3479>

Cyprus to address human trafficking

The Cypriot Minister of Interior spoke out against trafficking in persons and noted that Cyprus is near to completion of "the action plan for the implementation of the Council of

Europe treaty on human trafficking”. He also highlighted that Cyprus will be abolishing the “artistes visa” and applying the same procedures for work and residence permits as for other foreign workers. (The “artiste” visa is often used for foreign entertainment or cabaret dancers).

http://www.financialmirror.com/News/Cyprus_and_World_News/11592

Bonded labour abolished in Nepal

On 6 September, Nepal’s coalition government abolished the *Haliya* system of agricultural bonded labour, intending to benefit the estimated 20,000 people working in slavery-like conditions. The system, found in western Nepal, affects mainly seasonal labourers who repay their debts to moneylenders by working the moneylenders land in exploitative conditions. The Nepal government has set up a panel to consider rehabilitation of the workers, and cancelled their debts.

http://www.gulftimes.com/site/topics/printArticle.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=240304&version=1&template_id=44&parent_id=24

<http://www.antislavery.org/archive/press/latestpressrelease.htm>

REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

ASIA

On 22-24 September 2008 the **Buhay Foundation** of the Philippines held a “**Workshop on Migration, Gender and Trafficking**” in **Davao City**, southern Philippines. The Workshop brought together anti-trafficking practitioners from Davao and Cebu City who work on trafficking prevention and assistance. Several women who had been trafficked to Malaysia or returned from working in Japan spoke about their experiences. Eleanor and Alfie from the GAATW-IS attended as resource persons and led discussions on the human rights framework. Participants ended the meeting by drafting a set of recommendations to the Philippines Government and these were shared with the media.

THE AMERICAS



GAATW-REDLAC Tri-national Research on Trafficking in Women: Brazil, Dominican Republic and Surinam

This newly published research studies the routes of Dominican and Brazilian women to Surinam. It was the result of a networking program between GAATW member organizations COIN, CEAPA, MODEMU AND RNCTRD (Dominican Republic), Maxi Linder (Surinam) and SDDH and SODIREITOS (BRAZIL). It was coordinated by Marcel Hazeu (SODIREITOS). The report can be downloaded in Spanish and English at the GAATW website: www.gaatw.org

Serviço à Mulher Marginalizada (SMM) conducted a Roundtable Discussion on “The Importance of Information in the Confrontation of Traffic of People” in recognition of the International Day against the Sexual Exploration and Traffic of Women and Children, 23 September 2008. The event brought together a diverse group to discuss these issues, exchange experiences, argue concepts, and deepen understanding in order to prepare people to better confront the traffic in persons.

EUROPE

EVENTS: OCTOBER 18TH, EU ANTI-TRAFFICKING DAY

Proyecto Esperanza

Congress on the Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings in the frame of the New Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings, Madrid, 14-15 October 2008

This two-day Congress will look at the identification and protection of trafficked persons in the frame of the new CoE Convention. The Convention advances the protection of the rights of trafficked persons and has a stronger human rights perspective. The Spanish government has signed this Convention, but has not yet ratified it. The Congress will pay special attention to the human rights approach to trafficking, the trafficked persons' perspectives, non-conditionality of assistance and opportunities for human rights protection under the CoE Convention. For more information please contact Marta Gonzalez at: marta@proyectoesperanza.es

La Strada Ukraine

"EU anti-trafficking day: challenges and perspectives" is a session organized by "La Strada-Ukraine" in the frame of the National Forum "Stop Violence!" that will be held on 16-17 October 2008. This Forum is co-organized by The Ukrainian Ministry for Family, Youth and Sport; the Ministry of Interior; Program for equal opportunities UNDP; International Women's Rights Center (La Strada-Ukraine); and other NGOs as part of the National Ukraine campaign "Stop Violence!", which is directed to counteracting violence against women, children and domestic violence. For more information please contact Natalia Bochkor at: n.bochkor@lastrada.org.ua

LEFÖ -IBF

International Symposium on Work, Migration, Rights: Strategies Against Trafficking in Women, in Vienna, 22-23 October 2008.

To celebrate its 10th anniversary, LEFÖ -IBF is organizing a two-day Symposium that will include lectures bringing different regional perspectives (Asia, Latin America, Africa and Europe) and roles (trade unions, police, prosecutors, ILO) so different forms of actions and strategies can be jointly developed. For more information please contact Evelyn Probst at: ibf@lefoe.at

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

GAATW PARALLEL EVENTS DURING THE GFMD in Manila

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is nearing. As well as the official civil society day attached to the Forum, civil society has planned a wide range of activities, events, discussions and actions to bring the migrants' perspective into the deliberations. Some of the events that GAATW is involved in are:

GAATW International Forum on Collateral Damage

This event will discuss the human rights impact of anti-trafficking policies and legislation on migrant and trafficked women. The presentation will include international examples from GAATW's research, discussion with the audience, and recommended solutions to improve human rights protections. .

Where: Makati Skyline Restaurant, Mezzanine Floor, World Trade Center
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Pasay City

When: 23 October 2008, 2-4:30pm

The 2008 Joint Regional Consultation on "Demanding Greater Protection for Foreign Domestic Workers!" with UN Special Rapporteurs on The Human Rights of Migrants, Dr. Jorge Bustamante, and on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Ms. Gulnara Shahanian will be

held on the 24-25 October 2008. The consultation provides an opportunity for collective engagement with the UN Special Rapporteurs on Slavery and on the Human Rights of Migrants. The discussion will have a regional focus and center domestic workers' concerns and advocacy priorities. It is being co-organised by APWLD, CARAM-Asia and GAATW.

GAATW Campaign Workshop: What rights? Whose Rights? Working to increase the recognition of rights of migrant and trafficked women

What does it mean to recognise the rights of migrant and trafficked women? This workshop will introduce the international Recognise Rights campaign, launched by GAATW in 2008 and open up discussion on what recognising rights really means. Participants with campaigning experience and interest will be invited to discuss and share innovative campaigning methods at all levels (grassroots, national and international) and to develop a creative project during the course of the workshop session for supporting migrant workers to realize their rights.

Where: Max's Restaurant, 998 Roxas Blvd., Cor. Remedios St., Malate, Manila

Date: 27 October 2008, 4:30-6:30pm

For more information about the GAATW events in Manila, please email Michelle Taguinod michelle@gaatw.org or Rebecca Napier-Moore rebecca@gaatw.org. Visit the GAATW website for the detailed announcement www.gaatw.org

GAATW-IS Networking visit to Lebanon

Earlier this month, GAATW-IS Staff went to Lebanon as part of this year's plans to learn more about, and proactively make contacts with, direct service providing organizations in the Middle East region.

This trip was the first step in response to members' (especially Asian) interest in knowing more about regions where we have limited or no contact, but which are common destinations for migrant workers in Asia. We met organisations such as Pastoral Care of Afro Asian Migrants (PCAAM), Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center, ILO, Human Rights Watch, the Indian and Philippines Embassy, and individuals working with migrant workers. It was also a trip to learn more about the situation of migrant workers in Lebanon, especially female domestic workers. GAATW-IS is in the process of compiling the findings from this informative trip and is formulating follow-up plans, which will be discussed with members shortly. Our special gratitude to the Alliance's friend, Kafa (*enough*) Violence & Exploitation, a Lebanese women's rights organization for their big help and assistance.

India: Self-help Health Training, Phase 1, in Nayagarh district, Orissa

Bandana and Ali from GAATW-IS were able to join the first three days of the initial Self-help Health (Traditional Healers) training in Orissa, eastern India. The training, held from 27 August to 5 September 2008, brought together 24 women from rural villages, *bustee* (slum) areas, and shelters throughout Orissa. Hosted by the Institute for Social Development (a GAATW member organisation), the training was held at Sambhav Centre in the Nayagarh district and facilitated by friends, Sabala & Kranti. Over the three days in which we attended, all of us understood ourselves



better, and the role of gender and patriarchy in our lives. We were strengthened by the shared experience, and the beautiful setting and wonderful food at Sambhav. Participants will return for the second phase in early November, after having the opportunity to

integrate the experience into their lives.

National Conference of Trafficking Survivors of Nepal and Nepal Anti-trafficking Day

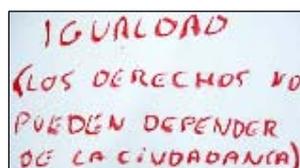
Ali and Bandana from GAATW IS, and friends from Thai organizations Foundation for Women and the Fighting Women group, attended the 2nd annual National Conference of Trafficking Survivors (3-4 September) and the Nepal Anti-trafficking Day in Kathmandu, Nepal. Hosted by member and self-organised group, Shakti Samuha, the Conference was the culmination of many months of consultation with survivors throughout Nepal. It brought together survivors of all forms of trafficking from all regions of the country, officials of the newly formed government, and representatives of civil society (including INGO/NGOs and donors) in a single forum. Survivors, including 60 members of “Shakti Sanjal” networks, were unified and advocated for a constitutional guarantee of their rights through a 22 point “Shakti Declaration”. The Declaration was delivered to senior officials.

The official Anti-Trafficking Day followed the conference on the 5 September. Hundreds of people and 86 organisations participated in a rally through the streets of Kathmandu. Anu, one of the founding members of Shakti Samuha, received a Government recognition award for her work on anti-trafficking. Our visit clarified for us the changing and dynamic nature of trafficking and anti-trafficking work in Nepal, reinforced the necessity of health provisions in protection and recovery work, and validated the importance of these types of fora to build solidarity and commitment.

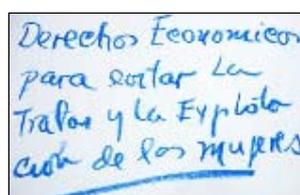
World Social Forum on Migration, Madrid 11-13 September 2008

Nerea and Zoë from GAATW-IS, Marta and Antonio from Proyecto Esperanza, and Natividad from AMUMRA in Argentina attended the recent World Social Forum on Migration, held in Spain. GAATW gave a presentation about Collateral Damage, with a focus on the situation in Spain, and the related campaign, Recognise Rights. More than 80 people attended. Participants were invited to write down what they felt was the right in most need of recognition.

During the forum, GAATW members met with many interesting organizations, including a trade union lobbying for migrant rights in Valencia, Spain and some self-organised groups of African women migrants. For more information, please contact Zoë Bake-Paterson: zoe@gaatw.org



IGUALDAD
(LOS DERECHOS NO
PUEDEN DEPENDER
DE LA CIUDADANIA)



Derechos Economicos
para reducir La
Tráfico y La Explotación
de los Mujeres

International Conference on Gender, Migration and Development (ICGMD), Manila, 25-26 September 2008

The ICGMD was a preparatory conference to the GFMD, intended to highlight the gender dimensions of migration and development. Workshop sessions ranged from discussions on the rights of domestic workers, to the role of government, unions and the private sector, and human trafficking. Eleanor from the IS presented a paper on Prevention of Trafficking, the Human Rights Dimension. For more information, see <http://icgmd.info/> or contact Eleanor Taylor-Nicholson: eleanor@gaatw.org

UNODC Conference of Parties to the Convention on Transnational Organised Crime and related Protocols, 8-17 October 2008

This Conference is the main international discussion of the Palermo Protocol being implemented by states. GAATW-IS and members will be participating in this event, and

will also be highlighting priority issues including advocating for a Monitoring Mechanism on the Palermo Protocol and other issues. For more information, please contact Eleanor Taylor-Nicholson: eleanor@gaatw.org or Zoë Bake-Paterson: zoe@gaatw.org

RESOURCES

Reports

Our Broken Dreams: Child Migration in Southern Africa

The aim of this project was to enable children who have decided (usually on their own) to find their way to South Africa in search of work, an income for their families, and a better life, to tell their stories in their own words. Approximately 50 children in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland and South Africa were interviewed.

The publication records the findings of the interviews through the direct words of the children, and this sheds light on their experiences of migration, reasons they migrated, and recommendations.

http://www.crin.org/docs/Save_the_children_sa_migration.pdf

Trafficking in persons in Afghanistan: A Field Report

The research provides an in-depth analysis of the trafficking phenomenon in, from and to Afghanistan, based on first hand data collected from expert interviews and a field survey conducted in Kabul and nine border provinces. The report in English can be obtained from the IOM office in Afghanistan or downloaded from:

http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/activities/countries/docs/afghanistan/iom_report_trafficking_afghanistan.pdf

Events

On Tuesday, 7 October 2008, the Migration Policy Institute will conduct a briefing on **Managing Temporary Migration: Lessons from the Philippines** at the MPI Conference Room, Suite 300, 1400 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC, 12:30-2:00pm. The event will mark the release of an MPI study that examines how one traditional migrant-sending country like the Philippines, proactively manages a large-scale, systematic, and legal movement of temporary migrant workers. For further information, contact Lisa Dixon at events@migrationpolicy.org or 202-266-1929.

"Human Trafficking violates human rights - the right to liberty, not be held in slavery or involuntary servitude. Also, experiences from around the world show that trafficking violates the right to be free from cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, the right to be free from violence and the right to health."

Joy Ngozi Ezeillo

United Nations Special Rapporteur on Trafficking

<http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200809240771.html>

The GAATW e-bulletin is sent out to all member organisations of the Alliance as well as to many of its friends and sister NGOs worldwide.

- The e-bulletin is published every last week of the month. A Spanish version goes out three days after the English version. Sometimes additional follow up information and/or reminders are also sent via email to member organisations.
- Primarily a tool for communication between the International Secretariat and the Alliance members, the e-bulletin aims to cover a broad range of topics although trafficking related issues remain its special focus. We also use this e-bulletin to inform members about upcoming events and provide regular updates about the Secretariat.
- We strongly encourage members and friends to send us their input to the e-bulletin at info@gaatw.org
- If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at info@gaatw.org and we will delete your address from the list.

Please note that we have not inserted the advertisements that may appear on this message. GAATW International Secretariat is not associated in any of these ads over which we have no control

e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GAATW e-Bulletin

October 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from GAATW International Secretariat.

We are pleased to share with you the October issue of the e-bulletin. This month's bulletin brings you the latest developments in GAATW's Recognise Rights for Trafficked Persons campaign and the Alliance's engagements in current regional and international meetings on migration, labour and trafficking.

In the recently concluded Global Forum on Migration and Development, GAATW supported the messages of civil society groups in calling to recognise the rights of migrant workers as well as to increase protection and provide non-conditional assistance to trafficked and migrant persons.

We appreciate your comments, suggestions and contributions to our next e-Bulletin. We hope you find this issue useful in your advocacy and campaign work.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights: spotlight on the courage of human rights activists

The European Parliament, together with the European Commission and the United Nations have marked the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration (10 December 1948) and the 10th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (9 December 1998) with a joint conference. The theme of the conference, held on 7-8 October at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, was: "60 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: the defenders take the floor".

As well as highlighting the work of human rights defenders (HRDs), participants discussed contentious issues of the alleged tension between freedom of speech and freedom of religion, the universality of human rights, and possible human rights infringements caused by the EU "Return Directive" on illegal immigration.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/015-38820-281-10-41-902-20081006IPR38819-07-10-2008-2008-false/default_nl.htm

Trade unions call to the 2nd GFMD: Focus on human rights

Global unions urged the participants to the 2nd Global Forum on Migration and

Development (GFMD) to discuss the protection and upholding of human rights of migrant workers. Annie Geron, vice president of Public Services International (PSI), on behalf of the unions, urged governments attending the forum in Manila between October 27-30 to recognize that: sending and receiving countries must protect migrants and their families; governments must uphold the existing United Nations (UN) instruments and the International Labor Organization (ILO) core labor standards; and governments must uphold the creation of decent work. Migration should be done out of choice and not necessity.

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/pinoy-migration/10/14/08/trade-unions-2nd-gfmd-focus-human-rights>

Legal Developments

Draft General Assembly Resolution on combating human trafficking

On 15 October, the governments of Russia, Belarus, and Uzbekistan tabled a draft General Assembly Resolution for improving coordination of efforts aimed at combating human trafficking. The draft suggests the development of a Global Plan of Action to suppress trafficking in persons, and suggests that the President of the General Assembly lead the consideration of this idea and then presents his report to the General Assembly.

<http://www.turkishweekly.net/news.php?id=60271>

China plans to ratify a United Nations protocol on human trafficking as part of its ongoing fight against cross-border crime. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplements the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which China ratified in 2000. Kathleen Speake, chief technical advisor to the International Labor Organization said, "It will also bring comprehensive ways of fighting human trafficking through prevention, prosecution and protection, and give more attention to assistance to more victims".

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2008-10/24/content_7135722.htm

REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

ASIA

A workshop statement was released by the Buhay Foundation of the Philippines following the "Workshop on Migration, Gender and Trafficking" held last month in Davao City, Philippines. Speakers and participants from the conference call on states, both sending and destination countries, to promote human rights and human security for international migrants especially migrant workers, undocumented migrants, and victims of organized crime such as trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. To read the full statement and recommendations to the Philippine government, please visit www.gaatw.org

EUROPE

Combating Trafficking by Protecting Migrants' Human Rights

La Strada statement on the occasion of the 2nd EU Anti-Trafficking Day, 18 October 2008

Over the past few years, and after active lobbying by support groups and civil society organisations, there have been advances in the Member States' and the EU approach to trafficking towards a human rights-based approach. However, the movement towards a rights-based approach to the prevention of human trafficking and the protection of the rights of trafficked persons has unfortunately not been mirrored in the area of migration management as a whole. La Strada International has identified several areas of concern with regard to recent developments in the EU's migration policy that are likely to impact negatively on the rights of trafficked persons, or even create conditions for persons to become trafficked. You can access the full statement at www.lastradainternational.org

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

4th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime, Vienna, 8-17 October 2008

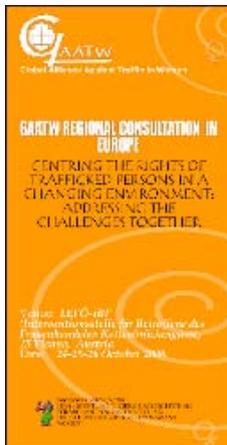


Between 8 and 17 October, the States Parties to the Convention on Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocols (including the Protocol on Trafficking in Persons) met in Vienna for the 4th Conference of Parties. The Conference is intended to help governments improve their capacity to stop organised crime and to monitor their implementation. On the

13th October, a full day was given to sharing information about trafficking in persons, especially protection of victims and witnesses. Governments also considered whether to adopt a more formal mechanism for monitoring implementation, and it was decided that a group of 'experts' would discuss this in 2009 and present their recommendations to the next Conference in 2010. The three GAATW secretariat staff who attended the Conference were joined by four members: Vichuta Ly from LSCW, Cambodia, Nelia Sancho from the Buhay Foundation in the Philippines, Andreza Santoja from Sodirietos in Brazil, and Marieke van Doorninck from La Strada International (LSI) in the Netherlands. GAATW co-organised a side event on 13th October on the possible review mechanism, together with Anti-Slavery International and LSI. [[Click here to read the joint statement](#)]. We also distributed Collateral Damage and made an [intervention to the Conference](#) sharing the findings of the Report.

GAATW Regional Consultation in Europe

October 24-25-26, 2008 Vienna, Austria



The Regional consultation bears the title: *"Centring the Rights of Trafficked Persons in a changing environment: addressing the challenges together"*. GAATW, in cooperation with LEFÖ-IBF, organized the event for members and allies in Europe to exchange experiences, learn from each other, receive inputs from the GAATW International Secretariat and develop a common regional response to the anti-trafficking scenario.

The consultation started with an overview of the situation in Europe and a discussion on the developments of the Alliance in the region. There were also discussions on the challenges to the human rights approach to Trafficking. Day 2 focused on analyzing the linkages between trafficking, migration, labour and gender issues. The meeting ended with plans for future collaborations.

GAATW Statement to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)

The Alliance calls on the governments to take action on the following concerns regarding the human rights protection of trafficked and migrant persons:

- Restrictive border controls and bans on women's movement should not be considered methods to stop trafficking.
- Migration policies should not contradict the aims of anti-trafficking policies to protect trafficked persons and other migrants.
- Migrants' rights should be upheld in practice, and central to all GFMD discussions.

[Click here to download the full statement.](#)

GAATW at GFMD



One outcome of GAATW's participation at the civil society events, parallel to the GFMD in Manila, Philippines, are plans to organise a 'lantern action' highlighting GAATW's Recognise Rights campaign and calling for the immediate recognition of the rights of trafficked and migrant persons. This idea has come from participants attending GAATW's Recognise Rights workshop in Manila, which highlighted the importance of campaigning to recognise rights and shared two member organisations' experiences in campaigning: ATKI-Hong Kong and AMUMRA in Argentina.

We are currently discussing possible plans for this lantern action as well as determining the specific campaign message, and while plans are still tentative, we wanted to share this opportunity with member organizations and allies. If you are

interested in being involved or organizing an event in your community, please contact: zoe@gaatw.org

Organising for Change Advocacy Video



Many Indonesians seeking to work abroad are being charged excessive fees by recruitment agencies for their placements. This overcharging leaves migrants indebted and vulnerable to abuse so that they can make the payments. GAATW Secretariat in cooperation with the Association of Indonesian Migrant Workers in Hong Kong (ATKI-HK) presents a 20-minute advocacy video on overcharging practices that are affecting many Indonesian migrant workers. The video will be launched in Jakarta on November 13. For more information, please contact info@gaatw.org.

Upcoming Events

GAATW Asia sub-Regional Members Meeting

The meeting, which will be held in Jakarta from November 14-16, will gather together GAATW member organisations from Indonesia, Philippines and Singapore. The first two days will focus on thematic discussion on access to justice, anti-trafficking policies and the impact of these policies to migrant and trafficked persons. The second part of the meeting will provide members to share their common concerns and plan for the future.

Africa Regional Consultation Meeting

"Building and Expanding Connections to promote the human rights of trafficked and migrant persons in Africa" (November 20-21-22 2008, Nairobi, Kenya)

This Regional Consultation will be instrumental to share GAATW's work with members and other like-minded organizations in Africa. Through sharing and common analysis, participants will develop the outline of a multi-country project to be implemented in the region in 2009 and 2010. The aim of the meeting is to have a truly global Alliance in which members are actively engaged in analyzing, and commonly responding to the anti-trafficking scenario in their region and its linkages with other movements.

RESOURCES

Reports

Good Practices on (Re)Integration of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings in Six European Countries - BlinN, Oxfam/Novib and Change

This report considers services provided to women who have been victims of trafficking for

commercial sexual exploitation. It also lists services and activities of Non Governmental and Inter-Governmental Organisations working to address the social exclusion of victims of trafficking in society. It considers the factors that must be taken into account in developing future services and activities from an empowerment perspective.

http://www.childtrafficking.com/Docs/good_practices_oct07.pdf

Listening to Victims. Experiences of identification, return and assistance in South-Eastern Europe - International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

This report maps — from the victim's perspective — the full trajectory of intervention by anti-trafficking actors — from identification, through return and referral and during various phases of assistance and protection. While anti-trafficking interventions are clearly vital in the recovery of trafficked persons, victims reported both positive and negative experiences in these various stages, information which is vital for on-going efforts in transnational referral and assistance systems for trafficked persons.

http://www.childtrafficking.com/Docs/listening_to_victims_1007.pdf

Events

11th International Forum on Women's Rights and Development

From November 14-17, 2008, at the Cape Town International Convention Center, up to 1,500 women's rights leaders and activists from around the world will converge on Cape Town, South Africa at the [11th AWID International Forum](#) to discuss the power of movements. For more information, visit their forum website at

<http://www.awid.org/forum08/index.html>

The Refugee Women's Network Inc. is organising the **9th Annual Refugee & Immigrant Women's Leadership Conference** from November 14-16, 2008 in Atlanta, GA. The theme, "**In Our Hands: Building Solidarity and Community**," will focus on individuals, organisations and communities who have worked tirelessly to build solidarity and community. The meeting aims to share experiences and best practices, and to network and learn from one another. Workshop formats emphasize collective learning with panels of speakers, facilitated groups and interactive learning sessions. For more details, go to

<http://www.rwn.org/rwn/rwn+conference>

"There's a need for us who live in liberal democracies to think a little bit more about how we engage with the people we're trying to help."

*Ratna Kapur, human rights and international law expert
"The Darkside of Human Rights"*

At the 2008 David Hopper International Lecture, Ontario

http://theontarion.ca/viewarticle.php?id_pag=1947

The GAATW e-bulletin is sent out to all member organisations of the Alliance as well as to many of its friends and sister NGOs worldwide.

- The e-bulletin is published every last week of the month. A Spanish version goes out three days after the English version. Sometimes additional follow up information and/or reminders are also sent via email to member organisations.
- Primarily a tool for communication between the International Secretariat and the Alliance members, the e-bulletin aims to cover a broad range of topics although trafficking related issues remain its special focus. We also use this e-bulletin to inform members about upcoming events and provide regular updates about the Secretariat.
- We strongly encourage members and friends to send us their input to the e-bulletin at info@gaatw.org
- If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at info@gaatw.org and we will delete your address from the list.

Please note that we have not inserted the advertisements that may appear on this message. GAATW International Secretariat is not associated in any of these ads over which we have no control.

e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GAATW e-Bulletin

November-December 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from GAATW International Secretariat.

Today, we celebrate Human Rights Day as a commemoration of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. The theme of this year's 60th anniversary is "Dignity and Justice for All." We are pleased that this celebration will highlight the advancement of upholding the human rights of every single person around the globe.

In this issue, we take this opportunity to thank all of you for reading our regular bulletins this year. We would like to thank all our members and friends for your valuable contribution in sharing your latest activities and reports. As always, we appreciate your comments and suggestions to improve the GAATW e-bulletin so we can take it forward in the coming years.

Also, this month we bid farewell to our Asia Programme Officer Aneeqa Ahmad. It has been amazing working with Aneeqa all these two years and we will miss her enthusiasm, perseverance and sense of humor. We wish Aneeqa every success in her future endeavors.

Before we end this year's issue, please be informed that GAATW International Secretariat Office will be closed for the Holiday Season from December 20, 2008 to January 4, 2009. We wish you all a Beautiful Holiday Season and a New Year of Peace and Happiness.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS



Dignity and justice for all of us

Last year the United Nations Secretary General launched a year-long UN system-wide advocacy campaign to mark this important milestone. The campaign aimed to increase knowledge and awareness of human rights among the largest number of rights holders so that they can claim and enjoy their rights. The theme of the campaign, "Dignity and justice for all of us," strengthens the vision of the Declaration and its relevance to uphold universal dignity and

justice.

In his statement to commemorate the 60 years of Universal Declaration of Human Rights this year, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reflected on the continuing struggle to see the universal human rights included in the Declaration enjoyed by everyone, everywhere. He encourages all to act on our collective responsibility to uphold the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration. The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navathenem Pillay, called for greater efforts to implement human rights standards worldwide.

<http://www.un.org/events/humanrights/2008/index.shtml>

On November 25, in commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Human Rights Watch called on governments to punish abusive employers and to prevent violence by reforming labour and immigration policies to ensure protection of migrant and domestic workers. Most countries do not cover domestic workers' protection under their labor laws, leaving domestic workers little remedy against exploitative work conditions. Human Rights Watch highlighted that there is limited access to the justice system.

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/11/24/protect-domestic-workers-violence>

Justice Update

Norway grants residence permit to trafficked persons

The Ministry of Labor and Social Inclusion in Norway has instructed the Directorate of Immigration (UDI) to open its door to victims and witnesses of human trafficking by providing them with residence permits. The new instructions allow permanent work or residence permits in Norway to ensure that victims of human trafficking can testify without fear of retaliation in their country of origin and to catch more ringleaders.

<http://balita.ph/2008/11/18/norway-grants-residence-permit-to-victims-of-human-trafficking/>

Justice for Nirmala Bonat

A Malaysian court sentenced Yim Pek Ha to 18 years in prison after she was found guilty of three counts of voluntarily causing grave abuse to Nirmala Bonat, her Indonesian domestic worker in 2004. The case sparked national outrage that focused attention on the plight of Indonesian migrant domestic workers after Malaysian newspapers published photographs in 2004 of a then 19-year-old Bonat. Indonesian officials and human rights groups have urged Malaysia's government to strengthen laws to protect some 300,000 Indonesian domestic workers. Indonesian diplomats reported that at least 1,500 maids seek help at their offices across Malaysia each year.

news.sky.com/skynews/Home/World-News/

The Indian government will sign a Memorandum of Understanding on manpower movement of its nationals with all GCC states except Saudi Arabia in January. The Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi told the Press that the MoU will improve service conditions of low-income workers. He added that India had set BD250 to BD350 as monthly salary for domestic workers as well as mobile phones, 50 calls a month and other benefits. There is possibility of having one contract per employee. The details will include the salary, mode of payment, job privileges and termination benefits, and the contract must be approved by the government before actual recruitment takes place.

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/darticlen.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2008/November/middleeast_November359.xml§ion=middleeast&col=

REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

ECPAT BRAZIL

The III World Congress against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents took place from 25 to 28 November in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with more than three thousand people from five continents. The Congress was organised by the Brazilian Government, the organisation End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT), the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), and by the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (NGO Group). Simultaneously, there will be the I Brazilian Congress against Sexual Violence of Children and Adolescents, which will gather governmental and non governmental organizations from different parts of Brazil.

GAATW members (Projeto Trama, Sodireitos and IBISS-Co) attended both Congresses as well as Mike Dottridge, also a consultant of GAATW, who was a speaker at the III World Congress and the I Brazilian Congress. Besides, Projeto Trama (also member of the Coordinator Committee of the I Brazilian Congress) launched an interactive campaign at the III World Congress, emphasizing the importance to make pressure, emphasizing a.o. the worldwide "recognizing rights" campaign of GAATW and the necessity for better Access to Justice for trafficked persons.

You can get more information about the III World Congress and I Brazilian Congress at the websites: www.iiicongressomundial.net and www.cbe-visca.org.br

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

11th Association for Women's Right and Development (AWID) Forum

Cape Town (South Africa) 14-17 November, 2008

Siriporn Skrobanek GAATW founder and President of the Foundation for Women (Thailand), and Bandana Pattanaik and Nerea Bilbatua from the IS participated in the AWID Forum. The Forum (organized every 3 years) was a good opportunity to learn more about the debates within and around the women's rights movement as well as to network with like-minded organisations from all around the world.

The theme of this year's Forum was 'The Power of Movements'. The Forum gathered around 2,200 activists from the Women Rights and other related movements. Some of the issues discussed in the different plenaries and workshops were the challenge of the sustainability of women's rights activists and self-care; the spaces for young feminists (for the first time in the Forum's history, at least twenty per cent of participants were women under the age of thirty); a look inside the feminist organisations and the context the struggle for women's right takes place. Women's from the Africa region were majority, and in solidarity with their South African counterparts on the second day of the Forum, participants from around the world joined in a march against violence against women in South Africa.

La Strada Ukraine and La Strada Belarus co-organised a session on *The women's movement's response to Human Trafficking in the CEE-NIS Region*.

For more information please visit: <http://www.awid.org> or contact nerea@gaatw.org



GAATW Africa Regional Consultation

Nairobi (Kenya) 20-21-22 November, 2008

Co-organised by the IS and FIDA-Kenya this Consultation is the 2nd regional meeting in 2008 after the European Regional Consultation (October 2008). It gathered a total of twenty five women's rights advocates including all GAATW members in the region (Fida-Kenya, GPI and WOCON from Nigeria and KIWOHEDE from Tanzania) as well as

representatives of key non-governmental and inter-governmental organisations from South Africa, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone, Asia (Thailand and Nepal) and Europe (UK and Ireland). It aimed at strengthening the GAATW network in Africa, share experiences, learn from each other, identify common issues and develop a common analysis.

Key common challenges identified during the meeting included inadequate research and information about migration and trafficking in Africa, poor mechanisms for victims of trafficking to access justice, and weak interaction between NGOs in Africa as well as between African NGOs and NGOs in the West. Consequently, participants agreed to incorporate migration and trafficking in their work, while GAATW-IS proposed that it would take up responsibility in relation to research, as well as in creating an information network and sharing information. For more information please contact nerea@gaatw.org

Upcoming Events

Workshop: Spain and Brazil, creating networks to assist trafficked persons (España y Brasil: articulando redes para la atención a las víctimas de trata); Madrid (Spain) 10-11 December 2008

The objective of this workshop is to strengthen victim's protection by exchanging information and creating a network between the 2 countries. GAATW members from Brazil and Spain as well as other NGOs and concerned ministries in both countries will participate. For more information please visit:

http://www.ucm.es/info/IUDC/img/articulos/eventos/SEMINARIO_ESPAA-BRASIL.pdf

or contact nerea@gaatw.org

RESOURCES

Reports

New report urges States to protect the human rights of migrants

The report from the Global Migration Group, of which the UN Population Fund ([UNFPA](#)) is a member, calls for stepped-up measures in both countries of origin and countries of destination to ensure that rights are protected and upheld. Jose Miguel Guzman, the chief of UNFPA's population and development branch said there is a need to find new ways of international collaboration to protect the human rights of these individuals. The report calls for data on migrants' age and gender to be made available so that measures put in place to safeguard the human rights of migrants can be effectively monitored and assessed.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=28704&Cr=migrant&Cr1=human+rights>

A report issued by the **United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** offers good practices and lessons learned designed to assist States in enhancing existing legislation and developing new laws to address violence against women. The report -- "**Good practices in legislation on violence against women**" -- provides guidelines and a model framework for legislation on violence against women, including detailed recommendations, commentaries and examples of good practices. The 70-page document also summarizes the prevailing approaches for addressing violence against women in different legal systems.

http://7thspace.com/headlines/297531/united_nations_report_offers_guidelines_for_legislation_on_violence_against_women.html

More Women on the Move - Special Package

On the occasion of the "[16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence Campaign](#)" Radio 1812 is releasing a [package](#) of audio reports dealing with the issue of female migration

including an in-depth interview with [Leila Rispens-Noel](#), who works with Oxfam Novib in the Netherlands on migration and development projects.

http://www.radio1812.net/en/story/2008/11/more_women_move

Events

PICUM, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants will hold an International Conference in Brussels on 22-23rd January 2009 on Undocumented Children in Europe to launch its publication on this issue. This conference, organized within the framework of the EU project "Fighting discrimination-based violence against undocumented children in Europe", will provide an opportunity to investigate the specific needs and problems that undocumented children face in Europe when trying to access their basic social rights. The event will enable participants to share experiences and good practices regarding the provision of protection to undocumented children. For more information on the draft program and registration form, visit PICUM's website at www.picum.org.

"We must work for the full implementation of human rights on the ground in a way that affects and improves the lives of the men, women and children who are all entitled, regardless of their race, sex, religion, nationality, property or birth, to realization of each and every right set forth in the Universal Declaration."

High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay

<http://www.un.org/events/humanrights/2008/index.shtml>

The GAATW e-bulletin is sent out to all member organisations of the Alliance as well as to many of its friends and sister NGOs worldwide.

- The e-bulletin is published every last week of the month. A Spanish version goes out three days after the English version. Sometimes additional follow up information and/or reminders are also sent via email to member organisations.
- Primarily a tool for communication between the International Secretariat and the Alliance members, the e-bulletin aims to cover a broad range of topics although trafficking related issues remain its special focus. We also use this e-bulletin to inform members about upcoming events and provide regular updates about the Secretariat.
- We strongly encourage members and friends to send us their input to the e-bulletin at info@gaatw.org
- If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at info@gaatw.org and we will delete your address from the list.

Please note that we have not inserted the advertisements that may appear on this message. GAATW International Secretariat is not associated in any of these ads over which we have no control.