



# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

Issue 1/2015

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## Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from the International Secretariat at the start of 2015! We are very much looking forward to the activities we have planned for the year.

Launching the fourth issue of our [Anti-Trafficking Review](#) looking at 15 years of the UN Trafficking Protocol; international advocacy opportunities at the 59<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women and UN Crime Congress; and working with groups on the ground through our project work in Asia and the Middle East - to name just a few highlights coming up.

As we enter a new year, we have been reviewing our monthly ebulletin. We want to make sure this ebulletin is as useful and engaging to you as possible. We have therefore decided to send out more frequent and timely emails highlighting important news or opportunities for our work as an Alliance. We will then release longer e-bulletins on a quarterly basis which will allow us to bring you more analytical articles, interviews and opinion pieces.

We would very much welcome your feedback on our new format in the coming months. What would you like to see in your e-bulletin? What information do you find useful? And if you would like to contribute any content - an interview, opinion piece or news about your work - please do let us know. Email [jasmin@gaatw.org](mailto:jasmin@gaatw.org) with your thoughts.

In the meantime we have two new exciting positions currently being advertised at GAATW to support all the new project work we will be doing this year. We are recruiting for a [Programme Officer for our Access to Justice programme](#) and a [Programme Officer \(Research and Training\)](#). We would be very grateful if you could help circulate these two opportunities with GAATW.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you in the coming year.

Warm regards,

GAATW International Secretariat

## Job Announcement

- Programme Officer, Access to Justice Programme
- Programme Officer (Research & Training)

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# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

June 2015

**Welcome to the new-look GAATW e-Bulletin!** Our e-Bulletins will now feature comment pieces, analytical articles and interviews. It's also a space for the GAATW-IS, Member Organisations and partners to share their news. Please let us know what you think by emailing [gaatw@gaatw.org](mailto:gaatw@gaatw.org) - and if you would like to contribute to the e-Bulletin in future please email the same address. These longer e-Bulletins will be published quarterly, so our next ones will be in September and December. We hope you enjoy our new e-Bulletin.



## GAATW-IS comment...

### If we call everything 'trafficking' whose purpose does it serve?

'Trafficking', 'slavery' and 'clamping down on traffickers and smugglers'. These were the words and phrases used widely and interchangeably in recent media coverage of the people adrift on sea in Europe and Asia. As people struggled to survive in their rickety boats and fought over the water bottles and food packets airdropped to them, most of us watched helplessly and hoped that somehow a solution would be found. [Read GAATW-IS's full comment...](#)



## News from the GAATW International Secretariat

This year, GAATW International Secretariat (IS) is continuing to focus on three key thematic areas of work: Accountability, Power in Migration and Work and Access to Justice. Read all about our current work, as well as about recent staff changes at the IS. We also feature an update on the Anti-Trafficking Review, which has now moved to two issues per year, and a message from one of our new International Board

Members, Professor Dr. Supang Chantavanich (Asian Research Migration Centre). [Read all the latest GAATW-IS news...](#)

## From the field...

### Photo story: Daily life of community workers in Nepal

In February, GAATW-IS was privileged to visit colleagues from NGOs working with migrating women in Chitwan, Rupandehi, Morang and Dolakha districts of Nepal. The visit formed part of a wider project that aims to reduce trafficking of women from Bangladesh, Nepal and India who migrate to the Middle East to work in the domestic work sector.



Our meetings with the peer educators in the districts were truly humbling and inspiring. This photo story is a tribute to the community workers we met during our visit.

[View the photo story...](#)



## From our Member Organisations... La Strada International celebrates 20th anniversary at annual NGO platform

La Strada International (LSI), Netherlands, brought together NGOs working on anti-trafficking, migrant rights and sex worker rights from across Europe at its

NGO Platform meeting in May. Hosted by Open Gate/LSI Macedonia, the event looked back over the successes and challenges in anti-trafficking in the last 20 years, and asked participants to contribute ideas for future work.

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

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

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## Resources

### **Safe migration as an emerging anti-trafficking agenda?**

Sverre Molland

Safe migration has become a way for anti-trafficking organisations to re-articulate how a concern with labour exploitation relates to migration, yet it remains unclear how 'safety' can be ensured.

### **Anti-slavery responses should offer solutions not benevolence**

Caroline Robinson

The modern slavery act is seen as a righteous cause for many UK decision-makers, however victims of exploitation do not share the simplistic moral narrative, seeking practical solutions not benevolence.

### **Before the Boat: Understanding the migrant journey**

Jacob Townsend and Christel Oomen

The limited knowledge base on migrants' decision-making and assessment of risk on the journey to Europe, as well as incomplete understanding of the organisational structures and political economies of smuggling networks, are hampering an effective response to unprecedented Mediterranean maritime crossings. This report, drawing from interviews with migrants, examines migrants' decision-making processes, perceptions of risk, and access to information.

### **Issue Paper: The Concept of "Exploitation" in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The purpose of this issue paper is to clarify the key concept of exploitation in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. The Issue Paper was developed drawing on a series of interviews conducted with practitioners and experts from twelve States representing different regions and legal

traditions (Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, Qatar, Sweden, Thailand, Uganda and the United Arab Emirates) as well as on expert input provided during an expert group meeting. The Issue Paper aims to assist criminal justice officers in penal proceedings. It was launched at the thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in April 2015.

### **Labor Migration and Inclusive Growth: Toward Creating Employment in Origin Communities**

Solidarity Centre

This paper investigates the intersection of labor migration and the inclusive growth agenda, and seeks to recommend policies so governments of origin countries can, in part, expand labor migration's positive impacts by making migrant workers agents in promoting and realizing an inclusive growth agenda in their origin communities.

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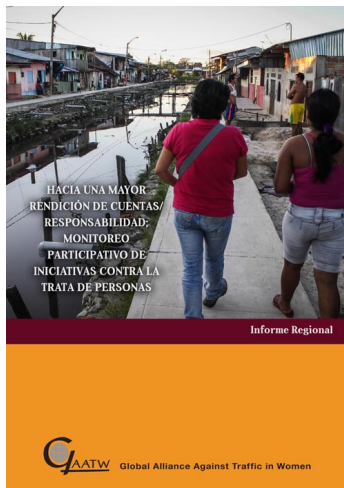
## Betty Pedraza Lozano from Espacios de Mujer Awarded with the Annual TIP Report Hero Acting to End Modern Slavery Award

Betty Pedraza Lozano, director of Corporación Espacios de Mujer, was one of eight people awarded the annual "TIP Report Hero Acting to End Modern Slavery Award" by the United States Department of State on 27 July. The award recognises the work carried out by different people, in different parts of the world, to end human trafficking. Betty Pedraza Lozano has been recognised for her commitment to the prevention of trafficking, her support of trafficked persons in Colombia and her work for the rights of all women and men who have survived human trafficking.

[View the interview...](#)



## From our Member Organisations...



### "Towards Greater Accountability - Participatory Monitoring of Anti-Trafficking Initiatives" - Latin America Report

During 2013-14 GAATW-IS initiated and steered a project entitled "Towards greater accountability - Participatory Monitoring of Anti-Trafficking Initiatives". In the framework of this project, 17 GAATW member organisations from Asia, Europe and Latin America carried out researches to find out from trafficked persons their perceptions and views of the support services they received.

The researches reaffirmed the rights of trafficked persons to express their voices and ensured that service providing organisations incorporated their feedback in future work. Participating colleagues from the Latin American region have put together their research reports into a regional report that can be downloaded from GAATW-IS Website.

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

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## Resources

Resources that explain the various legal framework on sex work and difference between sex work and trafficking:

### **Open Society Foundation: Laws and Policies Affecting Sex Work**

This reference brief aims to clarify terms and illustrate examples of alternatives to the use of criminal law as a response to sex work. Understanding the range of legislative and policy options for responding to sex work is critical to establishing policies consistent with respecting, protecting, and fulfilling the human rights of sex workers. Laws and policies on sex work should be based on the best available evidence about what works to protect health and rights.

### **NSWP Briefing Paper: Sex Work and the Law: Understanding Legal Frameworks and the Struggle for Sex Work Law Reforms**

This briefing paper, prepared by the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) describes the different legislative frameworks used to criminalise and oppress sex work and sex workers,

including oppressive regulatory frameworks. It also provides insight into the language and shared principles that NSWP members use when advocating for law reforms that respect and protect sex workers' human and labour rights.

### **Sex Work is Not Trafficking**

This NSWP briefing paper explains how sex work is conflated with trafficking; the legal framework; how demand for sex work is conflated with trafficking; the dangers of conflating trafficking with sex work, its impacts on sex workers' lives and work; the impact on sex worker programming; and offers some recommendations for policy makers, donors and for civil society.

### **La Strada International contribution to public hearing at the German Bundestag on prostitution and human trafficking**

Contribution by La Strada International, the European NGO network against trafficking in human beings, to a public hearing on human trafficking and forced prostitution at the German Bundestag, in relation to the German Government's plans to revise prostitution and human trafficking policies.

### **ICRSE: Research on Sex Work**

The International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe (ICRSE) is a network of sex workers and sex worker-led organisations in Europe and Central Asia. The Resources section of ICRSE's website provides different materials, studies and researches related to sex work and trafficking, sex work and law, sex work and migration etc.

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Resources on human trafficking and migration:

### **How American Anti-Trafficking Policy is Failing Asian Migrants**

Hanna Hindstrom

In July the US Department of State released its annual Trafficking in Persons report but critics say it has done little to address the underlying causes of trafficking or to protect trafficked persons. This has been especially felt in Asia, where Thailand focuses disproportionately on efforts to crackdown on the sex industry to the detriment of other labour sectors and refugees. While Malaysia, whose track record is not much better, has been upgraded this year, allegedly because of Obama's desire to sign the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.

### **The 2015 US Trafficking Report: signs of decline?**

Anne Gallagher

The US Trafficking in Persons report is problematic not only because of its increasing politicisation, seen this year in the rank upgrades of several countries, including Cuba and Malaysia, for political and economic reasons. It also weaves a simple - and ultimately comforting - tale of trafficking being about bad people doing bad things to good people. It fails to seriously interrogate the deep economy of human exploitation - to ask what would happen to global wealth and productivity if such exploitation were suddenly removed. Beyond a cursory reference to the now ubiquitous "global supply chains", corporate complicity in trafficking - and the government corruption that makes this possible - isn't even on the table.

### **Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences. Urmila Bhoola**

This study by the Special Rapporteur focuses on enforcing the accountability of States and businesses for preventing, mitigating and redressing contemporary forms of slavery in supply chains. It reviews the international legal framework on slavery, the causes and prevalence of contemporary forms of slavery in supply chains and initiatives of states and businesses to address them. It also reviews the corporate legal liability and the access to remedies in cases of contemporary slavery in supply chains and some of the challenges and gaps to ensuring the accountability of states and businesses for contemporary forms of slavery in supply chains.

### **Modern Slavery: The Margins of Freedom**

Julia O'Connell Davidson

This book brings the literature on transatlantic slavery into dialogue with research on informal sector labour, child labour, migration, debt, the prison industrial complex, and sex work in the contemporary world in order to challenge received ideas and popular and policy discourses of injustice and suffering, which fail to attend to structural inequalities and suggest that victims are entirely eviscerated of will.

Calling for more serious political debates about the restriction of freedoms in the contemporary



world, this book provides a unique, critical perspective of violence, injustice and exploitation in modern society.

### **UAE establishes fund to support victims of human trafficking**

Gulf Today

The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking has established The Fund of Supporting Victims of Human Trafficking in cooperation with its strategic partners. Its mission is to provide financial support to the victims and help them in addressing their needs to facilitate a brighter future. It also highlights the importance that the committee places in combating different types of human trafficking, and its commitment to strengthen work with the authorities and international organisations to eliminate the problem and uphold the rights and dignity of humans.

### **Indispensable yet unprotected: Working conditions of Indian Domestic Workers at Home and Abroad**

ILO Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL)

This study examines two of the most frequent migration routes for female domestic workers in India - from the state of Jharkhand to New Delhi and from the state of Kerala to the Arab states. It seeks to understand the problems and the nature of abuse that migrant domestic workers face and whether some of them are victims of forced labour and trafficking. The study reviews the legislative and institutional framework and makes recommendations for improving the conditions for migrant domestic workers.

### **The gendered victims of (anti)trafficking**

Prabha Kotiswaran and Sam Okyere

The August edition of Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, devoted to gender, focuses on two sets of issues. The first set of articles are clustered around gender and migration. They highlight how state and institutional practices, especially those that deny women's agency and reinforce stereotypical notions of female vulnerability, adversely impact women's mobility and render their migration choices precarious. The second set of articles demonstrates how mainstream anti-trafficking activists are hardly exceptional in their paternalist call to arms when it comes to female and child victims of trafficking. Evocative yet ineffective understandings of complex issues such as surrogacy, female genital cutting, and child marriage result in the reiteration of simplistic reform strategies rather than the restructuring of the very conditions under which women negotiate power structures.

### **Violence, self-harm and suicide attempts: health of child trafficking survivors revealed**

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Poor mental health, self-harm and suicide attempts are common among children and adolescents who have been trafficked for forced labour or sexual exploitation, according to a new study among almost 400 children and adolescents in post-trafficking services in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam. Researchers found that one-third of boys and girls surveyed had experienced physical or sexual violence while trafficked, and of those, a quarter had sustained a serious injury. Mental health issues were common: more than half of the survivors screened positive for depression, a third for an anxiety disorder and a quarter for post-traumatic stress disorder. 12% reported they had tried to harm or kill themselves in the month before the interview, while 15.8% reported having suicidal thoughts in the past month.

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