

# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

## GAATW e-Bulletin

January 2009

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from GAATW International Secretariat.

This year marks an important milestone for GAATW as we celebrate our 15-year anniversary.

Since GAATW was founded in 1994 by a group of women activists, the Alliance has been a strong advocate for a human rights-based approach in anti-trafficking work. Strengthened by the shared commitment of the Alliance, GAATW has grown into a mature network and has made many achievements in reaching international bodies, policy-makers and individuals across the world. Today, GAATW continues to be at the forefront in advocating for the rights of trafficked and migrant persons.

We take the opportunity to thank our members, allies and friends for being part of this meaningful, collective journey. We look forward to the years ahead to continue to work for the change we envision.

Over the years, we have watched the e-Bulletin grow and evolve to bring you updated and relevant information on trafficking and migration issues. We appreciate the continued growth of the readership - now over 600 people.

In this issue, we continue to share updates highlights from across the world, the work of members and the GAATW-IS, and a variety of reports. We also highlight an upcoming funding opportunity with the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

We look forward to your comments and suggestions on this issue.

Warmly,

*The GAATW International Secretariat*

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

**The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) demands justice after a horrendous acid attack on a woman trade unionist**

Greece: Constantina Kuneva, the General Secretary of PEKOP - the Athens-based Trade Union of Cleaners and Domestic Workers and a migrant worker from Bulgaria working as a chemical cleaner in Athens, was attacked in late December 2008. She had been speaking out against the poor wages and harsh working conditions in this sector, where 80% of the employees are migrants and the vast majority are women. A few weeks before the attack, she had received threats owing to her trade union activities.

The ITUC fully supports the complaint of its Greek affiliate the GSEE, which "strongly

protests the unacceptable delay and most deficient investigation procedure into the murderous attack". The trade union movement also calls on the Ministry of Labour and the Labour Inspectorate to take immediate measures to end the serious and blatant abuse by employers in the cleaning and domestic service sectors.

GAATW applauds the efforts of the ITUC and their calls for investigation and justice. Greece will be hosting the 2009 Global Forum on Migration and Development; it is suspected that human rights will not be a focus on the agenda.

To read the full interview, go to: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?article2723&lang=en>

### **Call for an Independent Inquiry into Allegations of Abuse and Killing of Rohingya by Thai Authorities**

**Thailand:** The Mekong Migration Network and the Action Network for Migrants (Thailand) sent an open letter to Thailand Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva to conduct an independent inquiry on the allegations of abuse and death of Rohingya people. The violations against the Rohingyas – a stateless Muslim ethnic group who fled persecution in Burma – were highlighted in January following accusations that the Thai Navy have been towing boats filled with hundreds of Rohingyas out to sea and setting them adrift. Hundred are said to have died at sea.

In the letter, the groups strongly urge the Thai Government to immediately ratify the International Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees and the International Convention on the Protection of Rights of Migrants and their families (1990). To read the statement, go to <http://www.mekongmigration.org/?p=287>

### **The global recession is increasing job insecurity among millions of migrant workers making them more vulnerable to abuse, say advocates**

**Manila:** Companies around the world have stopped hiring and many are reducing workers in response to the global economic recession. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) forecasts that the crisis will result in the loss of some 20 million jobs, with migrant workers among the most likely to be affected. Ellene Sana, executive director of the Centre for Migrant Advocacy, Philippines, says migrant workers are now likely to be forced to accept lower wages and bad working conditions just to keep their jobs and support their families. <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=45516>

### Legislative Update

#### **Law on human trafficking passes**

**Taiwan:** Legislators in Taiwan have passed the Human Trafficking Prevention Act (人口販運防制法), which introduces measures to protect trafficked persons, obliging the police to protect trafficked persons and social workers/other professionals to offer social and legal assistance during police investigations or court trials. Victims will be issued conditional six-month temporary visas, which can be revoked by the Taiwanese government if the victims leave the shelter or break the law.

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2009/01/13/2003433629>

#### **Government adopts anti-human trafficking law**

**Jordan:** The Jordanian parliament passed legislation on 25 January 2009 to combat human trafficking in light of international complaints that local companies were sending foreign workers to Iraq against their will. The law includes the creation of an anti-human trafficking commission to oversee its implementation. The commission will be affiliated to the Ministry of Labour and will include officials from the police and Ministry of Justice. The law provides 3 years imprisonment for violators and permanent closure for

companies convicted of the crime. Authorities also plan to set up temporary shelters for victims of trafficking.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=82587>

## REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

### Europe

**BlinN (Bonded Labour in the Netherlands)** has released a report analyzing the situation of victims of trafficking in migrant detention centres in the Netherlands. The report concludes that identification of trafficked persons by police is highly problematic because in most cases the trafficking situation is not recognized or appropriate protection is not given. BlinN has documented cases in which it has taken several weeks, sometimes even months, before police conduct an initial interview with suspected trafficked victims, and even cases where a statement is not even taken from suspected trafficked persons. This situation leads to victims ending up in detention centres and being deported, their rights further violated by those who have protected them.

The report is available in Dutch only and can be downloaded from the website [www.blinn.nl](http://www.blinn.nl)

### LAC

**GAATW-REDLAC members will take part in the World Social Forum (WSF)** which is being held in Belem do Para, Brazil from 27 Jan to 1 Feb, 2009. Projeto Trama is organising a meeting on Access to Justice for Trafficked Persons on 29 at 12-3PM at the UFPA Professional JP 06 in Belem, and SODIREITOS is holding a Seminar on Linking Migration, Labour and Trafficking with a gender perspective on 30 January.

The Access to Justice meeting aims to provide space for the analysis on access to justice in the LAC region and to facilitate the formation of networks between NGOs that provide support to trafficked and migrant women. Other member of the network will be there. For more information, contact [liyana@gaatw.org](mailto:liyana@gaatw.org)

### Asia

The National Coalition for the Elimination of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) - an ECPAT Affiliate Group in Indonesia - and PKPA (Pusat Kajian dan Perlindungan Anak), in partnership with ECPAT International, are organizing the South East Asia Conference on Child Sex Tourism, to be held in Bali - Indonesia, from 18-20 March 2009.



The conference will address the situation of child sex tourism, develop models and cooperation mechanisms, and involve relevant parties in concrete action to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in tourist destinations in Southeast Asia Region. The event will draw participants from countries within and outside of Southeast Asia, from various sectors including government, NGOs, private sector, international organisations, police etc. The deadline for submitting abstracts is 15 February. For more information, please go to: [www.pkpa-indonesia.org](http://www.pkpa-indonesia.org) or email: [seac\\_cst@yahoo.com](mailto:seac_cst@yahoo.com) or [cstconference@gmail.com](mailto:cstconference@gmail.com).

## FROM THE SECRETARIAT



### Coming Out: GAATW's Alliance News

The December/08 issue of the Alliance News will have a regional focus on recent developments in Europe. The 30<sup>th</sup> issue is the second of the Regional Spotlight Series, after the issue on Africa (July 2008). This issue will specifically look at how the human rights of trafficked and migrant people are respected, protected or otherwise in Europe, and how regional and national politics impede or promote their realisation. The next Alliance News in July/09 will focus on the Latin America and Caribbean region.

### The GAATW International Secretariat welcomes a new colleague

We welcome Aatcharaporn 'Aat' Chaowahem, from Thailand, who joined the GAATW-IS team in January 2009. Aat completed her Masters at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, and her thesis focused on the Reintegration of Thai Women Returnees and completed an internship with GAATW member, Foundation for Women. Aat will be working as the Programme Officer for Asia.

## RESOURCES

### Reports

#### Report Finds That Raids Are Not an Effective Tool Against Human Trafficking

The report from the Sex Workers Project at the Urban Justice Center, released just in time for the USA National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness on 11 January, summarizes findings from interviews with 46 people with experience of such raids, including service providers who have worked with hundreds of trafficking victims, law enforcement personnel, and 15 immigrant women who have been trafficked.

"Anti-trafficking efforts should be community-based, led by people familiar with sex work and other sectors where there is vulnerability to trafficking, such as domestic work, agricultural labour and service sectors, people who have experienced trafficking, social service providers, and immigrants rights advocates," said Andrea Ritchie, Director of the Sex Workers Project. "This kind of approach would not only be more effective, but would build community and empower people who have been trafficked rather than subjecting them to the additional trauma of raids, arrests, and detention."

The report can be found at: <http://www.sexworkersproject.org>.

<http://sev.prnewswire.com/health-care-hospitals/20090109/DC5743209012009-1.html>

### IOM MRS N° 36

#### Trafficking of men - a trend less considered: The case of Belarus and Ukraine

This study looks at male victim's pre-trafficking situation (their personal, family and socioeconomic background), trafficking experience (recruitment, transportation and exploitation) and post-trafficking experience (including assistance and protection). The study draws on primary data collected from 650+ trafficked males assisted by IOM and its partners through IOM's Counter-Trafficking Module Database (CTM) in Geneva, as well as qualitative information from interviews with and case files of assisted men. The specific experiences of trafficked males of Belarusian and Ukrainian nationality highlight some general patterns in terms of how trafficking takes place from these countries and, equally, some of the needs and interests of this specific target group. To view the document: <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674?entryId=20571>

### Young People's Voices on Child Trafficking: Experiences from South Eastern Europe

UNICEF's Innocenti Research Centre has recently issued a working paper: *Young People's Voices on Trafficking: Experiences from South Eastern Europe*. The 60-page study, reporting on 31 interviews with young people in Albania, Kosovo, Moldova and Romania

The interviews formed part of a broader assessment of strategies to counter child trafficking in the region. The report can be downloaded for free from:

<http://www.unicef-irc.org/cgi-bin/unicef/Lunga.sql?ProductID=518> or

[http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/iwp\\_2008\\_5.pdf](http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/iwp_2008_5.pdf)

#### Grants

The **United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery** allocates project grants (for a maximum of \$15,000 USD), for programmes of humanitarian, legal and financial assistance to individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery which include trafficking, sexual slavery, child labour and child servitude, debt bondage, serfdom and forced labour, forced marriage and sale of wives etc. **Deadline to submit the application form is on 31 March 2009.**

For more information, consult the website of the OHCHR:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Pages/ListOfIssues.aspx>

*"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](mailto:info@gaatw.org)
- If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at [info@gaatw.org](mailto:info@gaatw.org) and we will delete your address from the list.

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### GAATW e-Bulletin

February 2009

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from GAATW International Secretariat.

As February draws to a close we are already in the thick of activity. This year is off to a bustling start, as is clear from the GAATW Members and GAATW-IS updates.

We remained heartened by the successes and celebrations this year and this month - GAATW Member Proyecto Esperanza launches its 10-year anniversary celebration, GAATW Member DSMC celebrates International Sex Worker's Day in India, and GAATW turns 15! It is a mark of the continuing dedication and commitment to recognising the human rights of all people, including trafficked and migrant women.

February also marks the release of the second UNODC Global Report, which reviews the progress and implementation of the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol from a criminal justice perspective. GAATW Staff attended the Asia-Pacific release of the Report and some of our reflections are included under Global Highlights below.

As well as the UNODC Report, the Resources section also includes three reports on the impact of the current economic recession on migration and decent work.

If you would like to contribute a short article or you would like to send your comments and suggestions, write to us at [info@gaatw.org](mailto:info@gaatw.org)

Warmly,

*The GAATW International Secretariat*

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

### UNODC Global Report

GAATW-IS staff attended the Asia-Pacific launch of the 2009 UNODC Global *Report on Trafficking in Persons*. The key findings, released on 12 February 2009, seek to present the "state of the world's response to the crime of human trafficking". The Report describes itself as "an unprecedented view of the available information on the state of the world's response to human trafficking".

From the data gathered in 155 countries, the findings include the number of countries that have passed laws, the number of cases that are being prosecuted, and some tentative conclusions about the profiles of trafficked persons and traffickers. The final recommendation is for the creation of an "international mechanism to monitor trends and patterns of trafficking in persons" using criminal justice data.

For many of us working in anti-trafficking, it is useful to have an overview of the legislative efforts of governments and the types of cases that are being prosecuted in different parts of the world. It has made us reflect, however, about the “world’s response” that we are a part of. It is true that trafficking is now seen overwhelmingly by governments as a criminal justice issue, and the UNODC authors of the Report have accordingly centred their view on laws and crime control. But this does not recognise the diverse ways in which different organisations, state and non-state, are seeking to reduce trafficking or assist trafficked persons.

Reinforcing the law enforcement perspective of trafficking is also at the expense of promoting other actions that are urgently needed, such as women’s social and economic empowerment, greater human rights protections for identified trafficked persons, safer migration practices, and strengthened labour protections in sectors that are vulnerable to trafficking cases. For a truly global picture, these issues must be considered. If an international mechanism is established, more actors or agencies should be included so that a more global picture emerges.

The press releases accompanying the report also made us reflect on the way trafficking continues to be portrayed and sensationalised in the media. The headlines emphasised just one of the findings of the Report - the high number of women prosecuted for trafficking, relative to other crimes. This is interesting given that the report itself recognises that nearly three-quarters of countries did not have gender disaggregated data and it does not specify the types of trafficking-related crimes that women are being convicted of. It is possible that more women are arrested, because they might do jobs at the lower end of the chain, such as recruitment, and so are more likely to be identified by the trafficked person, or that women are more visible in brothels (the majority of prosecuted cases still involve prostitution) and are arrested as a result. We hope that this finding will lead to further analysis about how the justice system relates to women and about women’s role in the facilitation of other women’s movement, rather than a stereotyping of women as either victims (trafficked women) or criminals (traffickers).

To view the Report, go to <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/unodc-report-on-human-trafficking-exposes-modern-form-of-slavery-.html>

The European Parliament voted in favour of the *Directive providing for sanctions against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals (EU Employer’s Directive)* on 4 February 2009. Members of the EU parliament have described the Directive as a “tool to protect those working illegally of criminal bands.” However, PICUM together with European Network Against Racism (ENAR), the European Women’s Lobby (EWL) and the Platform of European Social NGOS (SOLIDAR) has issued a joint statement expressing concern over the Directive failing to recognize that undocumented workers have labour rights and disappointment about its focus on migrant status, rather than exploitation by the employer. Relevant documents are at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=5489642>  
The mentioned statement can be found at: [www.picum.org](http://www.picum.org)

## REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

### Members attending CSW

Women’s Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON) and Girls Power Initiative (GPI) are organising a side event at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meeting in New York, 6 March 2009. The panel discussion will be on Human Trafficking, Gender and HIV/AIDS: The African Perspectives. Anyone interested in attending the workshop and/or sharing their experiences should contact Ms. Bisi Olateru-Olagbegi Bisi [wocon95@yahoo.com](mailto:wocon95@yahoo.com) or Ms. Grace Osakue [gosakue@gpinigeria.org](mailto:gusakue@gpinigeria.org) .

GAATW members WOREC Nepal and Open Gate (La Strada Macedonia) will also be attending the CSW meeting in New York. The Urban Justice Center will also be holding an event on "Human Trafficking: Vulnerabilities in Unpaid Work" on 10 March.

#### Europe

Proyecto Esperanza, a GAATW member organisation in Spain, is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. As part of this celebration, PE has started an initiative called "10 years sharing hope" to recognise and congratulate their work and those that have been supporting them over this decade. Visit the link below to send a word, a wish, or a sentence of support to continue sharing hope and to celebrate these 10 years together:

[http://www.redinamo.org/proyectoesperanza\\_10/email.html](http://www.redinamo.org/proyectoesperanza_10/email.html)

GAATW-IS sends our warm congratulations to Proyecto Esperanza for the celebration of its work over the past 10 years as a voice for the empowerment of trafficked women.

Young Women Christian Association of Belarus (La Strada Belarus) has launched a research report called the "Introduction of gender perspective into programmes on prevention of trafficking in human beings and provision of reintegration assistance to victims of trafficking". It also looks into male perspectives - an issue that was raised by European Members during the European Regional Consultation. For more Information, contact La Strada Belarus at [lastrada@infonet.by](mailto:lastrada@infonet.by)

#### Americas

GAATW-Canada and the GAATW-IS organised a meeting on trafficking and the 2010 Vancouver Olympics with the Mayor of Vancouver, Gregor Robertson, the Vancouver City Manager, Penny Ballim, and other City Councillors. The aim was to discuss anti-trafficking activities planned for the Olympics and urge that any such activities be evidence-based and centre the human rights of people that might be affected. During this meeting, GAATW shared the experiences of German member organisation, Ban Ying, from the 2006 World Cup in Germany, as well as other concerns raised by GAATW members on this issue. Namely to avoid a 'panic' response based on claims of increased trafficking that are not supported by evidence and to consider other forms of trafficking besides sexual exploitation, that may occur during a major sporting event, such as forced labour in the construction of sports facilities. GAATW-Canada will continue to monitor the developments around trafficking and the 2010 Olympics. We hope Vancouver may become a 'best practice' example of responding to this issue. For more information, please contact Annalee (GAATW-Canada) [alepp@uvic.ca](mailto:alepp@uvic.ca) or Zoe Bake-Paterson (GAATW-IS) [zoe@gaatw.org](mailto:zoe@gaatw.org)

#### Asia

GAATW member Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC), a sex workers collective of West Bengal, India, representing 65000 sex workers (Male, Female and Transgender), is organising a Conference to celebrate the International Day of Sex Workers in Kolkata, from 27 February to 3 March 2009. The conference will address social discrimination, stigma, and violence, focusing on marginalized communities, with special reference to sex workers. Over 3000 participants are expected to attend.

Another GAATW member, AFRO, based in Hong Kong will also be attending this event.

For more information, please contact [sexworkersday.durbar@gmail.com](mailto:sexworkersday.durbar@gmail.com)

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

#### **GAATW Working Group Consultation Meetings**

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> GAATW International Members Congress (IMC) in November 2007, members recommended forming two working groups to look into 1) review the decision making process within the alliance and 2) review terms and conditions of GAATW membership with a view to make it qualitatively stronger. These two Working Groups were formed in 2008 and include regional Member representatives, GAATW Board Members and IS Staff.

On 9-10 February 2009, the working group members gathered for the first time in Bangkok, Thailand, to identify the key issues and a process for ensuring the participation of all parts of the Alliance in the discussions. Questions will now be identified and given to Working Group representatives to discuss with member organisations and we look forward to hearing all views. The Working Groups will send a final set of agreed recommendations to the Alliance before the 2010 IMC, where they will be decided on. For more information, please contact: [michelle@gaatw.org](mailto:michelle@gaatw.org)

#### **Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR)**

GAATW is coordinating a research project with GAATW members for 2009-2010. One of the objectives is to deepen understanding of 'linkages' between gender, migration, labour and trafficking, and document cases of migrant working women's complex, lived realities. The research projects will bring to the profiles of these realities to the fore. FPAR methodology encourages action within communities following from the questions and findings that migrant women are raising, therefore strategizing and action will also play a big part in the FPAR process, following on the knowledge learned.

A call has gone out for members to participate. The application is due on 16 March. Please email Rebecca Napier-Moore at [rebecca@gaatw.org](mailto:rebecca@gaatw.org) if you would like to know more information or get involved.

#### **GAATW Roundtable II**

At the end of March 2009, GAATW is hosting a small gathering of scholar activists. This event follows a previous Roundtable in August 08, which looked at the interconnection of gender, migration, labour and trafficking. The focus of this second Roundtable is to question how recent currents in the global political economy are impacting migrant and trafficked women - a topic not often examined in anti-trafficking. The event is titled: Trafficking and the Political Economy: Impacts on the rights of migrant women from trade, the financial crisis and 'new regimes of control'.

Contact [rebecca@gaatw.org](mailto:rebecca@gaatw.org) for more information.

#### **Collecting Case Studies**

As part of the Recognise Rights campaign, GAATW-IS is asking member organisations, allies and friends to send us case studies highlighting the negative impact of anti-trafficking policies (or other policies such as migration etc.) on trafficked persons or examples of 'bad practices' impacting trafficked persons. These case studies will be used in our advocacy and/or campaigning work, as well as in campaign material.

For more information, please contact [zoe@gaatw.org](mailto:zoe@gaatw.org)

## RESOURCES

#### Reports

The Euro-Mediterranean Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM) has published a series of 26 papers that were produced as part of CARIM research on Irregular Migration in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries. Topics covered include demographic, economic, legal and social-political aspects of irregular migration in the Region. All documents are available at:

<http://www.carim.org/index.php?areaid=8&contentid=235&callTopic=7>

The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) recently launched a paper analysing the impact of the current economic crisis on migration flows within the European Union: *Migration and the Economic Downturn: what to expect in the EU*. The paper looks at the effects of the crisis on migration fluxes (within and outside EU countries), how migrants are affected by this recession and how host communities will be affected by these immigration developments.

One conclusion is that migrants (both documented and undocumented) are among the most affected by the economic crisis since they are over-represented in sectors that are being particularly hit (e.g. construction and manufacturing).

This same organization has also produced a similar paper focusing on the US context: *Immigrants and the current economic crisis: research evidence, policy challenges and implications*. Both documents can be found at: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org>

Women's Link Worldwide, an international human rights organization working to ensure that gender equality is a reality worldwide has released a new report called *Migrant Women's Rights: An Invisible Reality (Los derechos de las mujeres migrantes: una realidad invisible)*. Women's Link Worldwide interviewed 130 women from Sub-Saharan Africa living in Morocco and Spain to expose violations to these women's human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights, and the multiple forms of violence migrant women face. The report is available (in Spanish only at the moment) at:

[http://www.womenslinkworldwide.org/pub\\_migrantwomen.html](http://www.womenslinkworldwide.org/pub_migrantwomen.html)

The ILO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia organized the 8<sup>th</sup> European Regional Meeting held in Lisbon on 9-13 February 2009. The meeting brought together government, employers and workers representatives to "look at the latest developments regarding the financial and economic crisis in the region, as well as to review the policy packages applied by different countries to mitigate its adverse impact." As a background document for this meeting, the ILO's Director General prepared a new report the called: *Policy responses to the economic crisis: A decent work approach in Europe and Central Asia*, which includes policy recommendations to governments in light of the economic crisis. All relevant documents are available (in English, French, Russian, Spanish and German) at:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/geneva/what/events/lisbon2009/index.htm>

#### Analysis

AWID has written a summary and reviewed the 2008 research report *Rights not Rescue* by the Open Society Institute on sexual health and rights of sex workers in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. The report recommends a number of actions that should be taken to protect the rights of sex workers including decriminalizing sex work, recognizing and addressing the link between HIV transmission and the abuse of sex workers' human rights. *Rights not Rescue* underscores the need for human and women's rights movements to examine their own marginalisation of sex workers groups and work in solidarity with them.

<http://awid.org/eng/Issues-and-Analysis/Issues-and-Analysis/Sex-work-in-Southern-Africa-Criminalization-provides-screen-for-other-rights-violations>

#### Events

##### **CLANDESTINO: Understanding Irregular Migration in Northern Europe**

Organized by PICUM, the Economic and Social Research Centre, Centre on Migration Policy and Society (COMPAS) and Migrants Rights Network (MRN), this one-day workshop in London on 27 March 2009 will look at policies and responses to irregular migration in several countries of Northern Europe (United Kingdom, France, Germany and Austria). This event is part of the EU funded CLANDESTINO project - **Undocumented Migration: Counting the Uncountable, Data and Trends Across Europe**. The programme and registration form are available at: [www.picum.org](http://www.picum.org)

The Calcutta Research Group (CRG) is organising the upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Course on **Forced Migration**. Developed as a programme on human rights and peace education, the course has gained recognition in the region of South Asia as one of the most well-known educational programmes on issues of rights and justice relating to the victims of forced migration. Application forms are available online at <http://www.mcrq.ac.in/wc.htm> and

the application deadline is 31 May 2009.

Freedom Network USA will host the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Freedom Network Conference on human trafficking on March 18-19, 2009 in Dallas, Texas. The theme of this conference is *Modern Slavery: Increasing Awareness, Assisting Victims, Presenting the Prosecutors, Serving the Survivors*. For more information, contact Christina Copeland at 214/821-5393 or visit <http://www.freedomnetworkusa.org/>

*'Women and men united to end violence against women and girls.'*  
*2009 International Women's Day Theme*

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March 2009

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from GAATW International Secretariat.

Women United Will Never be Defeated! - Solidarité Avec Les Femmes du Monde Entier! - Samen Staan We Sterk! - Nagkakaisang Kababaihan Kailan Ma'y Hindi Magagapi! Perempuan aktif berjuang demi hak-haknya! - Msilale wanawake!

March is the month of International Women's Day and GAATW honours this day in our e-bulletin by highlighting a number of IWD events that happened in 2009 and by sharing women's rights slogans from around the world with you. We continue to be inspired by women (and all the women of GAATW) around the world, who work unwaveringly to uplift women's rights. Together we stand strong.

In this e-bulletin, we also share updates on GAATW's work, such as advocacy on the first report by the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, contributions from Members working in the region, and GAATW's recent Roundtable on Trafficking and the Political Economy.

Reading over the articles and news highlighted in this issue, there is clearly a new trend of addressing the global economic down-turn and its possible impacts on migration, labour conditions as well as on gender aspects. Interim solutions imposed by governments to lessen the damage in their respective economies have been put forward, and we urge the governments to ensure that workers rights are protected at all cost. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on this issue, so please feel welcome to send us any comments or feedback at [info@gaatw.org](mailto:info@gaatw.org)

Warmly,  
*The GAATW International Secretariat*

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Celebrating International Women's Day (IWD) 2009

Yakin Ertürk, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, called on women and men to unite in times of economic crisis to stop the oppression of women. "The scale and impact of the current crisis is still largely unknown, but it is expected that women and girls in both developed and developing countries will be particularly affected by job cuts, los[s] of livelihoods, increased responsibilities in all spheres of their life, and an increased risk of societal and domestic violence," she said in her statement on IWD 2009. Ms Erturk will be completing her term as the UNSR on VAW in June 2009 and will submit a final thematic report to the Human Rights Council which will focus on the political economy of women's rights and its implications for violence against women.

<http://www.unhcr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/0/936CC1D65378D4E2C12575710061AD9D?open>

[document](#)

### **Rights groups challenge MTV EXIT's anti-trafficking campaign**

Women's Network for Unity (WNU) a collective of Phnom Penh-based sex workers and the Asia-Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW) have spoken out against the newest MTV Exit (End Exploitation and Trafficking) campaign broadcast in Khmer in Cambodia, saying it supports the recent controversial anti-trafficking laws that have criminalized prostitution in Cambodia and led to extreme police brutality against sex workers.

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/index.php/2009032424949/National-news/MTV-EXIT-wades-into-controversy.html>

### **New Director Appointed for US TIP Office**

Luis C. de Baca was appointed the new Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking - the US Office that produces the annual global Trafficking in Persons report.

Prior to this role, de Baca served as Chief Counsel of the Civil Rights Division's Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit at the USA Justice Department. During the Clinton Administration, he was the Department's Involuntary Servitude and Slavery Coordinator and was instrumental in developing the United States' victim-centered approach to combating modern slavery. As a former U.S Department of Justice prosecutor he investigated and prosecuted a broad range of human trafficking cases and insisted on a multi-disciplinary response to human trafficking.

[GAATW Note: Earlier this year we joined the Freedom Network in their support of his nomination.]

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/President-Obama-Announces-Another-Key-State-Department-Post/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/President-Obama-Announces-Another-Key-State-Department-Post/)

### **Serbia ratifies the CoE Convention on action against trafficking in human beings**

Serbia's government ratified the CoE Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings, just over a week after announcing plans to adopt a national anti-trafficking plan in April 2009. The national plan will include 125 activities for implementation during 2009-2011.

[http://www.b92.net/eng/news/politics-article.php?yyyy=2009&mm=03&dd=18&nav\\_id=57915](http://www.b92.net/eng/news/politics-article.php?yyyy=2009&mm=03&dd=18&nav_id=57915)  
<http://www.emportal.rs/en/news/serbia/81647.html>

## **REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES**

### Europe

La Strada Czech Republic has recently translated a summary report of its research on the exploitation of Vietnamese migrant workers in the Czech Republic. The report, called *Vietnamese Workers in Czech Factories - Research Report*, is an outcome of the project 'Support and Assistance for Persons Trafficked and Exploited in the Labour Market' implemented throughout 2008. The report looks into the types of exploitation of Vietnamese workers in the Czech Republic and makes recommendations to address the weaknesses of the system of employment by job agencies.

The report will also be presented at the **Joint Analysis, Joint Action - Conference of EU National Rapporteurs on Trafficking in Human Beings** in Prague, 30 - 31 March 2009. This conference aims to build and maintain effective and efficient cross-border cooperation and information exchange in relation to human trafficking on the EU level, through enhancement of the role of National Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms.

To get a copy of this report, or for more information on the conference, please contact La Strada Czech Republic at: [irena@strada.cz](mailto:irena@strada.cz)

YWCA Kitchener/Waterloo will be hosting the 3rd Annual World YWCA Breakfast Friday, 24

April 2009 in Kitchener, Canada. The Keynote Speaker is Galina Tjurina, from **La Strada Belarus/ YWCA of Belarus** who will discuss the **Global Impact of Human Trafficking**, with a focus on women in Central and Eastern Europe. La Strada Belarus, a GAATW member and part of the La Strada International network, is an independent expert organisation on human trafficking, acting as a resource and consultation centre for other NGOs, government offices, and international agencies based in Belarus.

For complete event details or more information about YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo visit [www.ywcakw.on.ca](http://www.ywcakw.on.ca).

#### Asia

**MAP's Women Exchange (WE) Get Together** was held 5-9 March in Chiang Mai, Thailand. More than 100 representatives of Burmese migrant women's groups along the Thai border came together to share their experiences and to learn about the consequences of the economic crisis, which was this year's theme. Each day saw a plenary session in the morning on issues related to the economic downturn and the situation in Thailand, and its consequences for women migrants. The afternoons were filled with workshops, including on trafficking, trade agreements, or sex, and with fun workshops in yoga, salsa or fruit carving. GAATW-IS led a daily workshop on human trafficking. During these workshops, participants shared examples of trafficking and smuggling, and discussed the roles of governments and NGOs in both preventing trafficking and offering protection should trafficking occur.

#### **2009 International Women's Day (IWD) Celebrations:**

In recognition of IWD, **Asosiasi Tenaga Kerja Indonesia (ATKI)** in collaboration with Komnas Perempuan and supported by GAATW, Women Empowerment in Muslim Context (WEMC) and Hong Kong University organized a roundtable discussion and **launch of ATKI's documentary film "Organizing for Change: IMWs Say NO to Overcharging"** created by GAATW. For more information about this film and the event, please contact: ATKI-Hong Kong [atkihk\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:atkihk_2000@yahoo.com) or ATKI-Jakarta [atki.indonesia@gmail.com](mailto:atki.indonesia@gmail.com)

In celebration of IWD, **La Strada International** called for respect and rights protection for women migrant workers, who are vulnerable to trafficking in human beings. They highlighted the importance of understanding the gendered factors that increase vulnerability to trafficking, and to raise awareness of the rights violations that are the cause and the consequence of trafficking. LSI also identified a list of recommendations for states - if states are sincere in their wish to end exploitative practices and empower women to defend and enjoy their rights. [Click here to read the LSI's statement.](#)

**Manav Seva Sansthan (SEVA)**, a GAATW member in India, co-organised a series of workshops and meetings in Indo-Nepal border locations with CBATN, in celebration of International Women's Day 2009. This year's theme was "Integrating gender-sensitive and rights-based approaches in addressing trafficking and migration issues". Six events were organised to generate solidarity for working towards a better quality of life for women and children in South Asia. For more information about SEVA, go to: [www.manavsevaindia.org](http://www.manavsevaindia.org)

#### **FROM THE SECRETARIAT**

#### **GAATW Roundtable II**

GAATW held the second in a series of three Roundtables last week focusing on the theme - Trafficking and the Political Economy: Impacts on the rights of migrants from trade, the financial crisis and new regimes of control.

From the 25-27 March, GAATW-IS staff joined in discussions with a group of 'experts' and long-time GAATW friends - Liepollo Pheko from the Trade Collective in South Africa, Shalmali

Guttal from Focus on the Global South in Bangkok, Fanny Polania a GAATW founding member and consultant in Colombia, Vicky Nwogu from UNIFEM West Africa, and Jackie Pollock from the MAP Foundation in Thailand. The Roundtable is part of GAATW's research programme on 'Linkages between Gender-Migration-Labour-Trafficking'. For more information about Roundtable II, please [click here](#).

#### **HAS ANYONE USED FEMINIST PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH METHODOLOGY?**

GAATW is undertaking a Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) Project. We have always prioritised this methodology in trying to understand experiences of migrating and trafficked women. We put out an application for research projects and have received many responses! We will be holding a FPAR Methodology Workshop with researchers at the end of May.

**Have you used FPAR Methodology?** We would be interested in communicating with people who have, and learning what your experiences are. Please contact Rebecca Napier-Moore at [rebecca@gaatw.org](mailto:rebecca@gaatw.org).

#### **Human Rights Council - Geneva, Switzerland**

In March, GAATW-IS attended the Human Rights Council 10<sup>th</sup> session with GAATW member organisations Centro de Orientacion e Investigacion Integral (COIN) from Dominican Republic, Ban-Ying from Germany, and LSI. The aim was to see Ms Joy Ezeilo, the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, present her first report and to meet relevant representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Inter-Governmental Organisations to discuss human rights approaches to trafficking. Ms Ezeilo's report focused on trafficking in men and boys and addressing root causes of trafficking; working on facilitating a framework for a database disaggregated by gender, age, sector and region; and promoting a human rights approach to trafficking.

In response to the report, **GAATW joined with Franciscan's International and Anti-Slavery International** to thank Ms Ezeilo for her human rights-centred and participatory approach to the issues and reliance on broad information sources. We also posed the following three questions:

1. How she plans to address the lack of attention paid to trafficking in men and boys and for forms of exploitation other than sexual?
2. We agreed that addressing the root causes of trafficking is crucial and asked her to take into account social and economic disparities and the demand for cheap labour as well as restrictive border controls
3. We welcomed her desire to look at the accordance of anti-trafficking legislation with human rights standards and asked her to consider non-conditional assistance, access to justice and compensation without discrimination as well as the UNTOC review mechanism discussions

GAATW and Franciscan's International submitted a [joint oral statement](#) in response to the SR on Trafficking's report.

#### **Realising Rights - Health Training in Orissa, India**

GAATW has completed the third and final phase of the women centred health care training in Orissa, India during 17-27 February 2009. Thirteen women completed the health training and are now gearing up for sharing their skills and knowledge in their communities. The women formed an informal group and named it Manjuati (the word for Henna in the local language - the plant not only signifies colour and celebration, it also has medicinal qualities.)

#### **A Room of their Own**

One of the many needs that the Manjuati women had was a common space where they could meet to share and discuss their work. Jo Jandai from Pun Pun seed saving and sustainable living farm in Chiangmai, Thailand and Nkhom Phetpha from a similar community in Yasothon, Thailand helped the women realise their dream to have a room of their own. Colleagues from Shakti Samuha, staff from GAATW-IS and some women from neighbouring villages joined in with Manjuati and staged a miracle in 14 days. They designed and built a room using sustainable materials - a mix of soil, water and rice husk for bricks and straw for roof. Taking up a concrete goal and completing it at the start of the group was a great morale booster. The women already have many ideas on how to strengthen their group and work on issues of health, violence against women and realisation of social and economic rights.



For more information, please contact: [bandana@gaatw.org](mailto:bandana@gaatw.org)

#### Freedom Network Conference - Dallas, Texas

*The Freedom Network* brings together diverse anti-trafficking organisations in the USA under the umbrella of a human rights-centred approach. At its annual conference members, non-members, governmental and inter-governmental representatives convened to discuss current anti-trafficking debates in the USA. GAATW was invited to attend, and carried out a workshop on the USA impact on global responses to trafficking. There was much discussion about the recently re-authorised Trafficking Victims Protection Act in the US and people's hopes for the new Obama Administration as well as successful migrant workers' movements and means of attaining access to justice for trafficked persons. GAATW-IS staff talked about the annual US Trafficking in Persons report published by the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and raised some of the concerns identified by GAATW members regarding the TIP report. For more information, please contact: [caroline@gaatw.org](mailto:caroline@gaatw.org)

## RESOURCES

### Reports

#### **Sex Trafficking: The Abolitionist Fallacy**

Ann Jordan writes for Foreign Policy In Focus about the potential impact of the global economic crisis on women in the sex sector and the clash with foreign policy that takes an abolitionist approach. She also highlights 'what works' and identifies some recommendations.

<http://www.fpif.org/fpif.txt/5970>

The conclusions of the Eighth European Regional Meeting of the ILO "Working out of crisis: Strategies for Decent Work in Europe and Central Asia" (Lisbon, 9-13 February 2009) focus on the economic crisis hitting Europe, and the challenges it poses to employment, decent work, and social security. The 55 conclusions, including recommendations for the future ILO work, are available at:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/geneva/what/events/lisbon2009/index.htm>

A recent report by Darfur Consortium, titled *Abductions, Sexual Slavery, and Forced Labour in Darfur*, finds that the Sudanese Government-supported militia (eg. the Janjaweed and the Popular Defence Forces), together with the Sudanese Armed Forces, have systematically abducted civilians for the purposes of slavery and forced labour as part of the Darfur conflict. The findings are based on information collected over the past two years. The report concludes that there is an urgent need to protect civilians from abductions and other serious human rights violations. To download the report:

<http://www.antislaveryinternational.org/homepage/resources/PDF/PDFsudan.htm#darfur>

*“The scale and impact of the current crisis is still largely unknown, but it is expected that women and girls in both developed and developing countries will be particularly affected by job cuts, lose of livelihoods, increased responsibilities in all spheres of their life, and an increased risk of societal and domestic violence. A systematic gender analysis of the current economic crisis is critical for developing viable solutions and upholding human rights standards”*

Yakin Ertürk, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women  
On the occasion of the 2009 International Women’s Day (8 March 2009)  
<http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2009/docs/UNSpecialRapporteur.pdf>

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](mailto:info@gaatw.org)
- If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at [info@gaatw.org](mailto:info@gaatw.org) and we will delete your address from the list.

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# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

## GAATW e-Bulletin

April 2009

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to the April issue of the e-Bulletin. In this issue, we bring you news of the continued struggle of undocumented migrants traveling from Africa to Europe, an activity that aims to increase the recognition of workers' contributions in a Middle Eastern country, and a seminar that addresses labour exploitation in the agricultural sector. In the Updates from the Secretariat section, we welcome a new colleague who has joined the International Secretariat, and share news about the international Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the upcoming joint Roundtable on Using CEDAW to Protect the Rights of Women Migrant Workers and Trafficked Women in South and Southeast Asia.

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May will mark International Labor Day, a day to celebrate the many victories and struggles of labor movements around the world. There have been many achievements made in the history of labour movements - for example, the eight-hour work day, maternity leave, and a minimum wage - unfortunately even today these rights are not provide to many workers, especially migrant workers. With the global economic recession still threatening job security, this year's Labour Day is a critical reminder that we must keep a close watch on workers' rights and working conditions in all areas of work. In solidarity with the millions of working men, women, migrant, local, part-time and full-time workers of the world, GAATW echoes the calls of many for the full recognition of rights and just treatment for all workers!

As always, we welcome suggestions and additional information to share in next month's e-Bulletin - What are you working on? What is happening with migration or trafficking in your country?

Warmly,  
*The GAATW International Secretariat*

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

### The long walk to Europe: Experiences of migration to Europe

Following the news that at least 21 people drowned and hundreds more are believed missing after two separate boats carrying migrants to Italy sank off the coast of Libya, Ben Ukwuoma, Oghogho Obayuwana and Olalekan Okusan decided to write about the experiences - and subsequent hardships and risks - of many Nigerians who try to travel to Europe.

[http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/weekend/article01/indexn2\\_html?pdate=100409&ptitle=The%20long%20walk%20to%20Europe...and%20pains:%20The%20woes,%20travails%20of%20illegal%20migration%20to%20Europe](http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/weekend/article01/indexn2_html?pdate=100409&ptitle=The%20long%20walk%20to%20Europe...and%20pains:%20The%20woes,%20travails%20of%20illegal%20migration%20to%20Europe)

### **New campaign to mark International Labour Day**

The Ministry of Labour in United Arab Emirates will launch a “first-of-its-kind” campaign to recognise the contribution of workers in observance of International Labour Day. The five-day campaign titled ‘Workers are our partners in development’, includes a two-day symposium on labour and human rights. The programme aims to improve and enhance fundamental principles and rights at work, principles and rights at work, employment, social protection and social dialogue. This campaign is part of UAE’s efforts on ensuring “Decent Work”, part of the ILO ‘decent work country programme’.

[http://uaeinteract.com/docs/New\\_campaign\\_to\\_mark\\_International\\_Labour\\_Day/35416.htm](http://uaeinteract.com/docs/New_campaign_to_mark_International_Labour_Day/35416.htm)

### **OSCE seminar looks at labour exploitation in the agricultural sector**

A ‘technical seminar’ on trafficking for labour exploitation, focusing on the agricultural sector, was organised by the OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings from 27-28 April. The seminar highlighted experiences and “lessons learned” in OSCE-participating States in the field of trafficking for labour exploitation in the agricultural sector, in particular in the areas of identification, protection mechanisms, national co-ordination among the services or authorities, and prosecution of cases. The seminar agenda can be found at: <http://www.osce.org/item/37250.html>. A full report will be published at the OSCE website in the form of an “occasional paper” by mid-May.

### Legal Update

#### **Dominican amendment bans human trafficking**

DR: On April 20, the Dominican Republic constitution has been amended to include a law that will prohibit human trafficking in all its forms. The law was approved with 180 votes in the 201-member constitutional reform assembly.

[http://www.nydailynews.com/latino/2009/04/23/2009-04-23\\_dominican\\_amendment\\_bans\\_human\\_trafficking\\_.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/latino/2009/04/23/2009-04-23_dominican_amendment_bans_human_trafficking_.html)

#### **Malaysia drafts law for domestic workers**

MALAYSIA: The Malaysia Government is drafting new law to protect domestic workers from sexual harassment, non-payment of wages and poor working conditions. The proposed law hopes to provide the first legal protection for domestic workers in Malaysia who are not covered by legislation that protects foreign workers in other sectors like construction.

[http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/SE%2BAsia/Story/STIStory\\_367535.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/SE%2BAsia/Story/STIStory_367535.html)

## **REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES**

### Africa

#### **GAATW Board member attends the ECOWAS Meeting on Rehabilitation of Victims of Trafficking in Persons, 31 March - 2 April 2009**

GAATW’s Board Member, Victoria Nwogu, attended the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Ministerial and Expert Meeting on the Rehabilitation of Victims of Trafficking in Persons. The meeting, held in Accra, Ghana, focused on the validation by experts and adoption by ECOWAS Ministers of a draft policy on the Protection and Assistance for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in West Africa. Through her participation in the Experts Meeting, Ms. Nwogu was able to advocate on a number of key points in the draft policy, including: the importance of employing the rights-based approach to victim protection and assistance; ensuring that views of trafficked persons are taken into consideration in initiatives that are developed for their benefit; and the need to establish a link between trafficking and migration in trafficking efforts, and including information on safe migration for people

wanting to migrate as a way of preventing trafficking. The Ministerial meeting was attended by Ministers from all the 14 ECOWAS Member States. The recommendations made at the Experts Meeting were reinforced and the policy document was adopted.

#### **ANPPCAN Liberia works to build the capacity of law enforcement officers**

GAATW's new member organisation in Africa, African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (**ANPPCAN**) Liberia, conducted a week-long training for law enforcement officers and community members in some communities in Liberia. This was part of ANPPCAN Liberia's 'Women-Friendly Policing Campaign', a year-long sensitization campaign which is aimed at improving knowledge, attitudes and practices of law enforcement officers in promoting women-friendly practices. Topics discussed during the training ranged from legislation related to violence against women to the prevention of human trafficking.

#### **Upcoming African Commission and Human and Peoples' Rights**

GAATW member organisation **FIDA-Kenya** will be attending the meeting of the African Commission and Human and Peoples' Rights in mid-May 2009. FIDA-Kenya has reporting status at the Commission, and will submit a statement before the Commission that will include information about the situation of trafficking in persons in Kenya.

### Europe

#### **European Commission adopts new framework decisions on trafficking and exploitation**

The European Commission has recently adopted the proposals for two framework decisions on trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation of children. The revised framework decisions on trafficking in persons will revoke the existing one from 2002. La Strada International commented on this development in their latest newsletter, saying: "*The revised Framework Decision (FD) on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, and protecting victims, takes on a broader approach than its predecessor and includes prevention and protection and is not exclusively focused on criminal justice.*"

### FROM THE SECRETARIAT

#### **New colleague at the GAATW-IS**

GAATW-IS warmly welcomes *Dewi Nova Wahyuni* from Bandung, Indonesia who has recently joined the team. Prior to joining GAATW-IS, she worked as gender technical assistant for Conflict Early Warning System Program with Hivos in Ach, Indonesia. She joined GAATW's Feminist Participatory Action Research project in 2000 when she was working with LRC-KJHAM. Dewi Nova will work as the Asia Programme Officer together with Aatcharaporn (Aat) Chaowahem from Thailand.

#### **Roundtable on CEDAW, Migration and Trafficking**

The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW), Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARAM Asia), and International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP) Asia Pacific are convening a **Roundtable on Using CEDAW to Protect the Rights of Women Migrant Workers and Trafficked Women in South and Southeast Asia** that will take place from 6-9 May 2009 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The purposes of the Roundtable are to:

- Explore the nexus between migration and trafficking in South and Southeast Asia in the context of migration for work, with a specific focus on the promotion and protection of the human rights of women through the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Review the position of migrant women within international and national legal frameworks and consider whether migrant women might find greater human rights protections within the CEDAW framework

- Develop strategies to promote the rights of migrant women using CEDAW

It is hoped that the Roundtable will enable an open and inclusive discussion on the situation of women migrant workers and trafficked women, and create innovative and collaborative strategies to guarantee protection of their rights. For more information, please contact: Caroline Hames [caroline@gaatw.org](mailto:caroline@gaatw.org)

#### **UNIFEM Forum on the Gendered Impact of the Economic Crisis on Women Migrant Workers in Asia, Bangkok, 23-25 May 2009**

Dewi Nova Wahyuni and Rebecca Napier-Moore from GAATW-IS, and GAATW member Vichuta Ly from LSCW in Cambodia, attended the Forum. Two key messages that have come out of this forum have been: survival means earning more than minimum wage; and many migrant workers are being put into precarious situations because they are either no longer able to work overtime or are facing mass layoffs due to the economic recession. There is also evidence that women migrants are facing increased sexual harassment from officials, agents and brokers, and that some women face increased domestic violence as families are under great financial stress.

Some presenters and participants highlighted the need to renew looking at CEDAW (especially General Recommendation 26 on Migrant Workers), at ILO Convention 97 - Migration for Employment, and at the Migrant Workers Convention. Other speakers urged sending countries to provide assistance - economic, legal aid, counselling - for returnee migrant workers. For more information, please contact: Dewi Nova [nova@gaatw.org](mailto:nova@gaatw.org)

#### **Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), 16-24 April 2009**

The CCPCJ meets annually and has a number of focuses, including 'international action to combat national and transnational crime, including organized crime' and is therefore related to the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC), parent convention to the human trafficking protocol. In April, the CCPCJ meeting coincided with the meeting of a working group set up to review the implementation of the human trafficking protocol, both were held at the UNODC headquarters in Vienna, Austria.

GAATW-IS attended the CCPCJ, gave a statement calling on UNODC to ensure that human rights are central in their coordination of anti-trafficking efforts, and spoke to delegates about the working group meeting and the possibility of a review mechanism to UNTOC.

GAATW member LEFÖ, based in Vienna, participated in a simultaneous meeting to discuss a Framework for Action against Trafficking in Human Beings which is currently being considered as another tool for assessing the implementation of the human trafficking protocol. For more information, please contact: Caroline Hames [caroline@gaatw.org](mailto:caroline@gaatw.org)

## RESOURCES

### Reports

The 2008 report by the OSCE Special Rapporteur on Trafficking has been released, and can be downloaded at: <http://www.osce.org/item/36298.html>

IOM/UN.GIFT recently launched **Guiding Principles on Memoranda of Understanding Between Key Stakeholders and Law Enforcement Agencies on Counter-Trafficking Cooperation**, which was developed under the Expert Group Initiative (EGI) on cooperation between law enforcement institutions and stakeholders to effectively combat and prevent trafficking in human beings. To download this report, please go to: [http://www.ungift.org/docs/ungift/pdf/humantrafficking/Guiding\\_Principles\\_annexe.pdf](http://www.ungift.org/docs/ungift/pdf/humantrafficking/Guiding_Principles_annexe.pdf)

The "World Migration Report on Managing Labour Mobility in the Evolving Global Economy

- Europe and its Neighbours: Perspectives of Origin and Destination Countries" meeting was held in Vienna on 10 March 2009.

The main purpose of the event was to present the World Migration Report 2008, and to have migration experts and representatives of migrant countries of origin and of destination in the wider European area comment on the accuracy and reality of the World Migration Report. Some of the issues raised by the report are (direct transcription in italics):

- Countries of origin: *the main elements for an optimally functioning foreign employment policy, one needs to consider the regulation of private employment and recruitment agencies, the protection of workers, and the provision of support services.*
- Countries of destination: *need to meet specific labour market needs and plan for the safety of migrant workers. Key policy issues confronting countries of destination include the assessment of the need for foreign labour, the design of foreign labour admission policies, the rights of migrant workers, and the economic and social integration of newcomers.*

To access this report, please go to: [www.iomvienna.at](http://www.iomvienna.at)



#### Combating Trafficking in Persons: a Handbook for Parliamentarians

The Handbook contains a compilation of international laws and "good practices" developed to combat human trafficking. It offers guidance on how national legislation can be brought in line with international standards, for example, by defining trafficking in persons and criminalizing all its forms. It outlines measures to prevent the crime of trafficking in persons, to prosecute offenders and to protect victims, as well as advice on how to enlist civil society in the cause. The handbook is published by the UNODC in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

#### Events

The Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) is holding a **Roundtable on "Trafficking without Borders: Concerns and Challenges in Southeast Asia"**, on Wednesday, 6 May 2009 at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 30 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Singapore. For more information or to participate, please contact May at Tel: 6870-2473 / Fax: 6775-6264

*The rights to organise and bargain collectively are central to maintaining and improving living standards and to stimulating growth.*

ITUC May Day 2009 Declaration

<http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?article3514>

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- 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](mailto:info@gaatw.org)
- o If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at [info@gaatw.org](mailto:info@gaatw.org) and we will delete your address from the list.

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# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

## GAATW e-Bulletin

May 2009

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from Bangkok! We are bringing you our May e-bulletin a bit late because we wanted to share with you some updates from our recently concluded Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) Learning Workshop held in Chiang Mai, Thailand from May 25-29, 2009. We thank all the participants for sharing their knowledge, stories, skills and smiles with their sisters throughout the week. The enriching experience has given us much positive energy to continue with our work in advocating for the rights of migrants and trafficked persons.

One announcement we would also like to share with you in this e-bulletin is that **the deadline to attend the formal Civil Society Days of the GFMD in November 2009 has been extended until 8 June**. For more information, go to: <http://www.gfmd2009.org/>

For this issue of the Global Highlights, we would like to share with you the EU Framework Decision on the prevention of human trafficking and protection trafficked persons and the opportunity it presents for advocacy in Europe. We also included news on Mozambique and other governments in Southern Africa regarding their efforts to combat trafficking, and an update on a possible policy change in the United States that will help trafficked persons seeking to stay permanently in the US.

News from GAATW members and the IS highlights TWC2's Day Off Campaign for migrant domestic workers in Singapore, La Strada International's statement on the EU Framework Decision, and updates on the GAATW FPAR Learning Workshop, the GAATW Regional Consultation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and participation at the Conference on Women, Immigration and Prostitution in Barcelona, Spain.

On behalf of GAATW, we want to extend our deepest appreciation and warm wishes to Eleanor Taylor-Nicholson who will be leaving her position at GAATW-IS and is moving on to UC Berkeley for her Masters of Law. Her dedication to her work in the GAATW-IS is truly admirable and will definitely missed by us all. GAATW-IS wishes her great happiness and best wishes in her next journey.

Warmly,  
*The GAATW International Secretariat*

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

### **Mozambique: SADC Fights Against Human Trafficking**

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is designing a response to combat trafficking in persons. SADC held a three-day technical meeting in mid-May in Maputo,

Mozambique to prepare a forum of ministers on the matter and to design a regional strategy to fight against the trafficking in persons. They identified the weak points in the fight against trafficking as the lack of specific legislation to prevent trafficking in most member states. Mozambique was the first SADC member countries to adopt a specific law against trafficking in people. Zambia and Tanzania have also enforced law to combat trafficking in persons, and governments in South Africa and Malawi are currently working on addressing it. <http://allafrica.com/stories/200905270705.html>

### **European Union Framework Decision on preventing trafficking in human beings and protecting victims is being revised**

On 25 March 2009 the European Commission adopted the proposal for a Council Framework Decision (FD) on preventing trafficking in human beings and protecting victims, which will repeal the 2002 FD on combating trafficking in human beings. If adopted by the European Union, the proposed FD will include new elements such as substantive criminal law provisions, jurisdiction and prosecution, victims' rights in criminal proceedings (including compensation), victim support, prevention and monitoring (including the establishment of National Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms). The new FD is a crucial document as it will be legally-binding for EU member states and therefore lobbying national governments at this phase will be fundamental in the incoming months. [Click here](#) to download the proposal for a new FD.

On 29 April the Group of Experts on Trafficking in Human Beings (set up by the European Commission) issued an Opinion on this FD proposal in which they made a set of recommendations, including non-conditional assistance for trafficked persons and in obtaining compensation. The Opinion of the Expert Group is not yet posted on-line, but if you wish to receive a copy, please contact: [nerea@gaatw.org](mailto:nerea@gaatw.org)

### **US looking into relaxing visas application process for trafficked persons**

The United States government is looking in to mechanisms that would allow trafficked persons and victims of serious crimes to have easier access to securing permanent residency in the US and be able to find work while waiting the decision on their visa applications. The recommendations, made by the US Citizens and Immigration Service (USCIS) said it recognises that trafficked persons and victims of serious crimes are "a vulnerable population" and that USCIS wants to ensure their policies reflect the "humanitarian nature" of providing "T" and "U" visas - the visas available for trafficked persons and victims of serious crimes.

[http://globalnation.inquirer.net/news/breakingnews/view/20090601-208268/US\\_relaxes\\_visa\\_application\\_for\\_crime\\_victims](http://globalnation.inquirer.net/news/breakingnews/view/20090601-208268/US_relaxes_visa_application_for_crime_victims)

## **REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES**

### Asia

#### **Day Off Campaign**

**Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2)**, the National Committee for United Nations Development Fund (UNIFEM), and Humanitarian Organisation for Migrant Economics (HOME) are collaborating on a study that will look into employer's attitudes concerning migrant domestic workers having a regular day off. The outcome of the research will be a report used for public education initiatives and to engage stakeholders like the community, employers and employment agencies on the need for a day off for Singapore's migrant domestic workers. For more information about the study, please contact Sha Najak at [helpline@twc2.org.sg](mailto:helpline@twc2.org.sg)

### Europe

#### **La Strada Statement and Recommendations on the Proposal for a Council Framework Decision on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting victims**

La Strada International (LSI) welcomes the Commission's proposal for a revised Framework Decision on combating trafficking in human beings that includes improving the protection of

and assistance to trafficked persons. LSI hopes that this revision will pave the way for additional and more specific EU measures on the protection and assistance of trafficked persons in the future. LSI also envisions a more integrated debate on the root causes of trafficking and a discussion on enlarging labour migration possibilities.

To access the full statement, please contact LSI at: [info@lastradainternational.org](mailto:info@lastradainternational.org)

## FROM THE SECRETARIAT

### **Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) Learning Workshop, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 24-29 May 2009**

In 1999 and 2000 GAATW led Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) workshops with several researchers. Ten years later, with much member involvement, we are using the methodology again to look at connections between gender, migration, labour and trafficking in the lives of women. Thirteen groups and the GAATW-IS participated in a Learning Workshop that took place last week in Chiang Mai, Thailand to prepare for this research activity: **FIDA Kenya, SWAN Vancouver, CEAPA, Modemu, Colectivo Leila Diniz, Sodireitos, La Strada International/RESPECT, La Strada Moldova, AkiDwa, SanaYarThi Pann, ATKI-HK, Shakti Samuha and LRC-KJHAM.**

The 2007 GAATW Collateral Damage report showed us the need for more evidence-based research and advocacy. The FPAR methodology will help bring forward women's lived experiences, support women to take power over the knowledge that comes out of research, and influence how that knowledge is used for action and advocacy that is relevant for them. At the Learning Workshop we discussed the definition of feminism that will drive the research and learned methodology skills from each other. Though each group's research will be different, common themes and goals were agreed upon.

#### **The GAATW objectives of the FPAR are:**

- To deepen understanding of the factors that impact on women's realities and rights
- To promote local action to realise women's rights
- To encourage evidence-based advocacy at all levels

The results of the research will be discussed in February and will be part of the International Member's Congress mid-2010. For more information, please contact Xenia Commandeur [xenia@gaatw.org](mailto:xenia@gaatw.org) or Rebecca Napier-Moore [rebecca@gaatw.org](mailto:rebecca@gaatw.org).

### **III GAATW REDLAC Meeting: Regional Consultation**

4-7 May 2009 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



GAATW, in partnership with Projeto Trama, organized a consultation with GAATW members and allies from Latin America and the Caribbean (along with one member from Europe - FIZ) to exchange experiences, discuss current trends in trafficking and migration in the region, strengthen the **GAATW REDLAC regional chapter**, and develop plans for future regional activities (including building upon the REDLAC action plan developed in 2008).

The four-day event included discussion on our work, the human rights approach to trafficking, and linkages between trafficking, migration, gender and labour. There were also workshops

on Access to Justice and Recognise Rights, which led to some concrete plans for GAATW-REDLAC in the coming year(s). It was wonderful to see familiar and new faces, GAATW-IS shares our heartfelt thanks for the commitment and continued energy shared by everyone throughout the event!

For more information, please contact Liyana Pavon: [liyana@gaatw.org](mailto:liyana@gaatw.org)

#### **A Roundtable on CEDAW and Trafficking, 5-9 May 2009**

GAATW collaborated with the International Women's Rights Action Watch-Asia Pacific (IWRAP-AP) and the Coordination of Action and Research on Aids and Mobility (CARAM) Asia to organize a Roundtable on Using the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to Protect the Rights of Women Migrant Workers and Trafficked Women in South and Southeast Asia. This Roundtable discussed migration and trafficking in South and Southeast Asia in the context of migration for work, with a specific focus on the promotion and protection of the human rights of women through CEDAW. GAATW Member Organizations **Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2)**, **National Domestic Workers Movement (NDWM)**, **Legal Services for Children and Women (LSCW)**, the **Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children Nepal (AATWIN)** and **Shakti Samuha** attended. Discussions looked at the tensions within and between women's rights, migrants rights and trafficked persons rights movements and organizations and all participants worked together to broaden their understanding of different legal tools including CEDAW. We hope to continue to work with many of the organizations present to maximize our use of CEDAW as an advocacy tool and means of protecting the rights of women migrant workers in the future.

For more information, please contact Caroline Hames: [caroline@gaatw.org](mailto:caroline@gaatw.org)

#### **Trafficking in persons: ten years after the institution of the ad hoc inter-governmental committee for the elaboration of the Palermo protocol conference 21-22 May 2009**

Organised by IOM and supported by the university of Palermo and UNICRI, the conference aimed to bring together some of the individuals who participated in the 1999-2000 negotiations for the elaboration of the Convention on Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and its attached Protocols (including the UN Trafficking Protocol). The conference brought together practitioners, academics, and representatives from international and national organisations and governments, to ascertain the current status of Protocol ratification, discuss the successes and challenges of the implementation process, and look at the results of implementing the anti-trafficking protocol. Participants also reflected on what has worked and what has not worked in the past decade. There was some degree of self-criticism and self-reflection, as well as satisfaction for the achievements so far. For more information, please contact Nerea Bilbatua: [nerea@gaatw.org](mailto:nerea@gaatw.org)

#### **Women, Immigration and Prostitution: Keys to understand the reality, 29-30 April**

The two-day conference was organised by a research group belonging to the university of Barcelona and SICAR CAT, an NGO providing assistance to trafficked women in the Catalonia region (Spain). The conference aimed to analyze intersections and differences between women, migration and prostitution and look at practical examples of organizations working on these issues. Participants were mainly students and members of Catalonian NGOs, Red Cross, the city hall, and the police. Nerea from the GAATW-IS participated in one panel called: "Networks and Strategies of joint work with trafficked women", which presented networking experiences at local (Catalonia), inter-regional (Spain and Brazil) and regional (European) levels and helped broaden the discussions to look at trafficking and its linkages with migration, labour and gender in a more systematic way.

For more information, please contact Nerea Bilbatua: [nerea@gaatw.org](mailto:nerea@gaatw.org)

### **OSCE Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings calls on States to combat exploitation in the agricultural sector**

In a statement prepared for a technical seminar on trafficking for labour exploitation into the agricultural sector, OSCE Special Representative Eva Biaudet referred to the need to improve identification and services for people trafficked into this sector and stated that: "The political framework exists; now we need political will and action at the national level. More efficient police investigations and prosecutions are needed but will not be enough. Governments have to become more active in protecting agricultural workers and enforcing their rights. In most countries labour inspections are very limited or nonexistent in the agricultural sector."

You can find more information, please go to:

[http://www.osce.org/conferences/agricultural\\_09.html](http://www.osce.org/conferences/agricultural_09.html)

### **Global Trade Union Alliance to Combat Forced Labour and Trafficking: Newsletter 4**

The Newsletter provides information about trade union activities to fight forced labour and human trafficking around the world and includes links to numerous reports and information. The Global Trade Union Alliance to Combat Forced Labour and Trafficking is led by the International Trade Union Confederation and financially supported by ILO. The newsletter can be downloaded from: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?article3636>

### **Web Anthology on Migrant Remittances and Development: Research Perspectives**

The Social Science Research Council has announced the publication of a web-based anthology titled "Migrant Remittances and Development: Research Perspectives". This anthology is a collection of over 80 articles, edited by leading experts, that provide a general overview of migrant remittances and development, including methodological issues related to data, factors that affect the sending of remittances, how remittances are used, and what effects they have on various aspects of economic development and social welfare. The anthology can be downloaded for free at: <http://programs.ssrc.org/intmigration/AnthologyOnRemittances>

### **Report I(B) - Report of the Director-General: The cost of coercion**

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has just published its new report on forced labour, which includes analysis of emerging issues related to the concept of forced labour and its linkages (and policy challenges) with trafficking. It contains separate regional analysis, as well as a looking into specific sectors such as domestic work, seafarers, and contract labour and recruitment. It is available in English and Spanish at:

[http://www.ilo.org/global/What\\_we\\_do/Officialmeetings/ilc/ILCSessions/98thSession/ReportSubmittedtotheConference/lang--en/docName--WCMS\\_106230/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/What_we_do/Officialmeetings/ilc/ILCSessions/98thSession/ReportSubmittedtotheConference/lang--en/docName--WCMS_106230/index.htm)

## Events

### **Application Deadline - formal Civil Society involvement in the GFMD 2009**

The deadline for submission of applications to attend the formal Civil Society Days of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in November has **been extended until 8 June**. The draft agenda of the CSD Conference is also now available at the GFMD site. Unlike GFMD 2008, there will be no interaction with governments during the formal civil society conference; however, we encourage members to apply and to take the opportunity to engage with this process as very little space is given to migrants, migrant rights groups, human rights groups and other civil society organisations to speak out during GFMD.

For more information and to find the application form, go to: <http://www.gfmd2009.org/>

Email your applications by 8 June to: [info@gfmd2009.org](mailto:info@gfmd2009.org)

### **Victims in Europe - 23rd Annual Conference of Victim Support Europe 25-26 June 2009**

Organized in the frame of the 'European Commission Project Victims in Europe' the Portuguese Association for Victim Support is organising a two-day seminar in Lisbon, to gather

experts and professionals in the area of justice, civil society and policy-makers from different countries to present the framework of existing rights in Europe and to debate whether these rights are in fact being implemented in the European Union. Although the seminar is in its planning stage, it is confirmed that a plenary session on the Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA on combating trafficking in human beings will take place.

For more information, please go to: <http://apav.pt/vine>

***‘We have the woman at the centre - the woman who struggles but also resists - she feels powerless but bounces back - that’s what for me is rights based, that’s the empowering subject, we do not want to deny the difficulties, the struggle but we would also like to see her as a powerful person who against all types of adversity resists.’***

*Bandana Pattanaik, GAATW-IS  
FPAR Learning Workshop, 25-29 May 2009*

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# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

## GAATW e-Bulletin

June 2009

**Dear Members and Friends,**

Greetings from the GAATW International Secretariat

The months have passed swiftly, and we are now at the end of the first half of the year. Some of GAATW's activities lined up for the coming months include: the release of the next Alliance News focusing on the Latin America and the Caribbean region; the Asia Regional Consultation in Nepal; the launch of GAATW's urgent action calling for a review mechanism which we hope GAATW members can actively take part in; and the preparatory work for the next International Members Congress in 2010. As always we count on your participation and advice.

In this month's issue, we highlight Italy's proposed bill to criminalise undocumented migrants and endorse community vigilante groups; we are extremely critical of this legislation that will have serious, and possibly dangerous, implications to foreign migrant workers conditions. We urge legislators and policy makers to avoid similar 'bad practices' and to centre their efforts in creating more economic opportunities for people and ensuring that the human rights of all people, regardless of their migration status, are not being overlooked.

We are pleased to share more news from GAATW members: Girls Power Initiative in Nigeria, La Strada Belarus and Poland, and the Sex Workers Project at the Urban Justice Center in the USA. We also highlight an upcoming regional event, co-organised by Nelia Sancho as part of AWHRC (Nelia works at the Buhay Foundation, a GAATW member), the Southeast Asia Court of Women on HIV, Human Trafficking and Migration. We have also included many recent resources that are accessible online.

We also take this opportunity to invite you to join our latest petition, 'Stop, Look and Listen' urging governments to create a review mechanism for the UNTOC Human Trafficking Protocol in 2010. More information on updates from the secretariat.

Warmly,

***The GAATW International Secretariat***

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

### **Reject Anti-Migrant Bill**

ITALY: Human Rights Watch urges the Senate **to reject legislative proposals that would impose criminal penalties on undocumented migrants**. The bill (known as the "security package") will be voted on by the senate in late June.

The passing of the law would increase detention period to up to six months and allow for fines of up to €10,000 for entering and remaining in Italy without a permit. Doctors' unions and rights groups have expressed concern that the measure could compel public health and

education officials to report undocumented migrants seeking medical care and other services. It would also include a 'dangerous' provision for a national framework for "citizens' groups" to patrol the streets to help law-enforcement authorities to combat crime. The groups would not be armed or have arrest powers, but preference for membership would go to retired police and military personnel.

*"Legalizing vigilante groups at a time of rising intolerance is a recipe for disaster," said Judith Sunderland, senior Western Europe researcher at Human Rights Watch. "If these groups use violence against migrants, the state will be directly responsible."*

The government recently began to forcibly return boats carrying migrants in international waters back to Libya, without determining whether they needed protection from persecution or abuse, a clear violation of international refugee law. (See related article [here](#))

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/06/21/italy-reject-anti-migrant-bill>

### **ILO adopts "Global Jobs Pact" aimed at creating jobs, and protecting workers**

GENEVA: The International Labour Organization (ILO) adopted a Global Jobs Pact designed to guide national and international policies aimed at stimulating economic recovery, generating jobs and providing protection to working people and their families. The Pact was adopted following the three-day ILO Global Jobs Summit which tackled a recent ILO report showing unprecedented increase in unemployment globally and a persistence of very high levels of poverty.

According to the ILO, the Pact amounts to the most urgent and wide-ranging response to an economic crisis ever adopted by the ILO. It calls on governments and organizations representing workers and employers to work together to collectively tackle the global jobs crisis with policies in line with the ILO's Decent Work Agenda. Decent work includes employment opportunity and income; rights, voice and recognition; family stability and personal development; and fairness and gender equality.

[http://www.ilo.org/global/About\\_the\\_ILO/Media\\_and\\_public\\_information/Press\\_releases/lang-en/WCMS\\_108482/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/About_the_ILO/Media_and_public_information/Press_releases/lang-en/WCMS_108482/index.htm)

### **Compulsory day off for domestic workers**

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Government has agreed to make it compulsory for employers to give one day off a week for their migrant domestic workers. The Ministry of Human Resources will make it mandatory for all domestic helpers to sign a contract of employment containing provisions like salary, the name of employers, their workplaces and the compulsory one day off a week. This provision would be incorporated into the contract of employment to be signed by employers, migrant domestic workers and the agencies responsible for bringing domestic workers into Malaysia for work. A guide book will be provided to migrant domestic workers containing the contact numbers of embassies and relevant agencies. The Labour Department will also be making visits to migrant domestic workers to check their welfare and to make sure that the terms stated in their contract are being followed.

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2009/6/17/nation/4133791&sec=nation>

### **South Africa introduces new permit for Zimbabwean migrants; not child migrants**

SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa has recently introduced a new permit system allowing adult Zimbabwean migrants to stay in the country for 90 days to work and study. While the permit has been applauded as a positive step towards effectively "managing" Zimbabwean migrants, child rights NGOs are concerned about the effect it will have on independent child migrants from Zimbabwe who are not included in the permit system. Child rights activists in South Africa admit that the challenge for the government is the fact that giving the child migrants permits would be equivalent to condoning child labour. On the other hand, they fear that the new permit system makes the child migrants more vulnerable as they are competing for work with people who are now recognised as legal migrants.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84890>

### Legal Update

#### **Sri Lanka to reform migrant worker sponsorship laws**

SRI LANKA: Sri Lanka is seeking assistance from Middle Eastern nations to reform migrant worker sponsorship laws that currently require migrant workers to get the consent of their employer to change sponsors or to exit the country of employment. The Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) said that the Government of Bahrain had responded positively to these proposed changes, and as a result, the proposed new laws would come into effect from 1 August 2009 in Bahrain. According to the amended rules, workers would be able to change employers without losing legal status in the country of employment.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/06/08/news14.asp>

#### **Child-trafficking bill closer to becoming law**

CANADA: A private member's bill introduced by Winnipeg Conservative MP Joy Smith will head back to the House of Commons for its third and final reading. The pending legislation imposes a minimum sentence of five years for anyone convicted of human trafficking when the victim is under the age of 18. After third reading, the bill has to pass the Senate before it can be given Royal Assent and become law.

<http://www.canada.com/Child+trafficking+bill+closer+becoming/1677042/story.html>

## REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

### Africa

In its commitment to promote issues of gender and youth development, GAATW member **Girls Power Initiative (GPI)**, in Nigeria, has organised a **training workshop on gender issues** for staff, media, heads of schools and interested public. Organised through its Gender Development Institute, this training on gender runs from 22-25 June. GPI also organises other trainings including a sexuality education and HIV education training for school teachers, members of staff and selected GPI girls, and an up-coming training to sensitise the general public on the use of the female condom. For more information, please contact: Grace Osakue [gpiibenin@gpinigeria.org](mailto:gpiibenin@gpinigeria.org)

### Europe

#### **UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking: visit and recommendations to Poland & Belarus**

Between 24-29 May, Ms Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, made a country visit to the La Strada member countries Poland and Belarus. In her [preliminary findings and recommendations](#) to Poland, Ms Ngozi Ezeilo positively notes the government's cooperation with stakeholders and countries as well as necessary legal amendments. However, she also voiced concerns about the lack of a comprehensive and unambiguous definition of trafficking in the Polish criminal law, a lack of capacity for labour inspectors to gain an effective oversight of trafficking in sectors other than the sex industry, unduly long judicial proceedings relating to trafficking cases, limited availability and access to social assistance by victims of trafficking especially in rural areas, and a failure to pay victims of trafficking compensation, among others.

<http://www.lastradainternational.org/?main=newsletter>

### The Americas

#### **Anti-trafficking Advocates Call for Swift Action on Bill in the Senate**

The New York State Assembly has passed a **bill enabling victims of human trafficking to wipe away prostitution convictions** resulting from coerced involvement in sex work. The bill has broad support in the Assembly and with anti-trafficking service providers and advocates. The **Sex Workers Project at the Urban Justice Center (SWP)** says it is one of several bills whose passage is critical to promoting and protecting the rights of individuals involved in the sex industries, whether by choice, circumstance, or coercion. Supporters hope that the bill will be passed before the end of the current legislative session.

<http://www.sexworkersproject.org/downloads/2009/20090616-swp-vacating-convictions->

[release.pdf](#)

## FROM THE SECRETARIAT

### **Stop, Look, Listen - what is really being done to stop human trafficking?**

GAATW-IS has launched an **online petition to call on governments who have signed or ratified the Palermo Protocol to urgently support creating a review mechanism for the UNTOC Human Trafficking Protocol** to ensure that all governments reviews their current efforts in combating human trafficking. GAATW and other human rights defenders world-wide are concerned on how anti-trafficking measures are leading to further violations. We need to ask our governments to ensure that rights of people migrating, or returning to their home countries, are better protected by anti-trafficking policies.

GAATW has launched an urgent action calling for a review mechanism, which will include collecting signatures to present to the governments during the **fourth conference of states parties** to the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocols (including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons) in October 2010.

To sign up the petition, go to <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/stop-look-listen.html>

If you would like to know more about the petition and would like circulate the petition at the national level, please contact Caroline Hames [caroline@gaatw.org](mailto:caroline@gaatw.org)

### **GAATW Visiting Indonesia**

Dewi Nova Wahyuni, one of the Regional Programme Officers for Asia will be visiting Indonesia from 26 June - 8 July to meet with three GAATW members - Solidaritas Perempuan, ATKI-Jakarta and LRC-KJHAM. This trip is a follow-up to GAATW's recent feminist participatory action research workshop in May, and will also include discussions about GAATW advocacy projects and preparation for the up-coming GAATW Asia Regional Consultation. For more information, please contact Dewi Nova at [nova@gaatw.org](mailto:nova@gaatw.org)

## RESOURCES

### Reports/Papers

#### **Guide on the UN Migrant Workers Convention**

Seeking to better protect migrants' human rights and dignity, the new publication **encourages governments worldwide to ratify and implement the Convention**. To download this guide, go to: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Press/HandbookFINAL.PDF>

#### **Independent child migrants in developing countries: unexplored links in migration and development**

This paper focuses on independent migrant children who choose to move from home and live in destinations without a parent or adult guardian. It summarises quantitative and qualitative research, and uses this to reflect on research agendas and global debates towards linking migration and development. It also looks at the extent to which children may demand migration opportunities, and how this demand may be. To download this paper, go to: [http://www.unicef-irc.org/article.php?id\\_article=121](http://www.unicef-irc.org/article.php?id_article=121)

#### **Human Trafficking, Sex Work Safety and the 2010 Games: Assessments and Recommendations Regarding Collateral Impacts report**

This report, produced by the Sex Industry Worker Safety Action Group (SIWSAG) in Vancouver, is a background study on the potential impact of the 2010 Olympic Games on the trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation and on the impact on, and safety issues for sex workers. The study explores these issues through an in-depth global overview of the experiences of other cities that have recently hosted mega sport events, as well as looking at the context in Canada and Vancouver. The report's findings show that the commonly held notion of a link between mega sports events, trafficking in persons and sex work is an

unsubstantiated assumption. To download this report, go to:  
<http://www.straight.com/files/pdf/sextraffick2010games.pdf>

### **OSCE launches Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies**



The guide aims to raise awareness of the most pressing matters facing female labour migrants, to introduce gender-sensitivity in contemporary labour migration policies, and to provide policy makers with a practical tool to consult when developing and implementing policies. The guidelines include ensuring migrants help inform migration policy, addressing barriers that prevent migrants with children from migrating, and ensuring temporary migrants have access to services.

Free copies of the Guide can be requested from the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (email [pm-ceeda@osce.org](mailto:pm-ceeda@osce.org)) or to download this guide, go to: <http://www.osce.org/item/37689.html>

### **In Pursuit of the Southern Dream: Victims of Necessity**

International Organization for Migration (IOM) released a report this month that details the abuse and other human rights violations faced by migrants (particularly male migrants) who are smuggled from Eastern Africa to South Africa. According to the report, *In Pursuit of the Southern Dream: Victims of Necessity*, up to 20,000 Ethiopian and Somali male migrants are smuggled annually from the Horn of Africa to South Africa. Among the recommendations of the report is the provision of adequate protection to irregular migrants by source, transit and destination countries. To download this report, go to:

[http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/In\\_Pursuit\\_of\\_the\\_Southern\\_Dream.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/In_Pursuit_of_the_Southern_Dream.pdf)

In commemoration of World Refugee Day on 20 June, the [Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa \(CoRMSA\)](#) issued a report entitled *Protecting Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Immigrants in South Africa*. According to the study, migration and migrants in South Africa have gained importance over the last year. Zimbabwean migration and xenophobia are two main concerns that have dominated migration debates. The report outlines many ways in which migrants including refugees, asylum seekers and economic migrants are excluded from the services, welfare, rights and dignity that they are guaranteed by South African law and Constitutional commitments. To download this report, go to: <http://www.lhr.org.za/files/Cormsa08-Final.pdf>

### Video

#### **Child Labour Worsening Due to Global Crisis**

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) has launched a [new video spot](#) to highlight the problem and press governments to tackle the exploitation of children more effectively, both through funding quality education and enforcing labour laws. To see the new ITUC video spot on child labour, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zZXVq7eLw>

### Events

#### **South East Asia Court of Women on HIV and Human Trafficking**

The **first South East Asia Court of Women on HIV and Human Trafficking: *From Vulnerability to Free, Just and Safe Movement*** will be held in **Bali, Indonesia on 6 August 2009**. The Court of Women is organised in conjunction with the 9th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP), which will be held from 9-13 August 2009. The objective of the Court is to give women an opportunity to be heard by sharing their testimonies with a broader audience which includes leaders and decision makers. The Court will bring together leaders, politicians, activists, people living with HIV, and communities who are working to make a difference to empower women and reduce their vulnerability to trafficking and HIV in the South East Asia region. For more information on this event, contact Nelia Sancho at [neliasancho@yahoo.com](mailto:neliasancho@yahoo.com)

*'Time for us to pursue our ideals, that call for respect for fellow human beings, regardless of nationality; that ask consideration of others and recognition of their rights. But the tests of these times may be best faced and overcome if we carry within us the hope of a world that is better than the one that we knew before. To wish for this is not enough. It must be worked for and this is what we will do.'*

*John Gee, President, Transient Workers Count 2 (TWC2),  
TWC2's annual general meeting, Singapore*

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- 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](mailto:info@gaatw.org)
- o If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at [info@gaatw.org](mailto:info@gaatw.org) and we will delete your address from the list.

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# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

## GAATW e-Bulletin

July 2009

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to the July e-Bulletin. In this issue we highlight a **wide range of positive steps taken by governments around the world** to improve the recognition and protection of human rights - establishment of a new human rights body in Southeast Asia, an opportunity for undocumented workers to become regularized in Belgium, and a step towards non-conditional assistance in Australian anti-trafficking policy.

In regards to GAATW work, we are **featuring updates from two GAATW members' activities** in Africa and Asia, as well as GAATW's recent meeting with the **High Commissioner for Human Rights** in Geneva.

Finally, we want to take this opportunity to express our solidarity with the organisers of the upcoming **South East Asia Court of Women on HIV and Human Trafficking**, which will be held in Bali, Indonesia in early August. A number of GAATW members are involved in this event. Our message of solidarity can be accessed at [www.gaatw.org](http://www.gaatw.org)

As always, we look forward to hearing your thoughts and suggestions on how we can better share your news and bring relevant information to your work. You can write to us at [gaatw@gaatw.org](mailto:gaatw@gaatw.org)

Warmly,

**The GAATW International Secretariat**

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

### **ASEAN's new human rights body: A threat to human rights in the region?**

On 20 July 2009, Foreign Ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) met in Phuket, Thailand and during this meeting adopted [the Terms of Reference](#) (ToR) for a new ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).

A number of civil society organisations have greeted the decision with cautious optimism, suggesting that it represents a first positive step towards human rights protection. But concerns have also been raised in that the AICHR has a weak mandate, does not have a formal mechanism for individual complaints, provides the Commission with only consultative status rather than any binding power, and lacks a clear protection mandate for AICHR. ASEAN's new instrument rests on the assumption that member states can reach consensus on human rights and that they are committed to providing human rights protection - "Seeking consensus with Myanmar's Generals on human rights, the logical consequence means that the enjoyment of human rights across the region is now under real threat," says the Asian Centre for Human

Rights (ACHR).

<http://www.achrweb.org/Review/2009/226-09.html>

### **Belgium to legalise 25,000**

Belgian Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy released details of the federal government's agreement on regularising irregular migrants. Under the new initiative, irregular migrants who have lived in Belgium for at least five years will be able to apply to regularise their immigration status between 15 September and 15 December, 2009. Authorities have imposed strict criteria for foreigners to be eligible, for example, applicants will have to prove that they are integrated into Belgian society. If successful, they will be granted papers allowing them to legally stay and work in the country.

People who have been working in Belgium for at least two-and-a-half years can also apply for a residence permit. They have to produce a labour contract and a regional labour card. <http://www.euractiv.com/en/socialeurope/belgium-legalise-25000-immigrants/article-184257>

### Legislative Update

#### **New measures to protect trafficked persons**

Last month, the Australian government has announced significant changes to its anti-trafficking policy in regards to protecting victims of human trafficking. These changes include improving access to assistance, for example, trafficked persons are no longer required to cooperate with police in order to apply for an Australian visa to allow them to stay in the country. However, the system retains its criminal justice visa for those who are assisting police. <http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/asiapac/stories/200906/s2601222.htm>

#### **Saudi sets tough new penalties for human trafficking**

Saudi Arabia signed a new law that increases penalties against convicted human traffickers of up to 15 years in prison and a one million riyal (\$266,666) fine. The Saudi government's definition of human trafficking includes holding a person under control for sexual abuse, forced labour, involuntary begging, slavery or slavery-like practices, and enforced organ removal or medical experimentation. However, critics argued that the definition does not define the trafficking of children. <http://www.globaliamagazine.com/?id=782>

## REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

### Africa

#### **Labour rights training in Nairobi with FIDA Kenya**

GAATW member FIDA Kenya led a training workshop from 15-17 July, 2009 for 21 informal sector workers in Nairobi. The training was organised following some research by GAATW IS staff, Nkirote Laiboni, in which the women were interviewed and expressed concern about labour violations, as well as high corruption and harassment from police and city council at their work places. The women expressed a need to know more about their labour rights.

FIDA Kenya's training on labour rights and employment laws included speakers such as FIDA's litigation officer, representatives from the Kenyan National Human Rights Commission, and a trade union umbrella group. GAATW IS staff Nkirote Laiboni, Bandana Pattanaik and Rebecca Napier-Moore also participated in the training.

At the end of the workshop, the women decided to organize themselves, forming a group in each community, as ways to improve their bargaining power. The women will also take part in GAATW's Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) that FIDA is carrying out. For more information, please contact Nkirote Laiboni: [nkirote@gaatw.org](mailto:nkirote@gaatw.org)

### Asia

GAATW members **Asosiasi Tenaga Kerja Indonesia (ATKI), Solidaritas Perempuan** and other

civil society organisations **urged Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to instruct the Department of Manpower and Transmigration to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990)**. At the same time, Komnas Perempuan (National Commission on Women Right of Indonesia) urged the Indonesian President and Legislative to implement the ratification before October 2009 and encourage civil society to give their concern on this issue related to Indonesia President election.

At least six million Indonesians work as migrant workers in the Middle East, Hong Kong-SAR, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei. More than 80 percent of these workers are women. Indonesia has an *Act of Republic Indonesia No. 39, 2004* concerning the placement and protection of Indonesian overseas workers, but this Act focuses on the administrative regulation of migration rather than the protection of Migrant Worker's rights. The ratification of the International Migrant's Convention will force the Indonesian state to review all policy on migrant workers and implement policies that protect Migrant Workers human rights. To support their advocacy visit <http://www.petitiononline.com/BMI/>

#### FROM THE SECRETARIAT

**Dr. Nivedita Prasad from Ban-Ying, a GAATW member based in Germany, and Caroline Hames from GAATW-IS met with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navanethem Pillay, in Geneva.** It was an opportunity for GAATW to discuss the Alliance's advocacy goals and outcomes and to note the importance of the Review Mechanism. The meeting addressed the centrality of a human rights approach to anti-trafficking measures and commented on the lack of adequate efforts to include essential rights such as right to compensation and redress, right to health, etc. to trafficked and migrant persons.

GAATW encouraged the High Commissioner to emphasise the importance of the Recommended Principles and Guidelines in high level dialogue with the UNODC as the review mechanism is being established. And added that if the Recommended Principles and Guidelines were used in the way they were intended, as a checklist and practical guidance in drafting and implementing legislation on trafficking - then many of the cases of 'collateral damage' could be avoided.

For more information please contact Caroline Hames: [caroline@gaatw.org](mailto:caroline@gaatw.org)

**OHCHR Coordination Workshop between the Special Rapporteur on Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Najat M'Jid Maala); the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, especially women and children (Joy Ngozi Ezeilo); and the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary forms of Slavery (Gulnara Shahinian)**

The coordination workshop, held from 24-26 June in Geneva, Switzerland, consisted of closed sessions among the three Special Rapporteurs and open plenary sessions that also included UN agencies and NGOs. The main objectives were to map out the areas and scope of work of each mandate; identify commonalities and areas of duplication amongst the three mandates; improve/tailor methods of work amongst the three mandates; and develop practical tools to collaborate with partners: UN agencies, NGOs, civil society organizations, treaty bodies, and national human rights institutions.

GAATW attended this workshop and recommended the SR on Trafficking to look at the human rights impact of crime control approaches to trafficking, including practices such as conditional assistance; to the SR on Slavery to focus on 'new' forced labour practices that are adding to old bonded labour or slave labour practices or in some cases emerging as a result of the country's development initiatives; to the SR on Children to look at young adults as a specific sub-group among children.

For more information, please contact Nerea Bilbatua: [nerea@gaatw.org](mailto:nerea@gaatw.org)

**The Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies (CAPSTRANS)** at the University of Wollongong will hold a workshop titled **Labour Migration and Trafficking: Policy Making at the Border** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 1 -3 August 2009. The aim is for workshop participants to explore if, and how, the trafficking framework has influenced flows of migrants across borders; how policy makers in sending and receiving countries attempt to regulate labour migration; and to what extent migration strategies and anti-trafficking policies have influenced the ability of migrant workers to exercise their labour rights. GAATW IS staff, Rebecca Napier-Moore will participate as a speaker in the policy forum to be organised on the final day of the program.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Napier-Moore: [rebecca@gaatw.org](mailto:rebecca@gaatw.org)

#### Upcoming Event

#### **GAATW Asia Regional Consultation in August-September**

The Asia regional consultation is scheduled to be held on 31 August - 4 September 2009 in Kathmandu, Nepal. GAATW's membership in Asia includes over 40 NGOs in 10 countries and is the largest regional membership of the Alliance. GAATW's regional consultations have served as spaces where links between local, regional and global levels can be explored, concrete discussion about the human rights approach to our work can take place, and appropriate advocacy plans can be made. GAATW IS, members in Asia, and other like-minded organizations and individuals will participate in this event. For more information, please contact Aatcharaporn Chaowahem: [aat@gaatw.org](mailto:aat@gaatw.org)

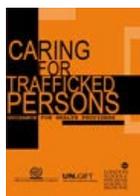
### RESOURCES

#### Resources

#### **Global Trends in Women's Access to Decent Work**

This report looks at current tensions and trends relating to Gender Norms and Decent Work, emerging patterns of work among Women and Men, and the link between decent work and reproductive work. The authors, Maria S. Floro and Mieke Meurs, highlight how changes in labour markets and labour relations, and the reduction of spending for social protection, have worsened women's access to decent work. To access this report, go to: <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/global/06399.pdf>

#### **Caring for Trafficked Persons: Guidance for Health Providers**



This handbook provides practical, non-clinical advice to help health providers understand the phenomenon of human trafficking, recognize some of the associated health problems and consider safe and appropriate approaches to providing healthcare for trafficked persons. It was developed by the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. To access this report, go to:

[http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&cPath=1&product\\_s\\_id=510&zenid=5vpdlut81sf46q6jbnq68alt31](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=1&product_s_id=510&zenid=5vpdlut81sf46q6jbnq68alt31)

The **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)** released the **2009 Arab Human Development Report (ADHR) assessing the security situation in the Arab world**. The UNDP-sponsored report, authored by some 90 intellectuals and scholars from several Arab countries, was released this month after two years of research. The report called on Arab governments to change laws and social mores that discriminate against women. The report also touched on the multi-billion dollar human trafficking industry that implicates Arab states with varying levels of complicity in the process. To access this report, go to:

<http://www.menassat.com/?q=en/news-articles/6910-un-sponsored-report-concludes-major-barriers-security-arab-world>

### **Reporters Without Borders: "Handbook for Bloggers and Cyber-Dissidents"**

The handbook offers practical advice and techniques on how to create a blog, make entries and get the blog to show up in search engine results. It gives clear explanations about blogging for all those whose online freedom of expression is subject to restrictions, and shows how to sidestep the censorship measures imposed by certain governments.

[Click here to read the full article](#)

*"We will achieve nothing without uniting and speaking out. We will achieve nothing by offering fine rhetoric not matched by deeds. Moral outrage is all-too-easy. Real action takes real commitment. I do not doubt our commitment here today, but let us not be under any illusions. Our humanity and our effectiveness as an organization will be measured by results."*

Addressing the GA's thematic debate on human trafficking  
Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, March 2009

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/d/12854.html>

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# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

## GAATW e-Bulletin

August 2009

**Dear Members and Friends,**

Greetings from GAATW International Secretariat.

It has been a fruitful and busy month for us in the Secretariat as we draw closer to the GAATW Asia Regional Consultation (ARC) scheduled on August 31-September 4 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The GAATW Secretariat team hopes that this space will spur more discussions and collaborations within the Alliance on common issues. We will bring you the highlights of the ARC meeting in our next e-bulletin.

**We would like to announce that the Third International Members' Congress (IMC) of GAATW will be held mid-2010. All members are invited to participate in this important meeting. The IS is proposing to hold it in the first week of July 2010. We request our members to let us know if this proposed timeline works for them. More on the upcoming IMC 2010 will follow soon.**

For this issue, we are highlighting the UN High Commissioner's article on the impact of the economic crisis on women migrant workers' rights; the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking's call for NAPTIP's support in combating trafficking in Nigeria; Turkey's decision to lift its geographical limitations in the Refugee Convention; and IACHR's visit to immigration detention centres in the US. We also bring you more legislative developments in supporting Indian migrant workers in distress and a new passed law in the Philippines that will hopefully strengthen the delivery of services to women migrant workers.

We also share with you some of the highlights from the recent meetings that the IS staff and one GAATW Board Member attended this month. These include the Asia Pacific Forum meeting in Jordan, which was a good opportunity to strengthen our network in the Middle Eastern region. Also, we bring you a long list of relevant references that you might find useful in your work.

Warmly,  
**The GAATW International Secretariat**

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

The **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights** has highlighted that the global economic crisis will have a disproportionate impact upon women as the majority of them are poor and disenfranchised. Women migrant workers face additional threats of marginalization, jobs losses and deprivation of their economic and social rights due to the global financial turmoil. High Commissioner Navanethem Pillay stated that many industries do not provide women with equal pay for equal work and they lack legal protection. At the 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro stated that migrant women working in the domestic realm often fall

outside the scope of labour laws and urged governments to use national legal systems to eliminate discrimination, promote equality and stop violence against women. Too many perpetrators are not held accountable she stated, and as a result impunity persists. The Secretary-General's study from 2006 found that many governments have yet to adopt legislation that criminalizes all forms of violence against women or on human trafficking.

<http://businessmirror.com.ph/home/top-news/7100-women-migrants-most-at-risk-.html>

#### **Human Trafficking: SR on Trafficking Enlists NAPTIP's Support, Others**

The Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Mrs. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, has called for teamwork in the fight against what she termed 'modern day slavery' amongst the Ministry of Interior, NAPTIP, NGOs and the media at the grassroots level. Ezeilo pointed out that Nigeria was a destination and a major source country as far as trafficking in persons is concerned. She also outlined the new trends of trafficking to include organ trafficking, such as the sale of kidneys and eyes, by victims of unfavourable conditions to traffickers who latter resell these parts for higher prices. Another type of trafficking, according to her, has to do with sports, where local footballers are tricked to neighbouring countries as supposed high prized stars, but are forced into exploitative practices.

<http://leadershipnigeria.com/index.php/news/headlines/4792-human-trafficking-un-enlists-naptips-support-others>

#### **Turkey to Lift Limitations for Asylum Seekers**

In the wake of increasing calls from the United Nations and the European Union, Turkey has decided to lift geographical limitations to its Refugee Convention. Turkey received strong criticism for its asylum procedure in reports prepared on the occasion of June 20, World Refugee Day, which prompted Turkish authorities to revise the country's asylum procedure. The Turkish government has prepared an action plan and submitted it to the EU which foresees revision of the status of refugees. The government plans to put this plan into action by 2010, and the last phase of this plan foresees the elimination of geographical limitations by the year 2012. In line with its action plan, the country needs to sign readmission agreements with its 24 neighbouring countries. Turkey has not been able to conclude talks but is currently continuing talks to some of these countries.

[http://axisoflogic.com/artman/publish/Article\\_56527.shtml](http://axisoflogic.com/artman/publish/Article_56527.shtml)

#### **IACHR Visit to US Immigration Detention Facilities**

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights completed a week of visits to various U.S. immigration detention facilities in Arizona and Texas. The aim was to gather information from detention officials, detainees and civil society organizations regarding immigration enforcement, detention, and due process issues in the United States. The IACHR Rapporteurship concludes that, despite some positive recent adjustments to the immigration detention system in the U.S., many men, women and children detained in those facilities are held in unacceptable conditions, and the right of these persons to due process remains, in many cases, compromised. The Rapporteurship identified a number of significant concerns regarding U.S. immigration policies and practices involving enforcement, detention, and due process.

To download the complete press release, visit their website at <http://www.cidh.oas.org/Comunicados/English/2009/53-09eng.htm>

#### Legislative Update

##### **India's 'Welfare Fund' to Benefit its Gulf Expats in Distress**

The Indian government will set up a welfare fund in its Missions in 17 countries including those in the Gulf region, to meet contingency expenditure incurred by them to assist overseas Indian citizens who are in distress, after the country's union cabinet agreed to set up the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF). ICWF will be created in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Libya, Malaysia, Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Syria, Lebanon, Thailand, Maldives and Iraq. The welfare fund will cover boarding and lodging, extending emergency medical care, legal assistance, and providing air passage for distressed overseas Indian workers, as well as for airlifting the mortal remains to India of the deceased overseas worker.

<http://www.arabianbusiness.com/565513-indias-special-welfare-fund-to-benefit-its-gulf-expats>

### **Magna Carta of Women Signed**

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo recently signed the Republic Act 9710, a law banning discrimination against women, and recognizing and protecting their rights. The Act ensures the equitable participation and representation of women in government, political parties, the civil service and the private sector. It also mandates the Department of Labour and Employment and the Department of Social Welfare and Development to strengthen the delivery of services to women migrant workers abroad and to ensure the protection and promotion of migrant women's rights and welfare, regardless of work status, and protect them against discrimination in wages, conditions of work and employment opportunities.

<http://www.philstar.com/Article.aspx?articleId=496127&publicationSubCategoryId=207>

## **REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES**

### Africa

#### **GPI to Hold Graduation Ceremonies for its Beneficiaries**

GAATW member organisation in Nigeria, Girls Power Initiative (GPI), will be holding graduation ceremonies for the 13<sup>th</sup> set of girls who have successfully completed GPI's Comprehensive Sexuality Education program. The graduation ceremonies will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 29<sup>th</sup> August and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2009 in three States where GPI operates centres: Delta, Calabar and Benin. The Comprehensive Sexuality Education is part of GPI's empowerment program, through which GPI aims to address challenges facing girls in Nigeria by equipping girls with skills and information on gender, sexuality and personal empowerment. The organisation uses the Comprehensive Sexuality Education as one tool of reducing trafficking in girls.

Besides empowering girls through training on sexuality and economic skills, GPI also carries out an outreach program which entails conducting training in schools for both students and their teachers. Teachers who are trained are expected to train their students and facilitate the establishment of GPI clubs in schools. GPI plans to hold a training workshop on Sexuality for teachers on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September.

## **FROM THE SECRETARIAT**

#### **GAATW IS Staff Participate in APF Conference in Amman, Jordan**

This month, GAATW IS staff Nkirote Laiboni and Caroline Hames attended the 14<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Forum (APF) conference in Amman, Jordan. At a parallel meeting of non-governmental organisations from the Asia-Pacific region that was held prior to the Annual Conference, GAATW IS Staff had the opportunity to make presentations and facilitate discussions on the role of NHRIs in addressing migration and human trafficking. It was also an opportunity to present findings of a recently concluded research on steps taken by NHRIs in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) sub-region to evaluate and monitor State anti-trafficking responses. For more information on the 14<sup>th</sup> APF Annual Meeting please go to their website:

<http://www.asiapacificforum.net/about/annual-meetings/14th-jordan-2009>



While in Jordan, GAATW IS staff also visited and met with a number of organisations in a bid to learn more about migration and human trafficking trends in Jordan and the rest of the Middle East region. These meetings established that migration, more so of women, is occurring on a large scale in the Middle East. As concerns migration flows into Jordan, migration mainly occurs from South and South

East Asia and North Africa, and to a lesser extent, from neighbouring countries. Migrant workers in Jordan and other countries in the region suffer various forms of human rights violations ranging from long working hours, to withdrawal or refusal to pay salaries, poor and unsanitary living and working conditions, withholding of workers' passports and legal documents by employers and recruitment agencies, and physical and verbal abuse. For more information, please contact Nkirote Laiboni at: [nkirote@gaatw.org](mailto:nkirote@gaatw.org)

### **GAATW Board Member Vicky Nwogu Participates in Workshop to Review the Sierra Leone Anti-Trafficking Act**

GAATW Board Member Vicky Nwogu recently attended a workshop for review and amendment of the Sierra Leone Anti-trafficking Act, 2005. Organised by World Hope International-Sierra Leone and the Sierra Leone Gender Ministry, the workshop brought together representatives from government and civil society organisations with the objective of reviewing the law in order to better protect victims and vulnerable groups, and to reduce some administrative and bureaucratic bottlenecks in the current enforcement mechanism. The recommendations made during the workshop are geared towards ascertaining that Parliament takes a second look at the Act. A smaller technical group will meet again to distil the workshop outcomes into more concrete amendments to the law and subsequently present these to Parliament. For more information on this, please contact Nkirote at: [nkirote@gaatw.org](mailto:nkirote@gaatw.org)

The first ever ***South East Asia Court of Women on HIV and Human Trafficking: from Vulnerability to Free, Just and Safe Movement*** was held in Bali, Indonesia on 6 August 2009. The court brought together for more than 500 participants including UN staff, ministers, government officials, academics, NGOs, and communities that are working towards empowering women and reducing their vulnerability to trafficking and HIV. Also in attendance were women with direct experience on issues under discussion including HIV positive women, trafficked women, sex workers, domestic and factory workers, and migrant women, all coming from various countries including Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar and Burmese women from the Thai-Burma border.

The main purpose of the court was to give women an opportunity to be heard by giving them space to share their testimonies with a broader audience encompassing leaders and decision makers. Aatcharaporn Chaowahem, GAATW's Asia Regional Program Officer, was invited to be an expert witness during the "Recognising the rights of vulnerable communities, including migrants, domestic workers, sex workers and people living with HIV" session, and to present a statement and speak on the rights of various groups including survivors of trafficking and people living with HIV/AIDS in the South-East Asia region. Vichuta LY from Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW) and Eni Adi from Association of Indonesian Migrant Workers in Hong Kong (ATKI-HK) were there as expert witness while Vathany from Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (CWCC) also attended the conference.

## RESOURCES

### Reports/Publications

#### **Preliminary Findings on Study about Migrant Workers in the UK Sex Industry**

The Economic and Social Research Council has released its preliminary findings on a study it is undertaking to explore the link between migration and the sex industry in the UK. The majority of migrant sex workers interviewed during the research were not forced or trafficked. According to the report, immigration status is the most important factor restricting the ability of migrant sex workers to exercise their rights in their professional and private lives. Working in the sex industry is often a way for those interviewed to avoid the unrewarding and sometimes exploitative conditions they meet in non-sexual jobs. By working in the sex industry, many interviewees are able to maintain dignified living standards in the UK while dramatically improving the living conditions of their families in the country of origin. [http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/londonmet/library/v25946\\_3.pdf](http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/londonmet/library/v25946_3.pdf)

A paper written for a joint seminar by **UNHCR** and **CEDAW Committee** entitled "**Displacement, statelessness and questions of gender equality and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**" is now available on the CEDAW Committee page of the OHCHR website. The paper deals with the application of CEDAW in these contexts. The paper also provides some recommendations on how these issues and the concerns of women can be highlighted through the CEDAW Review process. Download the paper from OHCHR : <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/CEDAW.C.2009.II.WP.3.pdf>

#### **Report on Bonded Labour by the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery**

In this report, the Special Rapporteur explores the issue of forced labour in more detail. As mentioned in her initial report, the Special Rapporteur has also focused on bonded labour as a pre-eminent example of forced labour, and asserts that she has found very few policies and programmes that address bonded labour. The report includes the activities of the mandate, the practice of bonded labour, legal and policy frameworks, and conclusions and recommendations.

[http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/12session/A-HRC-12-21\\_E.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/12session/A-HRC-12-21_E.pdf)

#### **Caribbean Counter-Trafficking Model Legislation and Explanatory Guidelines: A Booklet**

IOM's Caribbean Counter-Trafficking Model Legislation and Explanatory Guidelines is a resource for stakeholders in government and civil society wishing to improve domestic legislation and policy to address the crime of trafficking in persons in the Caribbean. This booklet has two parts: Part 1, the model legislation which upholds the UN Anti-Trafficking Protocol's standards and incorporates the local and regional contexts, and Part 2, the explanatory guidelines summarizing the group's discussions, with easy-to-read textboxes and "best practices" to facilitate implementation. Part 2 also provides a counter-trafficking legal framework by suggesting provisions and sentencing guidelines.

<http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674;jsessionid=2FF7A5CF8A34CBDEA8957CD306865C84.worker02?entryId=21426>

#### **The OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings has launched the 3rd Occasional Paper: A Summary of Challenges Addressing Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation in the Agricultural Sector in the OSCE Region (OSCE)**

The third Occasional Paper focuses on the second largest employment sector of the OSCE region. It is a thorough analysis of the current challenges within the agricultural sector, aiming to assist in identification of the structural issues and deficits of this sector that cause or exacerbates a worker's vulnerability. The paper also addresses human trafficking for labour exploitation in the agricultural sector throughout the OSCE region. It sheds light on a sector in which workers are commonly exploited, but are often out of sight. [http://www.osce.org/cthb/item\\_11\\_38709.html](http://www.osce.org/cthb/item_11_38709.html)

A user-friendly **Guide to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW)** is now available. Seeking to better protect migrants' human rights and dignity, the new publication seeks to inform and persuade governments worldwide to sign and ratify the Convention, and to implement it at the national level. The guide provides a summary of Convention and discusses the process of ratification, outlines the pros and cons of ratification and refutes various misconceptions about the Convention. To date, 41 countries have ratified the ICRMW, far short of the 120 or more countries worldwide for which migration is an important feature, either as origin, transit or destination countries.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/GuideonStrengtheningofMigrantsrights.aspx>

A recent publication by the **Council of Europe**, '**Racism towards migrants in Europe**' analyses migration policies which may have an influence on this increased hostility towards migrants at a time when the issue of migration is at the heart of many States' concerns. The author, Djacoba Liva Tehindrazanarivelo, denounces discourses and policies which directly or indirectly stigmatise migrants and examines legal rules for protection of migrants against racism and discrimination at global, regional and national levels. One section discusses the denial of fundamental rights of

undocumented migrants. The author also identifies protective measures taken by states at the legal, criminal, administrative and political levels. (Source: ENAR Weekly Mail n° 184, 15 May 2009).

To order the book visit:

[http://book.coe.int/FR/ficheouvrage.php?PAGEID=36&lang=FR&produit\\_aliasid=2401](http://book.coe.int/FR/ficheouvrage.php?PAGEID=36&lang=FR&produit_aliasid=2401)

#### Call for Action

##### **OP- ICESCR Coalition: Petition in Support of the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR**

The NGO Coalition for an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR) has launched a petition in support of the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR, asking States of the world to ensure that access to justice and the right to an effective remedy become a reality for victims of all human rights; urging them to become a party to the OP-ICESCR when it opens for signature on September 24, 2009; to ensure that it enters into force as soon as possible; and to take all necessary steps to fully implement the OP-ICESCR without delay. Signatures will continue to be received after the original deadline established for August 19, 2009.

<http://www.awid.org/eng/Women-in-Action/Appeals-Urgent-Actions/Reminder-Take-Action-OP-ICESCR-Coalition-Petition-in-Support-of-the-Optional-Protocol-to-the-ICESCR>

#### Online Community

Join **New Tactics**, co-moderator **Jovana Vukovic** and the featured resource practitioners for an online dialogue on '[Using Shadow Reports for Advocacy](#)' from **August 26 to September 1, 2009**. This online dialogue will be a space for practitioners and scholars to share experiences, challenges, successes, resources and tools for the effective use of shadow reports to expose the reality of the human rights situation in their countries. [Join the online community](#) to share your own stories and questions!

<http://www.newtactics.org/en/blog/new-tactics/using-shadow-reports-advocacy>

'The only way problems can be solved is for the government to study these reports, consider them, research the submitted cases and take corrective measures.'

HRCM President Ahmed Saleem, Human Rights Commission Maldives in its call for revision of the Employment Act  
[http://www.minivannews.com/news\\_detail.php?id=7100](http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7100)

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- 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](mailto:info@gaatw.org)
- o If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at [info@gaatw.org](mailto:info@gaatw.org) and we will delete your address from the list.

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# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

## GAATW e-Bulletin

September 2009

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from GAATW International Secretariat. September has been a notable month as GAATW concluded its fourth regional consultation with Asia members and friends in the region. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in the Asia Regional Consultation (ARC) and we hope that you continue the dialogue in promoting the rights of trafficked and migrant women in your work. Highlights of the consultation are mentioned in Updates from the Secretariat.

In this month's global highlights we would like to share with you news reports on the closure of migrant camps in Calais and its possible impact on the human rights of migrants. Migrant rights activists denounce the maltreatment of migrants and call for the freedom of movement for all. We also bring you updates from the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council focusing on the report by the SR on Contemporary Forms of Slavery on forced labour and the ISHR report on the right of migrants in detention centers. More updates on the New Zealand government's initiative to prevent human trafficking and a new immigration system to the United Kingdom, 'earned citizenship', which is currently undergoing consultation.

We also feature the latest events and activities from GAATW members in Europe and Latin America. We are calling members and friends to respond to the announcements below, particularly on the upcoming GFMD in November and the call to solicit views on the OHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines.

Warmly,

*The GAATW International Secretariat*

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

### 'Jungle' of Calais closed

Calais' unofficial refugee camp 'The Jungle' was closed by French immigration minister, Eric Besson, on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. He claimed the closure was a bid to prevent people trafficking. The camp has replaced official centres like Sangatte, acting as a gathering point for migrants hoping to cross to Britain.

High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres called on all European countries to work more effectively together to standardise their asylum policies. "The problem is that we have freedom of movement among European countries, but we have different asylum systems with different rates of recognition," he said. "You might be easily recognised as a refugee in one of the European countries and not so easily in another".

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8262283.stm>

Migrant rights' organisations are trying to learn more about what has happened to the migrants following the camp's closure. The organisations are concerned for the migrants'

health and wellbeing and fear they may be vulnerable to criminal networks.

<http://calaismigrantsolidarity.wordpress.com/>

At the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council the Special Rapporteur on "Contemporary forms of Slavery, It's Causes and Consequences", Ms Gulnara Shahinian delivered her first thematic report: The Promotion and Protection of all Human Rights, Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Including the Right to Development. In this report, she explored the issue of forced labour in more detail. As mentioned in her initial report, she has again focused on bonded labour as a pre-eminent example of forced labour.

The Special Rapporteur found that where laws on forced labour exist, their enforcement is limited and that in general there are very few policies and programmes that address bonded labour. In her conclusions she recommends that Governments, non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies and private actors take specific prevention, prosecution and protection measures to combat forced and bonded labour.

[http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/12session/A-HRC-12-21\\_E.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/12session/A-HRC-12-21_E.pdf)

GAATW has submitted a joint statement with Franciscans International. To read the statement, go to [www.gaatw.org](http://www.gaatw.org)

### **National Commission on Violence against Women and Human Rights Groups Urged Indonesian Government to undertake a Judicial Review of the Bill Sanctioning the Stoning to Death of Adulterers in Aceh**

On 14 September 2009, Indonesia's Central Government and Aceh's Regional Parliament adopted new bill Qanun Jinayat. The move to legalise qanun (local regulation) and jinayat (actions which are prohibited by Islamic law) sanctions the stoning to death of adulterers and the caning of homosexuals, rejecting objections from NAD Local Government and human rights groups. Human rights groups argue that the legalization of qanun proves that the government has failed to carry out its obligation to prohibit local policies which are incompatible with the national regulation and Constitution 1945. Caning and stoning to death are cruel, inhuman punishments which humiliate and violate human dignity, breaching the constitutional guarantee as declared in Article 28 I (1) of the Constitution 1945. [Read more](#)

### Legislative Update

#### **New Zealand develops plan of action to address trafficking**

To meet its international obligations and commitments under the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, New Zealand has developed the "Plan of Action to Prevent People Trafficking". The main focus of the Plan will be on prevention as New Zealand does not have any known cases of human trafficking. It aims to protect the human rights of any identified victims of trafficking and to prosecute any offenders to the full extent of the law.

<http://www.punjabnewsline.com/content/view/18952/92/>

#### **Consultation on Earned Citizenship in the United Kingdom**

After several reforms to the immigration system, the UK government is introducing the principle of earned citizenship, aimed to manage the numbers allowed to settle permanently in the United Kingdom. Provisions on earned citizenship form part of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009, which became law on 21 July 2009. The provisions of the Act are planned to be implemented in July 2011. It entails a three phase process, including a stage of 'probationary citizenship' and language requirements. The UK Border Agency has opened an online consultation in which anyone can comment on the introduction of a new points test for earned citizenship. The consultation is asking for views on issues including the role of local authorities in the earned citizenship process, whether to test would-be citizens' knowledge of United Kingdom history and politics, and measures to reduce the 'brain drain' from developing countries to the United Kingdom. The consultation is open until 26 October 2009.

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/managingborders/managingmigration/earned->

## REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

### Europe

On November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> La Strada International will hold its 4<sup>th</sup> NGO platform meeting in Berlin, Germany with hosting NGO, Ban Ying. The meeting was planned to coincide with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. A panel will discuss: 20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall - where do we stand?

The main focus of this year's meeting is to agree the direction and focus of La Strada going forward and to look critically at their position within the NGO sector. For more information, please contact La Strada International + 31 (0) 20 6881414, or Borislav Gerasimov, via [bg@lastradainternational.org](mailto:bg@lastradainternational.org)

### **BLinN's Leaflet on "Communicating with Nigerian Victims of Human Trafficking"**

Bonded Labour in the Netherlands (BLinN) is in the middle of a 3 year project, Omgekeerde Ontwikkelingssamenwerking ('Reversed Development Cooperation'). Over the course of the 3 years 3 countries are researched. The overall aim is that people working with victims of trafficking in the Netherlands learn from the experiences and knowledge of organisations in the countries of origin. The first stage of this project focuses on Nigeria, from which a leaflet for social workers providing advice as to how to communicate with Nigerian victims was produced. The Red Cross Netherlands translated it into English and presented it to their International Federation as a good example of cooperation between organisations 'here and there'. Although the leaflet centres on the situation in Holland it is still useful for members and friends of GAATW as an example of the possible fruits of cooperation. To download the leaflet, visit the GAATW website [www.gaatw.org](http://www.gaatw.org) or write to Jannie van den Berg [j.vandenberg@blinn.nl]

### LAC

**International seminary "Constructing Assistance and Prevention to Women in Violent Situations during Migration" Salvador, Bahia, Brazil 15th September 2009** This seminary facilitated dialogue between governmental organizations, organized civil society, Public Order organizations (state and municipal), universities and field experts. Channels of assistance to women returning from abroad and prevention models for communities vulnerable to human trafficking were key focuses of discussions. Case studies of preventative work by CHAME in Brazil and APRAMP in Spain were presented to stimulate ideas for similar work in Salvador.

## FROM THE SECRETARIAT

### **GAATW Asia Regional Consultation (ARC)**

**31 August-4 September 2009 Kathmandu, Nepal**



GAATW organized its final regional consultation with member organisations and allies in Asia. The five-day consultation started with the socio-political situation in a number of countries in Asia and its impact on women's human rights with specific reference to trafficking, migration and labour. This was followed by two interactive discussions on the rights of domestic workers and another session on the impact of anti-trafficking legislation

on the rights of sex workers. Day three and four focused on thematic workshops:

- **Workshop on Advocacy**  
The workshop began with discussions on national advocacy including for migrant women's rights to minimum standards for services for trafficked persons and to end violence against women. Highlights include the discussions on: ASEAN and how different ASEAN bodies could be used to advocate for migrant women and trafficked persons' rights; and the SAARC Convention on Combating the Crime of Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution and some critique of its narrow definition of trafficking and discussion of alternative SAARC advocacy avenues such as the SAARC Social Charter. Two workshops took place, one on the Universal Periodic Review and Human Rights mechanisms which offer useful advocacy opportunities and the other on working with the media for advocacy. Participants also engaged in a discussion on international advocacy looking at the UNTOC review mechanism discussions and 'STOP, LOOK, LISTEN' as well as the US Government Trafficking in Persons annual report.
- **Workshop on Linking Migration, Gender, Labour and Trafficking**  
The Linkages workshop looked at how trafficking, migration, labour and gender are closely connected, but also warned about conflating the terms. Ms. Jyoti Sanghera from the GAATW board, IS staff member Rebecca Napier-Moore and Bandana Pattanaik, Mr. Samar Thapa of trade union GEFONT, and Dr. Renu Rajbhandari of WOREC gave presentations on their respective topics.
- **Workshop on Psycho-Social Care**  
This workshop aimed to explore the importance of caring for the self, and what caretakers need in order to sustain themselves whilst caring for the traumatized and others in need. The workshop started with a dance movement therapy session, facilitated by Kolkota Sanved group. This session provided psycho-physical techniques to help participants shift to a more positive self image and to release trauma. This was followed by the "Art to Healing" session led by Lydia Tan, which tackled issues that caretakers face such as compassion fatigue, vicarious traumatization and burn-out.

Results and recommendations from the three workshops and two interactive sessions will be shared with all participants. If you would like further information about the Asia Regional Consultation please contact our Asia Regional Programme Officer, Aatcharaporn Chaowahem: [aat@gaatw.org](mailto:aat@gaatw.org).

#### Announcement

#### **GAATW @ the 3rd Global Forum on Migration and Development**

Under the theme: "Integrating Migration Policies into Development Strategies for the Benefit of All". The Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) will take place in November 2009 in Athens (Greece). As in previous years the Forum is divided in two segments: Civil Society (2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup> days) and Government (4th and 5<sup>th</sup> days).

GAATW is participating in the parallel events and official civil society days (CSD). We would like to ask members and friends if they are planning to attend GFMD (either the official CSD or the parallel events) so we can build a common strategy.

Please contact Nerea at: [nerea@gaatw.org](mailto:nerea@gaatw.org)

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Ms. Caroline Hames, GAATW IS International Advocacy Officer has been invited to speak at the **Webster Symposium on Human Trafficking in Vienna** on 1<sup>st</sup> October at the United Nations Office in Vienna. Discussions will look at identification and protection and the impact

of legal frameworks on trafficking. The meeting is expected to bring together experts, practitioners, academia, diplomats, NGOs, students from Webster University, the media and general public. [Click here](#) to read the concept note.

## RESOURCES

### Publications

#### **Training manual to fight trafficking in children**

ILO, UNICEF and the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) launched the "Training manual to fight trafficking in children for labour, sexual and other forms of exploitation". This manual is unique in that it specifically focuses on children, includes a special emphasis on labour issues, and is geared towards training. It is comprised of textbooks for self study and an exercise book with a selection of assignment options that trainers can choose from for tailor-made training courses. The manual addresses the needs of governments; workers' and employers' organizations; and NGOs and international agencies working at the policy and outreach level.

The publication is the result of an Expert Group Initiative on child trafficking, led by ILO and UNICEF and implemented under UN.GIFT.

[http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/areas/Traffickingofchildren/lang--en/WCMS\\_111537/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/areas/Traffickingofchildren/lang--en/WCMS_111537/index.htm)

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#### **"Pushed Back, Pushed Around" published by Human Rights Watch**

The 92-page report, "[Pushed Back, Pushed Around: Italy's Forced Return of Boat Migrants and Asylum Seekers, Libya's Mistreatment of Migrants and Asylum Seekers](#)," examines the treatment of migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees in Libya through the eyes of those who have managed to leave and are now in Italy and Malta. It also documents Italy's practice of intersecting boats of migrants on the high seas and sending them back to Libya without the required screening.

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#### **Report of an International Workshop organized by PICUM, Migrants Rights Network and Centre on Migration Policy and Society (COMPAS) on "Understanding Irregular Migration in Northern Europe"**

This report highlights key points as a result of discussions from the "Clandestino" project, an interdisciplinary project funded by DG Research of the European Commission. Nearly 150 representatives of NGOs and trade unions, researchers, local authorities, policy makers, journalists, and other professionals came together at the workshop to discuss policies and responses to irregular migration in the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Germany and Austria.

The report is available in pdf format at: [www.picum.org](http://www.picum.org).

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#### **"The Gender Dimension of Domestic Work in Western Europe" by Maria Gallotti and published by the International Labour Office (ILO)**

This report examines the current situation of domestic workers in Western Europe, focusing in particular on women migrant workers. The report recognizes that many domestic workers, especially irregular migrants, are particularly exposed to exploitation and abuse. It explores how domestic work manifests itself and how it is regulated in the current western European context. It argues that exploitation arises from a complex interaction of factors only partially linked to the "vulnerabilities" of migrant women. The report has three main sections: migrant workers in the domestic sector; selected case studies and initiatives to organise and provide protection to migrant domestic workers in Europe; and final conclusions and recommendations.

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/migrant/download/imp/imp96.pdf>

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In Nairobi on 11 September 2009, the **UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** has released a **manual to help build capacity among criminal justice practitioners to prevent and combat human trafficking**. The Anti-Human Trafficking Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners is a practical guide and training tool based on the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and Palermo Protocols. The manual explores a victim-centred approach to effective law enforcement and is based on the experiences of more than 45 judges, prosecutors, investigators, academics and NGO and inter-governmental organization representatives. <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/2bff4c13f88d572e81854ac3bc181a14.htm>

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The **Civil Society Unit of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** had released a handbook titled [Working with the United Nations Human Rights Programme / A Handbook for the Civil Society](#).

The handbook is available in four languages:

Arabic : [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/ngohandbook\\_ar.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/ngohandbook_ar.pdf)

English : [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/CivilSociety/Documents/Handbook\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/CivilSociety/Documents/Handbook_en.pdf)

French : [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/AboutUs/CivilSociety/OHCHR\\_Handbook\\_Fr.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/AboutUs/CivilSociety/OHCHR_Handbook_Fr.pdf)

Russian : [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/ngohandbook\\_ru.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/ngohandbook_ru.pdf)

Print copies of the reports may be obtained from [publications@ohchr.org](mailto:publications@ohchr.org)

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**International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) report on the panel on "The Rights of Migrants in Detention Centers"**

On 17 September 2009, the Human Rights Council held a panel discussion on "the Human Rights of Migrants in Detention Centres". During the discussion many States provided elements that could contribute to a compilation of best practices in the area. Although many of the statements were critical of the practice and conditions of detention of irregular migrants, the tone of the debate was largely constructive. In the report, the High Commissioner of Human Rights has declared the issue of migration as one of the thematic priorities for OHCHR over the next biennium.

<http://ishr.us1.list->

[manage.com/track/click?u=97549cf8cb507607389fe76eb&id=f5255b0783&e=9658f6ea7f](http://ishr.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=97549cf8cb507607389fe76eb&id=f5255b0783&e=9658f6ea7f)

#### Book Review

The book [The Slave Next Door](#) by **Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter**, examines modern-day slavery in America, building awareness of slavery's influence on our everyday habits and inspiring action to prevent and combat slavery as consumers, citizens, and activists.

The book covers every major policy and practice related to slavery and trafficking. The authors explored the divisive term "severe form of trafficking," which appears in anti-trafficking legislation. The authors argue that only the "severe" forms count as trafficking. The feverishly moralistic attention given to sex by anti-prostitution abolitionists, politicians, and the media often takes much-needed attention away from forced labor and other forms of trafficking.

Readers should take to heart the more subtle message here, which is that ending slavery will ultimately require a human rights-based approach rooted in solidarity with workers around the world, not just changes in legislation and trade agreements.

#### Events

There will be a **national symposium on sex workers rights** to be held on November 18 at the Old Parliament House in Canberra, Australia. [Scarlet Alliance](#) annually hosts a half day sex work policy forum open to the public. Key note speakers will address current and emerging trends in sex work policy in Australia and the Asia-Pacific. For more information, contact [admin@scarletalliance.org.au](mailto:admin@scarletalliance.org.au) or call Heather at Scarlet Alliance on 02 932 9870. Please visit their website or facebook announcement for the agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/ScarletSymposium>.

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The Committee on "the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families" will have its annual day of discussion on 14<sup>th</sup> of October in Geneva looking at "Protecting the Rights of Migrant Domestic Workers". The full day of discussion will take place during the 11th session of the Committee at United Nations Office at Geneva (Palais Wilson). It is a public meeting at which government representatives, UN bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations are invited to participate. Guidelines for participation are available on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, at [http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/docs/Guidelines\\_for\\_participants\\_14oct09.doc](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/docs/Guidelines_for_participants_14oct09.doc).

#### Calling all NGOs

#### **OHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines on HR and Human Trafficking Consultation**

A resolution submitted by the Filipino and German delegations to the Human Rights Council in its June session requested the OHCHR to solicit views on the Recommended Principles and Guidelines and to gather experiences and emerging good practice in their application.

For the purposes of soliciting views on the [Recommended Principles and Guidelines](#): the OHCHR asks all stakeholders:

- a.) Has your organisation used the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking in developing and implementing anti-trafficking strategies and activities? If so, has your organisation found the application of a human rights-based approach to combating trafficking effective in your anti-trafficking activities?
- b.) In applying the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking, what are the experiences in emerging good practices which helped improve the measures taken to prevent trafficking and protect and support victims of trafficking? How has your organisation measured success in combating human trafficking from a human rights perspective thus far?
- c.) In applying the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking what, if any are the challenges your organisation has experienced in achieving results to combat human trafficking?

The result of this consultation will be presented at the seminar on rights based approaches to trafficking in February 2010.

Any responses to these questions should not exceed 3 pages and must be sent to Mariana Katzarova, Adviser on Human Trafficking, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: [mkatzarova@ohchr.org](mailto:mkatzarova@ohchr.org) / fax: +41 022 928 9010 no later than the **16 October 2009**.

*"...a recurrent question is to what extent globalisation enables migration to take place in an orderly and balanced manner, with due regard to the rights of migrant workers, especially women who now constitute a large part of the work force?"*

*By Vitit Muntarbhorn*

*Article on Bangkok Post titled 'Scenario precarious for women migrants' on September 22, 2009*

*<http://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/opinion/24275/scenario-precarious-for-women-migrants>*

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- 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.

- 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](mailto:info@gaatw.org)
- If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at [info@gaatw.org](mailto:info@gaatw.org) and we will delete your address from the list.

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# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

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October 2009

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to the October issue of the e-bulletin. Yet another year is coming to an end and we at the International Secretariat took some time this month to review our work to date and discuss plans for 2010. As you are already know in 2010 GAATW will hold its third International Members Congress and unlike the previous two this one will be held in mid-year. Not surprisingly much of our planning discussions focused on the upcoming Congress and the Conference that will precede it.

This issue of our bulletin draws your attention to the latest report of the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking to the United Nations General Assembly and the recent discussion in the UK on the Government's anti-trafficking initiatives.

We are pleased to share news from GAATW members in Europe, Asia and the Americas: La Strada Ukraine's latest report on monitoring Ukrainian governmental trafficking activities, La Strada International's upcoming NGO platform meeting in Berlin and it's EU Anti-trafficking day Statement, FIRST Canada's open forum on sex workers, clients and the law and news from Asia, Komnas Perempuan's successful forum in Jakarta urging the new Indonesian government to ratify the Migrant Workers Convention. Our warm wishes to Manjuati, a new self-organised community women's group in India for successfully concluding a training in acupressure massage and opening a massage center soon after. The resources section, brings you references to several interesting and relevant report and researches.

In October we warmly welcomed back Ms. Julie Ham to the GAATW family. Julie was a programme officer during 2007 and rejoins the team now as the programme coordinator.

Warmly,  
*The GAATW International Secretariat*

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

### SR on Trafficking's Report to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

The recent Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, to the United Nations General Assembly deals with protection, identification and assistance. It covers the period from 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009. Ms. Ezeillo's report mentions the importance of non-conditional assistance which is a key issue for GAATW and one which we encourage her to address in her report to the Human Rights Council next year. The report can be downloaded at

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/GA/64documents.htm>

GAATW members may recognize cases they have submitted to the SR in the report which

demonstrates an extremely positive example of engagement with Ms Ezeillo, we hope that such interactions continue.

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#### **UK ANTI-TRAFFICKING RAIDS ON SEX WORKERS FAILS TO FIND ANY TRAFFICKED PERSONS**

The UK's largest anti-trafficking initiative, Operation Pentameter Two, targeted sex workers in hundreds of raids over a six month period by government departments and police forces throughout the country yet failed to find any trafficking victims. **Nick Davies of the Guardian** disclosed the failure of Operation Pentameter Two and argued that the scale and nature of trafficking into prostitution has been exaggerated by politicians and media.

**English Collective of Prostitutes** responded: "Nick Davies' report ("Sex, lies and trafficking -- the anatomy of a moral panic" Guardian, 20 October 2009) vindicates what we have been saying for many years: figures on the numbers of women trafficked into the sex industry are distorted and in many cases purely fabricated".

[http://www.prostitutescollective.net/Trafficking\\_Enquiry\\_Vindicates\\_Sex\\_Workers\\_PR.htm](http://www.prostitutescollective.net/Trafficking_Enquiry_Vindicates_Sex_Workers_PR.htm)

**Caroline Hames, GAATW IS International Advocacy Officer**, provided a comment to the Guardian and argued that the government must address the severe exploitation of irregular migrants in the UK and look at the more complex factors that cause trafficking rather than detaining sex workers or pulling support away from irregular migrants.  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/oct/21/trafficking-prostitution-migrants-labour>

Links to Nick Davies' articles:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/oct/20/government-trafficking-enquiry-fails>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/oct/20/trafficking-numbers-women-exaggerated>

#### **NUMBER OF TRAFFICKING VICTIMS ALMOST HALF IN FIRST SEMESTER OF 2009**

In Bucharest more than 800 students participated in a preventive seminar about human trafficking in time for the European Anti-Trafficking Day. The National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons announced that the number of people who have been victims of human-trafficking declined by almost half in the first six months of 2009, compared to the same period last year. Most of the cases reported were trafficked for begging. Authorities added that women aged 18 to 25 are mostly likely to become victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, and men aged 26 to 40, for labour exploitation.

[http://www.romaniantimes.at/news/General\\_News/2009-10-](http://www.romaniantimes.at/news/General_News/2009-10-16/3585/Number_of_trafficking_victims_almost_half_in_first_semester_of_2009)

[16/3585/Number\\_of\\_trafficking\\_victims\\_almost\\_half\\_in\\_first\\_semester\\_of\\_2009](http://www.romaniantimes.at/news/General_News/2009-10-16/3585/Number_of_trafficking_victims_almost_half_in_first_semester_of_2009)

### **REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES**

#### Europe

##### **MONITORING UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENTAL COUNTER TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES**

[La Strada Ukraine](#) has published its results from monitoring the implementation of the National Action Plan on trafficking in human beings for the period 2007-2008. Anti-trafficking activities in Ukraine have been affected by political instability, partly as result of the parliamentary crisis, early parliamentary elections and a halt in parliamentary proceedings from February to December 2007, which resulted in the rejection of a number of important laws, particularly in gender equality, violence and children's rights. Changes in personnel and unfamiliarity with human rights issues at the governmental level have further aggravated the activities of NGOs and led to the postponement of already developed and scheduled programmes. The report provides a detailed overview of the legal situation in Ukraine, the status of ratification of international conventions, and identifies gaps and needs, not only at

the legal but also at the practical level, and is available in [English](#) and [Ukrainian](#).

#### **LA STRADA INTERNATIONAL NGO PLATFORM MEETING**

On November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, La Strada International (LSI) will organise its 4<sup>th</sup> **NGO platform meeting** in Berlin, Germany - together with host German NGO Ban Ying. The decision to organise this year's NGO platform in Berlin, outside a La Strada country, was made in order to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 2009.

The platform is linked to this special occasion and the issue of standard setting. Under the title: "*20<sup>th</sup> years after the fall of the Berlin Wall - where do we stand?*" LSI will discuss with its NGO partners in the field, how NGOs cope with current realities in the anti-trafficking field and how to best serve the interests of trafficked persons within the system. The main focus of the NGO platform of this year is standards and agreements for NGOs' role, work and services and to look critically at the position of NGOs. For more information, contact LSI at [info@lastradainternational.org](mailto:info@lastradainternational.org)

#### **ANTI-TRAFFICKING DAY STATEMENT**

On the occasion of the **European Union's Anti-Trafficking day**, 18 October 2009, La Strada International, together with GAATW and others, recommended that the European Commission work from a holistic and integrated approach.

[http://www.lastradainternational.org/?main=newsletter&section=newsfacts&news\\_id=321](http://www.lastradainternational.org/?main=newsletter&section=newsfacts&news_id=321)

#### Americas

##### **SEX WORKERS, CLIENTS AND THE LAW**

**FIRST**, a GAATW member based in Canada, will be hosting an open forum to hear more about the men who buy sex, the experiences of sex workers with their clients, and why neither sex workers nor their clients should be criminalised. "*Sex Workers, Clients and the Law*" will take place Monday, November 23, 2009, from 7-9pm, at the Vancouver Public Library (Alma Van Dusen & Peter Kay rooms), 350 W. Georgia, Vancouver, Canada. For more information, please visit [www.firstadvocates.org](http://www.firstadvocates.org) or contact Esther Shannon at [epls@shaw.ca](mailto:epls@shaw.ca) or Tamara O'Doherty at [tamaraodoherty@shaw.ca](mailto:tamaraodoherty@shaw.ca). FIRST is a national coalition of feminists that advocates for the complete decriminalization of sex work, for both sex workers and clients.

##### **RIGHTS NOT RESCUE: AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SALVATION ARMY**

There is increased attention around anti-trafficking issues in Vancouver, partly due to public confusion around the link between trafficking and major sports events. FIRST wrote an open letter to the Salvation Army in response to Salvation Army's current "*The Truth Isn't Sexy*" anti-trafficking campaign. FIRST expressed concern that the extreme imagery and conflation of trafficking with sex work in Salvation Army's campaign would negatively impact sex workers: "We are horrified by your campaign's images of sex workers. They themselves operate as a form of exploitation because you use them to capitalize on society's fear of the sex industry to raise money. No one supports the exploitation of any person, but portraying all sex workers as abused victims and slaves essentially puts workers beyond human understanding and does absolutely nothing to stem the exploitation that does happen in the sex industry." To read the whole letter, please visit [www.firstadvocates.org](http://www.firstadvocates.org).

#### Asia

##### **MANJUATI OPENS MASSAGE CENTRE IN BHUBANESWAR, ORISSA, INDIA**

**Manjuati**, a new self-organised community women's group in Orissa, India, has been working on women's health in five small villages and a slum area around Bhubaneswar. Although all members are dependent on daily wages for their survival they voluntarily give some time for women and children in their communities and share the knowledge they have acquired from a month long intensive training on women's health held in 2008-9. During September 2009 the group got an opportunity to add another related skill to their repertoire. They received a two week long training in acupressure massage techniques from two Thai friends. Manjuati

welcomed four visually impaired young women who were recommended by GAATW member Aaina to join the training. The training was a great success with enthusiastic participants working very hard to learn the skill of acupressure massage. Following the training Manjuati has opened a small massage centre for women in Bhubaneswar. We wish them success.

#### **INDONESIAN MIGRANT WORKERS' RIGHTS ALLIANCE URGES NEW GOVERNMENT TO RATIFY MIGRANT WORKERS CONVENTION**

Komnas Perempuan and a migrant workers' rights advocacy alliance held a show in Jakarta, "*Sum: Cerita dari Rantau*" (*Sum: Story From Abroad*) to urge the new Indonesian government to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (i.e. Migrant Workers Convention). The show portrayed the experiences of women migrant workers at home, in destination countries, and the negative experiences of women workers who've returned to Indonesia after working abroad, such as corruption and negative treatment from airport officials. More than a hundred people from civil society, government and national human rights institutions attended. Komnas Perempuan and the alliance will give a million signed cards calling for the ratification of the Migrant Workers Convention to the new Indonesian President, Susilo Bambang Yudoyono.

<http://www.komnasperempuan.or.id/2009/10/08/kementerian-pemberdayaan-perempuan-mengapa-masih-dibutuhkan/>

#### **FROM THE SECRETARIAT**

#### **ASEAN PEOPLE'S FORUM 18-20 OCTOBER**

Ms Rebecca Napier-Moore, Research & Training Officer, attended a part of the ASEAN People's Forum (APF) hosted by civil society the weekend before the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit. The second day of the APF was supposed to include dialogue with the government. About 4 officials were confirmed to participate in each session, however all but one sent their apologies at the last minute.

ASEAN is divided into 3 pillars, Socio-cultural (under which most civil society issues have been placed and where civil society enjoys the most access), Political Security (under which trafficking is placed in a crime control framework), and Economic. Please contact Rebecca Napier-Moore for more details [rebecca@gaatw.org](mailto:rebecca@gaatw.org).

#### **2<sup>ND</sup> ASIA PACIFIC CONSULTATION ON REFUGEE RIGHTS & UNHCR CONSULTATION ON MIXED MIGRATION IN ASEAN, OCTOBER 6-10, 2009, BANGKOK, THAILAND**

Ms Julie Ham, Programme Coordinator attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Pacific Consultation on Refugee Rights (organised by the Asia-Pacific Refugee Rights Network or APRRN) and the UNHCR Consultation on Mixed Migration in ASEAN. Some network members stressed the importance of linking refugee rights groups with anti-trafficking groups and migrant rights groups and the need to think strategically and critically about the trafficking-refugee-migration nexus. Sessions also included updates on refugee issues in the Asia-Pacific, the protection of human rights defenders, ways for civil society and UNHCR to work together effectively, models of legal aid advocacy and network action planning for regional (South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, Australia) and thematic (immigration detention, women and girls at risk, education, legal aid and advocacy, right to health, international advocacy) working groups. Training was also provided on working with refugees in detention and the mental health impacts of detention on refugees; for a copy of these presentations, please contact Julie at [julie@gaatw.org](mailto:julie@gaatw.org) or visit the International Detention Coalition website at [www.idcoalition.org](http://www.idcoalition.org). If your organisation works with refugees from the Asia-Pacific and would like more information about the network, please contact FORUM-ASIA at [refugee@forum-asia.org](mailto:refugee@forum-asia.org).

#### **DANCE MOVEMENT THERAPY WORKSHOP, 21-29 OCTOBER 2009, NEPAL**

Providing care to trafficking survivors is a demanding task - caretakers interact with people who are in crisis and have to absorb client's traumatic experiences and difficulties. Caretakers need to be cognizant of their own self-care to prevent stress and burnout. Recognising the demands of caretaking work, GAATW organised a Dance Movement Therapy Workshop for Shakti Samuha in Nepal, an organisation created and led by trafficking survivors to meet the needs of other survivors of trafficking. Ms Alfie Gordo, from GAATW-IS attended the training in Nepal, from October 21-29, 2009, as part of GAATW's Realising Rights Programme. The aims of the Dance Movement Therapy Workshop are to introduce movements and exercise for trauma release, help participants shift to a more positive self-image, and allow social struggles to be worked through alternative movement outlets. The trainers, Sohini Chakraborty and Sreeja from Kolkata Sanved, led the dance movement therapy workshop for 23 participants. Several recommendations came out during the feedback and planning session. Participants highlighted the need to have a DMT workshop for all members of Shakti Samuha. The training session ended with a bonfire where participants shared their experiences and learning with the group.

## RESOURCES

### Reports

#### **United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) 2009 annual Human Development Report focuses on Migration: 'Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development'**

The report addresses the migration and development debate, moving away from what is becoming more mainstream government rhetoric, such as at the Global Forum on Migration and Development, through which governments are talking about using migration FOR development, and seeing migration AS the development strategy for many countries. The Human Development approach however attempts to put people at the center. It looks at human mobility as a key to realize human freedom, and lays out the case for governments to reduce restrictions on movement within and across their borders by analyzing barriers to movement, and how they are especially high for low-skilled people. At the Bangkok press conference the report's main author Jeni Klugman said "Migration can help development but it is not a substitute". On the topic of circular migration Klugman was critical that governments welcome high skilled people and rotate low skilled, "turning people on and off like a tap".

For those wishing to use the report for migrant rights, there are helpful charts and graphs as well as some myth-busting statistics and arguments regarding displacement of local jobs, who migrates, and survey details of western country populations preferring permanent vs. temporary migrants. The report may not be radical or necessarily new, but it is a welcome voice. The report which was launched simultaneously in many parts of the world can be downloaded at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2009/#>.

#### **UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC) REPORT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS; ANALYSIS ON EUROPE**

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released a report showing that trafficking in persons is an undetected crime in Europe. The report shows a high degree of internal trafficking, both domestically within European countries and regionally within the European Union (predominantly from South-eastern to Western Europe). It also pointed out the progress that has been made to improve collection of data on human trafficking within the European Union. A full copy of the report is available at :

[http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/Trafficking\\_in\\_Persons\\_in\\_Europe\\_09.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/Trafficking_in_Persons_in_Europe_09.pdf)

#### **"AFFECTED FOR LIFE"**

The **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** launched a **training video** titled **"Affected for Life"** during EU Anti-Trafficking Day. The video is targeted for prosecutors,

judges, law enforcement officers and other specialised audiences, and illustrates the elements and different forms of human trafficking. The video will also be used as an awareness-raising tool to exemplify some of the key aspects of human trafficking, including the differences between human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. The video is currently available in full-length and abbreviated versions in English; versions in other official languages of the United Nations will become available in early 2010.  
[http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/multimedia.html?vf=/documents/video/2009/Affected\\_for\\_Life\\_-\\_Short.flv](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/multimedia.html?vf=/documents/video/2009/Affected_for_Life_-_Short.flv)

#### **LAUNCHING EVENT OF THE JOINT COUNCIL OF EUROPE/UNITED NATIONS STUDY ON TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE REMOVAL OF ORGANS**

The event was organised by the Council of Europe and the United Nations and co-sponsored by Slovenia, as the country holding the current Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and Spain, as the country previously holding the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and the world leader regarding organ donation and organ transplantation. The Joint Study was prepared in the framework of the co-operation between the two international intergovernmental organisations, in particular in keeping with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Co-operation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe (A/RES/63/14). The Joint Study is now available online. The Joint Study only covers trafficking in organs, tissues and cells (“OTC”) for the purpose of transplantation. Other purposes of trafficking in OTC are outside the scope of the Joint Study.

[http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/Docs/News/OrganLaunch\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/Docs/News/OrganLaunch_en.asp)

#### **NEW PROTECTION MANUAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (3RD EDITION) BY PROTECTION INTERNATIONAL**

Protection International’s (PI) new manual provides human rights defenders with additional knowledge and some tools that may be useful for improving their understanding of security and protection. PI hopes that the manual will support training on security and protection and will help defenders to undertake their own risk assessments and define security rules and procedures which suit their particular situation. This manual is the result of over 25 years combined experience of Protection International and PI members in working with human rights and humanitarian law and in the protection of HRD and other vulnerable groups. Most of the manual’s contents have already been applied in practice, either in protection work or in training workshops with defenders. The manual is available to download at:  
<http://www.protectionline.org/spip.php?article186>

#### **DISPOSABLE LABOUR: RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS WORKERS IN SOUTH KOREA**

In this report, *Amnesty International* documented how migrant workers often work with heavy machinery and dangerous chemicals without sufficient training or protective equipment, are at greater risk of industrial accidents including fatalities, and receive less pay compared to South Korean workers. “*Disposable Labour*” documents how the South Korean government has insufficiently monitored workplaces, with high number of accidents, inadequate medical treatment and compensation, and unfair dismissals.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ASA25/001/2009/en/8bc729f6-39d7-4ce9-aeab-86eea173451c/asa250012009en.pdf>

#### **PUBLICATION OF 2009 REPORT: “DEADLY BORDERS OF EUROPE”**

The first Migreurop’s report on the violations of human rights on borders has just been published. It is available in French on their website:

<http://www.migreurop.org/article1489.html>. You can also find on this webpage links to press articles related to the annual report. Italian and Spanish versions are to be finished. An English version will be available soon.

## VIOLATION OF MIGRANTS RIGHTS IN GREECE

Human Rights Watch (HRW) report on the violation of migrant rights in Greece called on the newly elected Greek government to end the abusive detention and summary expulsion of migrants, including unaccompanied children, and to reform the country's broken asylum system. HRW also pointed out that Greece's asylum system and detention conditions clearly breach EU law as well as European and international human rights standards. The European Commission remained silent and failed to hold Greece accountable despite ongoing criticism and recent worsening of the situation in both law and practice.

<http://www.hrw.org/en/node/86025>

## Events

### UNITED NATIONS INTERREGIONAL CRIME AND JUSTICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (UNICRI) TRAINING COURSE

There will be an advanced training course on "*Forced labour and trafficking in persons for judges, prosecutors and other enforcement institutions*", organised by UNICRI in collaboration with the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITC-ILO). The training course will take place at the UN Campus in Turin, Italy, from 16 to 20 November 2009. For further information, please contact the UNICRI Training and Advanced Education Unit at [tae@unicri.it](mailto:tae@unicri.it) or visit the UNICRI website at [www.unicri.it](http://www.unicri.it)

## Calls

### NOMINATIONS FOR GENDER JUSTICE UNCOVERED 2010 AWARDS

Women's Links Worldwide (WLW) is launching for the second time the "*Gender Justice Uncovered Awards*" to identify the best and worst decisions or statements related to gender, made in English or in Spanish, within a judicial proceeding. The winners of the Gender Justice Uncovered 2010 Awards will be announced on May 10, 2010, commemorating the historic decision that decriminalised abortion, making it a right for women in Colombia under certain circumstances. Nominations and voting have already opened at their website: [www.womenslinkworldwide.org](http://www.womenslinkworldwide.org). WLW promotes gender equality through the development and strategic implementation of human rights laws worldwide.

*NGOs support the call for a comprehensive multidisciplinary approach in shaping adequate and effective policies and implementing concrete measures to put an end to trafficking in human beings.*

[Europe Anti-trafficking day 2009 - NGOs call for human rights to be at the centre of the ministerial conference in Brussels](#)

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](mailto:info@gaatw.org)
- If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at [info@gaatw.org](mailto:info@gaatw.org) and we will delete your address from the list.

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# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

November-December 2009

Dear Members and Friends,

*Greetings from GAATW International Secretariat.*

*Welcome to our November-December issue of the e-Bulletin. GAATW IS wishes everyone love, light, joy and peace during the holiday season and a hope-filled New Year! We are once again coming to the close of a very fruitful year - highlighted by two regional consultations, SOG trainings, roundtable meetings and FPAR workshops and research.*

*2009 has been a challenging year for migrant workers and their families, with the financial global crisis, the lack of safety nets and rights protection, and reported incidences of xenophobia due to job insecurity. As the world celebrates the International Migrants Day on 18<sup>th</sup> December, let us all re-affirm and promote migration discourses that show stronger and empowered migrants who are determined to improve their lives.*

*In building a rights-based approach, let us remember to center the migrant women workers at the core of our anti-trafficking work. On this occasion, let us continue to recognise women's agency by upholding women's rights in making choices about their lives, about migrating and about work. We dedicate this issue to all migrant workers for their courage and endurance in overcoming the challenges in their pursuit of a better future.*

*GAATW office is closed for holidays from 19 December to January 3, 2010. Once again many thanks for your continued dedication and hard work. We hope that 2010 is one of great productivity for everyone.*

Warmly,  
*The GAATW International Secretariat*

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

### **UN marks Human Rights Day with call to end all forms of discrimination 'Embrace Diversity, End Discrimination'**

The United Nations marked Human Rights Day on 10<sup>th</sup> December, the 61st anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, by stressing the enduring need to eliminate all forms of discrimination - particularly in crisis-plagued regions, appealing to governments for tolerance in the interests of peace. In a joint statement, the various independent experts who report to the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council warned that efforts to end discrimination are falling short and that progress is even retracting in some instances. "Globally, stronger commitments and more determined action are required if we are to defeat discrimination," they said. "Our ethnic, cultural or religious differences should

be acknowledged, valued and respected, not seen as a threat to our unity as they too often are, but as a celebrated component of it.”

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33204&Cr=&Cr1=>

### **International Migrants Day celebration**

To mark **International Migrants' Day (IMD)** on December 18, **Migrant Workers Centre (MWC)** organised a series of activities, including a nine-course sit down dinner on December 15, in collaboration with four major dormitory operators. **TWC2 (Transient Workers Count Too)** also organised an outdoor picnic, to be held on December 20.

The IMD, which was proclaimed by the United Nations in 2000, is a day in which countries disseminate information on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants.

[http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/Singapore/Story/STIStory\\_466164.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/Singapore/Story/STIStory_466164.html)

### **Launch of 20th anniversary global campaign for migrants' rights convention**

The International Steering Committee for the Campaign for Ratification of the Migrants' Rights Convention is launching a **global campaign to end abuse of migrants, by protecting their human rights**, on International Migrants Day.

The campaign will take to the streets and to parliaments, demanding that governments act immediately to end the widespread violations of human rights suffered daily by migrants around the world, by ratifying the UN International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW)

Activities will take place in Brussels, Cairo, Geneva, Kuala Lumpur, Nairobi, New York and Paris to mark the 20th anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of this core UN instrument ).

<http://www.december18.net/article/launch-20th-anniversary-global-campaign-migrants-rights-convention>

### **Indonesia to decide on ratifying UN Convention on Migrant Workers**

In February 2010, the Indonesian government will make a final decision on the appropriate time to ratify the United Nations Convention on Migrant Workers and their Families, a minister said. The country's Justice and Human Rights Affairs Ministry commented that the lack of preparation in Indonesia has led to delay in the ratification of the Convention.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-12/14/content\\_12646051.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-12/14/content_12646051.htm)

### **Legislative**

#### **New law on organ trafficking**

The new Penal Code in Spain will consider a bill making human organ trafficking a crime punishable with up to 12 years in prison, according to the Minister of Health and Social Politics, Trinidad Jimenez. Anyone who promotes, favours, facilitates or advertises organs or their illegal trafficking could be sentenced to between six and 12 years - if it is a vital organ, and between three and six years if it is a secondary organ. Organ recipients who are aware of the illegal origin of the organ may also be sentenced. Although it is not thought to be a widespread practice in Spain, there has been a noticeable rise in advertisements on the internet which offer organs for amounts ranging from 15,000 to 100,000 Euros. The Bill has been sent to congress for approval. The Minister said it was good news for Spanish people.

<http://www.euroweeklynews.com/2009111767703/news/national/organ-trafficking-punishable-thanks-to-new-law.html>

#### **Two UN human rights covenants take effect: a big step forward**

Taiwan's adoption of two United Nations human rights covenants, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, were signed by President Ma Ying-jeou on May 14 2009 and came into effect on Human

Rights Day, December 10 2009.

[http://www.etaiwannews.com/etn/news\\_content.php?id=1129222&lang=eng\\_news&cate\\_img=83.jpg&cate\\_rss=news\\_Politics\\_TAIWAN](http://www.etaiwannews.com/etn/news_content.php?id=1129222&lang=eng_news&cate_img=83.jpg&cate_rss=news_Politics_TAIWAN)

### **The Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) Community Court of Justice - Niger violated its obligation to protect its citizen from sexual slavery**

The Court found Niger in breach of its positive obligations to protect its citizens from slavery, which in Hadijatou Mani Koraou's case involved sexual slavery. The Court found that the applicant was held in slavery for nearly nine years. The elimination of slavery is a mandate of all States, entitling her to protection by the Nigerien authorities. The Court found Niger responsible under international as well as national law for any form of human rights violations founded on slavery because of its tolerance, passivity, inaction, and abstention with regard to the practice. They ordered Niger to pay reparations in the amount of 10 million CFA francs (approx. USD 23,100)

<http://uncovered.womenslinkworldwide.org/ecowas-community-court-justice-niger-violated-its-obligation-protect-its-citizen-sexual-slavery>

### **First caregiver court victory hailed: Caregivers fighting back in court**

Filipina caregiver, Marivic Perlas Rivera, has won her civil suit against the recruitment agency that failed to provide her with legitimate employment in Canada.

The caregiver was awarded the maximum amount allowed in Small Claims Court when the judge ordered Winlorfely Caregiver Providers to pay Rivera damages worth \$10,000 and another \$300 in costs.

The lawsuit may mark a turning point in the fight against unscrupulous recruiters who bring foreign caregivers to Canada for jobs that do not exist. The caregiver's triumphant civil suit is said to be the first of its kind in Ontario against a nanny recruitment agency.

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/pinoy-migration/12/02/09/first-caregiver-court-victory-hailed-caregivers-fighting-back-court>

## **REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES**

### Europe

**La Strada International NGO platform on trafficking in human beings (Berlin November 9th and 10th)**



Under the general theme: *20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall - where do we stand?* La Strada (with the support of Ban Ying) organised its 2009 NGO Platform in the German capital. The Platform was an opportunity for participants to share and to critically look at our own work as anti-trafficking NGOs. The fall of the Berlin Wall was the backdrop set to reflect about rights' protection principles and daily practices; dilemmas and compromises, in areas such as social assistance (shelters rules); national referral mechanisms, campaigns and stereotypes; data collection and protection; working with partners; and transparency and democracy within our organisations. The objective of the meeting was to open up dialogue and share experiences around these issues and to try to find common standards in different. Discussions at the NGO Platform will feed into the book on standards that La Strada International is currently developing.

The NGO Platform also provided space for bilateral meetings and an open space where participants could present and discuss issues, share ideas or present their own initiatives. There was also time to share funny, scary and exciting anti-trafficking stories and time to

dance and enjoy music. For us at the GAATW-IS it also provided a great opportunity to meet with members in the region and to get to know new organisations, and to exchange learnings with all participants. The setting of common standards from a rights perspective is key and we hope to continue accompanying La Strada in this journey.

For more information contact: [nerea@gaatw.org](mailto:nerea@gaatw.org)

### **Proyecto Esperanza celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary**



To celebrate Proyecto Esperanza's 10 years of work, they organised a 1-day event on December the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, in Madrid Spain. The celebration was an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the last decade, but also to look forward at what still needs to be done to protect and promote the human rights of trafficked persons. People from NGOs, international institutions, national and regional government, and more, gathered in a warm atmosphere to carry out frank discussions and share common thinking.

Bandana Pattanaik, GAATW IS International Coordinator, contributed to the panel on International Perspectives, together with Mike Dottridge, Fanny Polania and a representative of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Office of the Special Representative and Co-coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

We would like to congratulate Proyecto Esperanza for these 10 years of hard work, collaboration and commitment.

### Americas

#### **FIRST's Forum: Sex Workers, Clients and the Law**

FIRST, a sex workers rights group, held a packed public forum, "*Sex Workers, Clients and the Law*", on November 23, in Vancouver, Canada. The forum began with the film: "A Swedish sex worker on the criminalisation of clients." (Watch the video here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7D7nOh57-l8>.) Jody Salerno (Director of Women's Services, the British Columbia/Yukon Society of Transition Houses), tells her story and stresses the importance of safe, effective and affordable housing for women, children and youth escaping violence.

Chris Atchison discussed his "John's Voice" study, which gathered data from a sample of almost 1000 men and found the vast majority of clients to be ordinary guys who care about the welfare of sex workers and are not violent or exploitive.

(For more info see his webpage <http://www.johnsvoice.ca/>). Susan Davis talked about "Trade Secrets", the new health and safety guide for sex workers, including dealing with clients. Check out the website here:

<http://www.tradesecretsguide.blogspot.com/>). Tamara O'Doherty rounded off the panel by talking about the reasons we need full decriminalisation for both clients and workers. The Q&A session was lively and lasted almost an hour. For a full account of the evening, visit <http://www.firstadvocates.org/events/sex-workers-clients-and-law-first-public-forum> .

The **Asociación Civil de DDHH Mujeres Unidas Migrantes Y Refugiadas en Argentina (AMUMRA)**, a GAATW member, based in Argentina, recently organised a march to demand the government support of the International Labour Organisation's Domestic Workers' Convention. AMUMRA is calling on the Argentinean government to reform the current domestic workers statute from 1956, to recognise domestic work as work, and for the just

treatment of all domestic workers. For more information, contact [migrantesenargentina@yahoo.com](mailto:migrantesenargentina@yahoo.com)

## FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Julie Ham, Programme Coordinator, met with sex workers' rights organisations - Cambodia Prostitutes Union, Women's Network for Unity and a representative from the Asia-Pacific Network of Sex Workers - during a recent trip to Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Rather than addressing the root causes and actual instances of trafficking, the Cambodian anti-trafficking law criminalises solicitation and is being used by Cambodian police to shut down sex workers' worksites and abuse and extort money from sex workers (e.g. condoms taken as 'evidence' of criminal activity). Organisations also expressed concern that 'rehabilitation measures' are resulting in further human rights violations such as: committing further violence on sex workers, unsanitary conditions (impure drinking water, no bedding), detention and lack of treatment for persons with HIV (access to medication cut off). For more information, contact Women's Network for Unity at [wnu.cambodia@gmail.com](mailto:wnu.cambodia@gmail.com), the Cambodia Prostitutes Union through their partner the Cambodian Women's Development Agency at [cwda@online.com.kh](mailto:cwda@online.com.kh) or visit APNSW at <http://apnswdollhouse.wordpress.com/>.

### **GAATW invites you...to TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE!**

[INSERT PHOTO] In November, GAATW launched an international Art Action contest titled **Rights! Art! Action!**

GAATW thinks it is time to move beyond images of victimhood and vulnerability in representing anti-trafficking campaigns. Members and friends of the Alliance are invited to send **empowering images with strong messages that depict the strength and agency of women.**

Anybody can submit - photos, banners, songs, drawings, film, paintings, t-shirt designs, any kind of art - to GAATW International Secretariat at [info@gaatw.org](mailto:info@gaatw.org). The deadline for submission is on 20 February 2010. Winners will be announced on 8 March 2010.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.gaatw.org](http://www.gaatw.org).

## RESOURCES

### Reports/Published Articles

The book **"Voices from and against detention centers for foreigners"** is based on the testimonies of migrants, and that of their families, waiting to be deported, between 2007 and 2009. It illustrates rights violations in terms of health, living conditions, lack of access to lawyers, degrading treatment and so on. One key issue addressed is the lack of identification mechanisms available for asylum seekers and trafficked persons in detention centers. It is published by SOS Racismo-Madrid, Medicos del Mundo-Madrid and Ferrocarril Clandestino - a network of organisations in Madrid who support migrants' rights. .

The book is available only in Spanish and it can be downloaded from:

<http://www.lahaine.org/index.php?blog=2&p=2578>. GAATW IS wishes to thank Helga Flamtermesky, from Sant Cugat Group in Barcelona for sharing this very interesting book.

### **PICUM's: Main Concerns about the Fundamental Rights of Undocumented Migrants in Europe (2009)**

This new report pieces together a year of European, national and local news issues on irregular migration. The report aims to foster a better understanding of the main human rights concerns of undocumented migrants and to analyse the ways in which civil society throughout Europe is responding to these issues. Available in English, French and Spanish at: [www.picum.org](http://www.picum.org)

Laura Agustin's **The Ease of Righteous Causes: What to feel about undocumented migration** tries to unpick and understand the complex and complicated 'migrant journey', with a particular focus on those in Calais, France trying to cross the Channel to the UK.

[http://www.londonprogressivejournal.com/issue/show/98?article\\_id=579](http://www.londonprogressivejournal.com/issue/show/98?article_id=579)

### **No Cushion to Fall Back on: the Global Economic Crisis and Informal Workers**

Much has been said about the impact of the global economic crisis on those employed in the formal economy, while its impact on those employed informally has received little or no attention.

To address the gap [Women in Informal Employment Globalising and Organising](#) (WIEGO) and its partners in the Inclusive Cities project collected information on the impact of the crisis on three categories of workers: home-based workers, street vendors, and waste pickers. To download the report, go to [http://www.inclusivocities.org/pdfs/GEC\\_Study.pdf](http://www.inclusivocities.org/pdfs/GEC_Study.pdf)

**Figure It Out: Reporting On Trafficking In Women** by Laxmi Murthy and Rajashri Dasgupta was first published by [Infochange News & Features](#)

This article argues that media coverage of trafficking of women and children, migration and sex work is confused and inaccurate. Media wrongly uses the terms 'sex work' and 'trafficking' synonymously, perpetuating stereotypes and stigmatisation and contributing to the violation of women's right to free movement and livelihood options.

<http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/figure-it-out-reporting-on-trafficking-in-women-2009-09-01>

### Events

#### **The International Trade Union Confederation's (ITUC) first World Women's Conference, "Decent Work, Decent Life for Women: Trade Unions Taking the Lead for Economic and Social Justice & Equality"**

The conference looked at the impact of the global crisis on working women and explored how to ensure that related issues are part of trade union responses. It is expected that a second congress will take place next year. A press release issued by ITUC stated that : "discussions at the Conference focused on the fact that although women have increasingly become part of the paid workforce and of trade unions, and there have been important achievements in trade union organising, collective bargaining, and other rights, women are "often in a disadvantaged position in comparison to men in labour markets around the world [and that] in most regions, the gender impact of the economic crisis in terms of unemployment rates is expected to be more detrimental for females than for males" as highlighted, in the ILO report on Global Employment Trends for Women 2009. Conference delegates expressed deep concern that the commitment to advancing gender equality must not eroded by the global economic crisis. Strong support was given to the 2009 International Labour Conference resolution on gender equality which pointed out that "crises should not be used as excuses to create even greater inequalities nor undermine women's acquired rights". The Conference highlighted priority issues for women at work and in society and politics, such as the rise of women in precarious work in recent years, which has left many women in short-term jobs with low pay, little or no protection from exploitation, and lacking social security and pension entitlements".

### **Anti-Trafficking and the Media**

Ms Vathany Say, Executive Director of the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (CWCC), gave a presentation on "Anti-Trafficking and the Media" at the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Association of Women's Radio and Television (IAWRT) Conference, Beijing +15: Empowering Women Through Media, November 17-21, Phnom Penh Cambodia. She encouraged media present to genuinely inform the public about trafficking by accurately reflecting women migrant's complex lived

realities in their work rather than perpetuating sensationalistic and voyeuristic stereotypes about trafficked women. For more information on CWCC, please visit [cwcc.org.kh](http://cwcc.org.kh). For more information on IAWRT, please visit [www.iawrt.org](http://www.iawrt.org).

### **2010 International Conference on Marginalised Women**

To celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March, the Isis Centre for Women and Development (based in Fes, Morocco, and directed by Dr Fatima Sadiqi) is organising an international conference (8-10 March 2010) on marginalised women: single mothers, divorced women, widows, household breadwinners. I.e. women, without a male partner, who are seriously threatened by the impact of the financial crisis. Discussing these categories of women is still taboo in the overwhelming majority of the Arab-Islamic countries, sub-Saharan Africa and the countries of the global South.

In addition to plenary sessions, the conference will feature workshops with grassroots activists, visits to three listening centres, life stories, and awards for a number of successful local women.

Interested scholars/activists or post-graduate students are welcome to contact Fatima Sadiqi at [sadiqi\\_fatima@yahoo.fr](mailto:sadiqi_fatima@yahoo.fr)

<http://www.iwda.org.au/au/2009/11/09/international-conference-on-marginalised-women/>

### Scholarship

The **Desiree Alliance** is offering scholarships to current and former sex workers who would like to attend their 2010 National Sex Worker Conference: *“Working Sex: Power, Practice, and Politics”* in Las Vegas, Nevada (US) from July 25-30, 2010. Registration and scholarship information is available at: <http://www.desireealliance.org/conference/Registration.htm> .

The Desiree Alliance is also calling for proposals due March 1, 2010 in 5 Tracks - (1) Academic and Policy, (2) Activism, (3) Art, Entertainment, and Media, (4) Business Development, and (5) Harm Reduction and Outreach: <http://www.desireealliance.org/conference/CFP.htm>.

### Petition

**CARAM Asia launches online petition for migrant domestic workers!**

On International Human Rights Day, December 10, CARAM Asia launched an online petition campaign to grant a weekly paid day off for migrant domestic workers (MDW). The online campaign will be featured on the below media sites for 30 days from its launch.

1. <http://www.malaysiakini.com/>
2. <http://theonlinecitizen.com/>
3. <http://www.prachatai.com/>
4. <http://www.thestandard.com.hk/>
5. <http://english.aljazeera.net/>

A simple click is all is needed to grant a basic fundamental right to one of the most vulnerable group of human beings today.: <http://www.petitiononline.com/adayoff/petition.html>

*“On this tenth International Migrants Day, I encourage Governments to protect the human rights of migrants, to put human rights at the heart of migration policy, and to raise awareness of the positive contributions migrants make to the economic, social and cultural lives of their host countries.”*

Statement by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on International Migrants Day

<http://www.december18.net/article/statement-un-secretary-general-ban-ki-moon-international-migrants-day>



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](mailto:info@gaatw.org)
- If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at [info@gaatw.org](mailto:info@gaatw.org) and we will delete your address from the list.

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