

Welcome to the Advocacy Update for April, our first issue for 2008. We have decided this year to send this update out separately from the e-bulletin and in email format to make it easier for you to open and read. Other changes this year are a broader advocacy focus and more opportunities for you to be involved. We hope you will like our new format - do share with us your thoughts! Please send them to Amy Bain at amy@gaatw.org.

*In this issue we provide a report from the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking (13 - 15 February 2008) and the 7th Session of the Human Rights Council (Geneva, 3 - 28 March 2008). We also give information about **Upcoming Events** and a **Special Announcement**. We would also like to draw your attention to the **Request for Information from Bonded Labour in the Netherlands (BLinN)**, which is seeking examples about procedures for identification of trafficked persons. We look forward to hearing from you about this!*

REPORT FROM VIENNA, FEBRUARY 2008

GAATW launches Recognise Rights campaign at the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking...

GAATW launched the Recognise Rights campaign on 12 February 2008 in Vienna, the day before the opening of the UN.GIFT Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking. Recognise Rights is based on the recommendations and findings from GAATW's global study, *Collateral Damage*, an in-depth look into the human rights impact of anti-trafficking measures in eight countries. The goal of the campaign is to ensure that the protection of human rights will be central to the formulation of all anti-trafficking and migration policies and that they are devised and implemented with the full involvement of the affected communities.

LEFÖ, an Austrian women's organisation and GAATW member, kindly hosted the launch at her Vienna offices. **Evelyn Probst**, LEFÖ-IBF Coordinator, opened, after which **Dr. Helga Konrad**, International Consultant on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, addressed the press and took questions about the challenges she saw in the implementation of the anti-trafficking framework. **Eleanor Taylor-Nicholson**, Program Coordinator for GAATW IS, gave more information about the Recognise Rights campaign, followed by **Dr. Renu Rajbhandari**, Chairperson of the Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) a GAATW member in Nepal. Attendees included journalists and representatives from member organisations in Europe, LAC and Asia that were able to provide specific examples of collateral damage from their countries. The launch was successful in stimulating a global dialogue on how anti-trafficking initiatives and policies are leading to human rights violations and how States need to be held accountable for ensuring that human rights are at the centre all of anti-trafficking efforts.



International Press Conference on Human Trafficking by GAATW in co-operation with LEFÖ. 12.02.2008. On the podium: Eleanor Taylor-Nicholson, Dr Renu Rajbahandari, Evelyn Probst, Dr Helga Konrad (from left to right).

Report from the UN.GIFT Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking (13 - 15 February 2008) - Eleanor Taylor-Nicholson attended ...

Arrivals to Vienna in February saw the city festooned with billboards and signs to announce the Vienna Forum gleaming through the snow, and the opening session at the Austria Centre Vienna sparkled with addresses from celebrities Emma Thompson and Ricky Martin, urging the 1400 participants of the Forum to take human trafficking seriously.

This rhetoric continued over the next three days, as the representatives of UN.GIFT (UN Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking), the joint UN coordinating body that organised the Forum, pushed all stakeholders to share their heartfelt commitment to combating trafficking, the new 'global slave trade'. Religious leaders, the private sector, youth, women leaders and more, all had special panel sessions on how they could join in.

In other sessions law enforcement and tackling organised crime, was the focus, likely because the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) leadership in the UN.GIFT Steering Committee. Police forces and international agencies spoke of improved data collection methods and how to beat corruption. The warfare rhetoric was notable throughout: "Arming the private sector" and "the fight against trafficking" for example.

All of this seemed very far away from the realities of human trafficking. Representation of trafficked people themselves, or migrants, or sex workers, or any other group with direct experience of the risks of migration or informal sector work, was not included in the agenda. Nor was there any discussion of the broader human rights impacts of the anti-trafficking framework on these groups, including the tightening of border controls (it was not mentioned for example that most African participants had been denied visas to Vienna and couldn't attend).

GAATW members were able to contribute on panels including: *Betty Pedraza* from Espacios de Mujer, Colombia, who spoke about NGO and law enforcement cooperation, *Maria Tchomorova*, Animus Foundation/La Strada Bulgaria on the panel "Health and Human Trafficking", *Ana Revenco* from La Strada Moldova on "Repatriation and Reintegration", and *Katerina Levchenko* of La Strada Ukraine about "National and Regional Responses". *Mike Dottridge*, the editor of GAATW's recent report *Collateral Damage*, also spoke on a very interesting panel on innovative prevention strategies. Other members were able to attend and participate.

Some things about the Forum were disappointing: the disregard of human rights or the human rights approach to anti-trafficking work, and the sidelining of NGOs (for example no NGOs were included on the steering committee or in planning process) to name just two. It might also be a concern to some that the enormous budget for the event came from the United Arab Emirates and Belarus, neither of whom are well known for their human rights efforts.

But, on the positive side, human trafficking into all sectors was given equal attention by the organizers, and the broad definition of human trafficking was accepted by most. Also, members tell us that they had an opportunity for constructive conversations and meetings during the Forum and some have reported direct action emerging from this meeting at the national level.

The follow up from the Forum is not yet clear. Antonio Maria Costa, the UNODC's Executive Director, in closing said there are no "official conclusions for this Forum" but also called for concrete actions, including ratifying the Palermo Protocol, establishing a formal mechanism to review Member States' implementation of the Protocol, improving technical assistance, and increasing public awareness. According to Mr. Costa, the "road ahead is already mapped in the UN anti-trafficking Protocol". Then to end, Ruslana, the Ukrainian pop star, gave a 30 minute show complete with back-up dancers and smoke machines - not much changed in three days...

More information about the UN.GIFT and the Vienna Forum, including transcripts of speeches and presentations, can be found at the <http://ungift.org>.

7th SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Human Rights Council (HRC) convened for its 7th regular session in Geneva from 3 to 28 March 2008...

The Council approved the mandate for the new **Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery**, including its causes and consequences, **Ms. Gulnara Shahinian** of Armenia. Ms. Shahinian has worked on trafficking and smuggling at a national and international level, including as an expert in trafficking for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and as a member of a UN expert group on trafficking. Additionally, the HRC extended for three years the mandates of other Special Rapporteurs including on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, **Ms. Najat M'jid Maala** of Morocco, and on violence against women, **Dr. Yakin Ertürk** of Turkey.

For more information about the Special Procedures mandate holders, including a full list of the members and mandate holders, please visit <http://www.unhchr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/6B7007A33E763D6DC1257418006BFCAE?opendocument>

Also in this meeting, Louise Arbour, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, announced she would be leaving office at the end of her term in June 2008. Ms. Arbour has come under sustained criticism in her role, largely due to her criticism of the United States human rights record during the War on Terror.

The HRC 1st Universal Periodic Review (3 - 18 April 2008)

Immediately following the 7th session was the first ever session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism. The UPR is a result of the efforts to make the HRC more effective, and governments and NGOs have been planning for this session for more than 12 months. NGOs from the countries under review were able to submit joint shadow reports, and also attend the session at which the reporting State was questioned by other States on their human rights record. Initial reactions from NGOs in Geneva are that the first session is highly disappointing and States are using this process for self-promotion and shielding their colleagues from criticism of their human rights record. NGOs were

also frustrated at being unable to engage in constructive dialogue with member states.

The schedule for States to be considered during the first two UPR sessions is as follows:

1st UPR session (03 - 18 April 2008)

1. Bahrain	5. Indonesia	9. Brazil	13. Netherlands
2. Ecuador	6. Finland	10. Philippines	14. South Africa
3. Tunisia	7. United Kingdom	11. Algeria	15. Czech Republic
4. Morocco	8. India	12. Poland	16. Argentina

2nd UPR session (5 - 16 May 2008)

1. Gabon	5. Benin	9. Zambia	13. France
2. Ghana	6. Republic of Korea	10. Japan	14. Tonga
3. Peru	7. Switzerland	11. Ukraine	15. Romania
4. Guatemala	8. Pakistan	12. Sri Lanka	16. Mali

More information about the UPR mechanism, copies of the government and shadow reports, and information about how civil society organizations can play a role can be found at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRmain.aspx>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CEDAW Committee Elections (Nominations due on 30 April 2008)

Of the 23 experts that make up the Committee, 11 of the terms are expiring at the end of this year. The 11 new members will be elected during the 15th meeting of States parties to the Convention in New York on 30 July 2008. Nominations for new members are due on 30 April 2008. Only States can nominate candidates and the final decision is made by a vote of the State Parties to the CEDAW Convention. NGOs play an important role in lobbying their governments to nominate their choice of candidate. **Are you planning to lobby for a particular candidate? Please let us know!**

More information about the elections, as well as a list of the current members of the committee, can be found at the OHCHR's website at:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/elections.htm>.

Human Rights Council 8th Session (02 - 13 June 2008)

The next session of the HRC will be from 2 to 13 June 2008 in Geneva. During this session the HRC will appoint a new **Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children**, to replace Ms. Sigma HUDA (Bangladesh). GAATW IS will be holding a side event during the HRC 8th session. **Is any one expecting to attend or planning an event? If so, we would like to know! Please send details about your participation in the upcoming HRC 8th session to amy@gaatw.org**

To learn more about the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in person's mandate, please visit <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/trafficking/index.htm>.

General Assembly Thematic Debate on Human Trafficking (03 June 2008)

The General Assembly is holding a Thematic Debate on Human Trafficking on 03 June 2008 in New York. The thematic debate will focus on the "3 P's" of the Palermo Protocol and will include two panels: *Enhancing multilateral cooperation to prevent trafficking in persons* and *Protecting victims of trafficking and cross-border cooperation in prosecuting traffickers in persons*. GAATW is planning to attend this Debate and we will keep you informed about ways to be involved. **If you have any more information about this Debate or are planning to go, please write to amy@gaatw.org**

To learn more about the thematic debate please visit

<http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/ThematicDebates/thematicdebates.shtml>

CEDAW Committee 41st session (30 June - 18 July 2008)

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will hold its 41st session from 30 June to 18 July 2008. It will consider country reports from Finland, Iceland, Lithuania, Nigeria, Slovakia, United Kingdom, Tanzania and Yemen. To learn more about the 41st session and to read the country reports, please visit <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws41.htm>

Global Forum on Migration and Development (27 - 30 October 2008)

The second Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is planned for 27 - 30 October 2008 in Manila. This year's theme is *Protecting and Empowering Migrants for Development*. The Ayala Foundation is organising a related Civil Society Meeting from 27 - 28 October.

Before the GFMD, UNIFEM, ILO and UNICEF are planning a Conference on Gender, Migration and Development with the theme: *Seizing Opportunities, Upholding Women Workers' Rights* which will be convened in Manila on 25 - 26 September 2008. To learn more about the GFMD and the Civil Society Meeting, please visit <http://gfmd2008.org>.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

On 08 April, **Inés Alberdi** of Spain was appointed Executive Director of the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). According to the UNIFEM news release announcing her appointment, Inés Alberdi has extensive experience working on "gender issues and in politics". Her academic positions include that of Professor of Sociology at Madrid University and Director for Research at the Centre for Sociological Research. Additionally, she served in the Madrid Assembly as Deputy and has been a member and an advisor of multiple boards and commissions. GAATW welcomes the appointment of Ms. Alberdi and looks forward to working with her.

To view the full news release please visit http://www.unifem.org/news_events/story_detail.php?StoryID=668

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The Netherlands's Ministry of Justice recently announced that it will provide support to trafficking victims who are unwilling or unable to cooperate with law enforcement. While this is a positive step forward, it still does not protect trafficked persons who wish to avoid police contact, because only police have the authority to identify 'a victim of trafficking'. **Bonded Labour in the Netherlands (BLinN) is seeking examples from other countries of identification processes that are undertaken by departments, agencies or organisations other than the police.** Also, BLinN is interested in learning of best practices for establishing and organizing such identification procedures.

Please send responses to Sanne Kroon at s.kroon@blinn.nl with a copy to GAATW at gaatw@gaatw.org.

Advocacy Update



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

May 2008

Welcome to the Advocacy Update for May. In this issue we bring you a special report from the Freedom Network's annual conference *Action through Alliance: Partnerships in Combating Modern Day Slavery* (USA, 23 - 24 April 2008).

We also have an analysis of the HRC'S 1st session of the Universal Periodic Review (7 - 18 April 2008), highlighting how the HRC has addressed the human rights concerns around trafficking and migration.

We also give information about **Upcoming Events** and **Special Announcements** and would like to draw your attention to the **Request for Information** from Ban Ying, a member organization in Germany, which is seeking examples about legal mechanisms that help domestic workers exploited by foreign diplomats.

Please contact amy@gaatw.org with comments or request for additional information about anything in this issue. We look forward to hearing from you!

REPORT FROM THE FREEDOM NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE, APRIL 2008

Jayne Huckerby is Research Director at the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice (CHRGJ) at New York University School of Law. She is the author of the US chapter of GAATW's Collateral Damage. At the request of GAATW, Jayne graciously agreed to present the findings of the Collateral Damage Report at the Freedom Network's annual conference in Decatur, Georgia USA. This is her report:

From April 23-24, 2008, the Freedom Network hosted its annual conference *Action through Alliance: Partnerships in Combating Modern Day Slavery*. The conference was well attended by a variety of actors including government officials, service providers, lawyers and academics. A number of key issues emerged from the panels and workshops including,

- accountability of service providers;
- strategies for standardizing case management/developing best practices models;
- challenges with ensuring that the reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) does not further intertwine the anti-trafficking and anti-prostitution agenda in the U.S.; and
- approaches to meeting the needs of both U.S. citizens who have been trafficked across inter-state borders and the foreign nationals trafficked to the United States.

On the conference's second day, I led a workshop on the main findings of GAATW's *Collateral Damage*, with a particular focus on the human rights impact of U.S. laws and policies in the areas of prosecution, protection and prevention both in the United States and abroad. The audience was very engaged, and it was an interactive session with a number of questions from participants, including:

- how to practically implement the report's recommendations, including monitoring conditions of repatriation and the call for further evidence-led policy-making;
- further information about the reasons for the selection of countries for Collateral Damage;
- reasons why States favor law enforcement model over human rights model;

- the global impact of the U.S. anti-prostitution pledge;
- the approaches taken in the countries surveyed with respect to making assistance for trafficked persons contingent on co-operation with law enforcement;
- sources for the report; and
- the extent to which trafficked persons are encompassed within the definition of a refugee under various domestic systems.

In addition, particular attention was paid to the recommendations in *Collateral Damage* and how groups can participate in GAATW's *Recognise Rights* campaign.

You can learn more about the Freedom Network at <http://www.freedomnetworkusa.org/>.

The HRC 1st Universal Periodic Review (3 - 18 April 2008)

In our last Advocacy Update, we reported that the first ever Universal Periodic Review (UPR) was being undertaken in Geneva at the Human Rights Council (7 - 18 April 2008). A total of 16 countries were reviewed, all current members of the HRC.

16 Countries undergo first-ever Universal Periodic Review

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Algeria | 5. Czech Republic | 9. Indonesia | 13. Poland |
| 2. Argentina | 6. Ecuador | 10. Morocco | 14. South Africa |
| 3. Bahrain | 7. Finland | 11. Netherlands | 15. Tunisia |
| 4. Brazil | 8. India | 12. Philippines | 16. United Kingdom |

The reports from these reviews are now out and it is clear that a very wide range of human rights issues and concerns were discussed. GAATW has prepared a brief overview of how trafficking and migration were presented at the UPR, and drawn out the highlights for all of our advocacy efforts.

A quick review of UPR Procedure...

The UPR is a state-led process where each Government in the world will, every four years, have their entire human rights record opened for review by member states of the Human Rights Council.

For each UPR session, around 16 States are reviewed over a period of two weeks. For each State, a Troika of three other member states from different regional groups is assembled to lead the review process. The Troika is responsible for: considering the reports that the State under review and civil society groups submitted before the UPR session; preparing questions that are given to the State before the review, and then after the session, writing up a report including recommendations made to the State.

The UPR session is held in the HRC and has two parts:

1. **Presentation by the State under review:** The State reports on its human rights situation and can also respond to the advance questions.
2. **Interactive dialogue between the HRC members and the State under review:** This session offers Member States an opportunity to comment, request additional information and ask specific questions to which the State under review can respond.

The State may choose to "support" the conclusions and/or recommendations made to them and agree to take them up, or defer their response to the Human Rights Council eighth session in June. Some States also choose to make "Voluntary Pledges and Commitments" in addition to the Conclusions and/or Recommendations, for example **Argentina** pledged "to recognize the competence of the Committee under the International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families".

It was noted by many NGO observers at the UPR that the general tone of the discussions was congratulatory and supportive of the State under review - probably because the council members knew that their turn would be soon. Many members of civil society were very disappointed with this first session. However, as it is the one place where so many issues are reviewed, it does give us some indication about how trafficking and migration are seen by HRC member states as human rights

concerns.

Trafficking

Trafficking was clearly recognised as a human rights issue by the States under review and the Council members reviewing them, as it was mentioned in many of the sessions (only three states did not have it mentioned at all in any session - [Morocco](#), [South Africa](#), [Tunisia](#)). However, like with other topics addressed during the UPR sessions, the discussions were quite superficial, the level of dialogue on the topic varied country to country, and not all countries discussed trafficking. Specifically:

- Seven of the 16 States ([Argentina](#), [Bahrain](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Ecuador](#), [India](#), [Netherlands](#), and [Philippines](#)) mentioned trafficking during their opening presentation, signifying that it was an important issue for them. The statements from these countries primarily cited adopted or pending anti-trafficking legislation however, rather than looking at human rights concerns for trafficked persons. The [Czech Republic](#) and [India](#) were not later asked any questions during the interactive dialogue about their statements on trafficking.
- Questions about trafficking during the interactive dialogue were asked to 10 countries.
- Seven States then received recommendations on trafficking ([Algeria](#), [Argentina](#), [Brazil](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Ecuador](#), [Netherlands](#), and [Philippines](#)). In general, the recommendations were direct in nature and quite varied. Examples include:
 - [Slovenia](#) called for [Algeria](#) to create domestic criminal offence for trafficking;
 - [Bangladesh](#) recommended that the [Netherlands](#) “address the issue of demand in the destination country”.
 - The [Republic of Korea](#) urged [Argentina](#) to “follow up on measures to combat trafficking in migrants, in particular migrant women”.
 - The [UK](#) urged [Brazil](#) to better evaluate “outcomes of planned activities” in the area of “child and slave labour and impunity for those involved in human trafficking”.

Discussion about trafficking issues sparked very little debate among the Member States, with one noteworthy exception:

- The [Netherlands](#) reaffirming its 2000 policy that lifted the ban on brothels in response to [Egypt's](#) call to reconsider legalizing sex work.

Migration

Migration and migrants rights generated more discussion than trafficking amongst the Member States, but fewer States under review mentioned it in their opening presentation.

- Only five States ([Algeria](#), [Bahrain](#), [Ecuador](#), [Philippines](#), and [Poland](#)) mentioned migrants issues during the opening presentation, again mainly by referencing adopted or pending legislation. The one exception is [Ecuador](#), which provided a brief summary of the country's efforts to protect migrants' rights.
- However, questions about migrants rights were asked to States in 14 of the 16 reviews, indicating that other countries see it as a concern. The majority of these questions came from origin country governments. Only in discussions with [Brazil](#) and [Tunisia](#) was migration or migrants rights never raised.
- Nine States under review received recommendations on migration ([Argentina](#), [Bahrain](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Finland](#), [Morocco](#), [Netherlands](#), [Poland](#), [South Africa](#), and [United Kingdom](#)). Recommendations came primarily from three countries ([Algeria](#), [Egypt](#), and [Mexico](#)). In fact [Mexico's](#) recommendations were included in five of the nine countries Conclusions and/or Recommendations.

Among the most common recommendation on migration was the call to ratify or accede to the [International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families \(ICRMW\)](#). During the [Netherlands](#) interactive dialogue [Guatemala](#) said that all “developed countries should ratify the ICRMW”. [Guatemala](#) was not alone in urging destination countries to ratify the convention; many origin countries ([Algeria](#), [Ecuador](#), [Egypt](#), and [Mexico](#)) repeatedly recommended ratification.

The call to ratify or accede to the Convention was eventually included in five final Conclusions and/or Recommendations, all in Europe ([Czech Republic](#), [Finland](#), [Netherlands](#), [Poland](#), and [United Kingdom](#)). As these were most of the destination countries under review, this is positive and could be followed up by migrants rights organisations. It should be noted that only [Finland](#) actually agreed to

consider this, and the remaining countries said they would respond during the Human Rights Council eighth session in June.

Discussion about migration was sometimes difficult. Some noteworthy exchanges include:

- **Finland** defended its non-ratification of the ICRMW, amidst calls for ratification from five countries (**Algeria, Bolivia, Ecuador, Egypt, and Mexico**) by declaring that it does not think it is necessary. **Finland** was “of the view that the rights of immigrants were covered by existing human rights instruments”. The delegation also stated that migrant workers should not be considered as a separate group, but rather “should in principle enjoy the same rights as the citizens of the country of their destination and should be treated equally”. Still, in the final recommendations **Finland** agreed to consider ratifying ICRMW.
- The **Netherlands** honest response to the question about treatment of ‘illegal’ migrants was that while “certain basic needs are secured ... it would go **too far** to bring the level of access to social rights of illegal migrants to the same level as those of legal migrants”.

Overall, the first UPR session did not break any new ground on trafficking and migration. While the interactive dialogue provided a venue for an active exchange between the State under review and Member States, as with other topics discussed, comments were generic and often congratulatory. Many questions from the Council were left unanswered by the State under review. We hope that the many comments and criticisms expressed following this first round will be taken up by the Council, leading to a more substantive discussion at the second session.

The **second session of the UPR** is going on right now (5 - 19 May 2008). You can find a list of countries under review in our April 2008 Advocacy Update.

GAATW will continue monitoring the UPR sessions, and we would value input from all of you. If you have had the opportunity to contribute to a civil society report, to attend the UPR sessions, or have been involved in another way, please let us know and share your thoughts with us!

UPCOMING EVENTS

The election of 15 members of the Human Rights Council will be held on 21 May 2008.

The human rights council is now three years old, and it is time for new elections. The General Assembly will elect 15 new members to the HRC on May 21. The HRC is comprised of 47 Member States who serve for three year terms. Like last time, all candidates have had to make voluntary pledges about what they will do if they are elected to the Council and these pledges can be good lobbying tools for the future.

The list of candidates includes:

African States (4 vacant seats)	Asian States (4 vacant seats)	Eastern European States (2 vacant seats)	Latin American & Caribbean State (3 vacant seats)	Western European & other States (2 vacant seats)
Burkina Faso	Bahrain	Czech Republic	Argentina	France
Gabon	Japan	Serbia	Brazil	Spain
Ghana	Pakistan	Slovakia	Chile	United Kingdom
Zambia	Republic of Korea	Ukraine		
	Sri Lanka			
	Timor-Leste			

To learn more about the HRC and the election, as well as to see a list of the current members, please visit http://www.un.org/ga/62/elections/hrc_elections.shtml#candidates.

Third session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

The third session of the Universal Periodic Review is scheduled for 1 - 12 December 2008 during which the following Countries will be reviewed.

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Botswana | 5. Barbados | 9. Liechtenstein | 13. Cape Verde |
| 2. Bahamas | 6. Montenegro | 10. Serbia | 14. Colombia |
| 3. Burundi | 7. United Arab Emirates | 11. Turkmenistan | 15. Uzbekistan |
| 4. Luxembourg | 8. Israel | 12. Burkina Faso | 16. Tuvalu |

NGOs are urged to contribute to the UPR process by submitting information for consideration by the Council. For NGOs interested in submitting a document for the 3rd session of UPR, the **deadline is 14 July 2008**. For more information about how NGOs can contribute to the UPR process please visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/NoteNGO.aspx>.

Please let us know if you are planning to contribute to this process and if we can help in any way by emailing amy@gaatw.org.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families** (CMW) held its 8th session from 14 to 25 April 2008 during which Bolivia and Syrian Arab Republic were under review. The CMW reviews the efforts of States that have signed and ratified the Migrant Workers Convention (ICRMW), which at present is only 37 States, all origin countries. To learn more about this session and to read the State Reports and Concluding Observations please visit <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/cmws08.htm>.

The Committee will consider the report of El Salvador during the 9th session, 24 - 28 November 2008.

List of candidates announced for the upcoming CEDAW Committee Elections

The list of 21 candidates for the CEDAW Committee has been announced, four of which are current members of the Committee and are being renominated (Shanthi Dairiam, Magalys Arocha Dominguez, Xiaoqiao Zou and Silvia Pimentel). Of the 23 experts that make up the Committee, 11 of the terms are expiring at the end of this year. The 11 new members will be elected during the 15th meeting of States parties to the Convention in New York on 30 July 2008.

The candidates include:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Fadheela Al-Mahroos (Bahrain) | 12. Madina Jarbussynova (Kazakhstan) |
| 2. Nicole Ameline (France) | 13. Latifa Jbabdim (Morocco) |
| 3. Magalys Arocha Domínguez (Cuba) | 14. Soledad Murillo de la Vega (Spain) |
| 4. Marie Thérèse Avemeka (Republic of Congo) | 15. Marie-Christine Ntagwirumugara (Burundi) |
| 5. Violet Tsisiga Awori (Kenya) | 16. Silvia Pimentel (Brazil) |
| 6. Barbara Evelyn Bailey (Jamaica) | 17. Victoria Popescu (Romania) |
| 7. Mercedes Barquet Montané (Mexico) | 18. Zohra Rasekh (Afghanistan) |
| 8. Niklas Bruun (Finland) | 19. Xiaoqiao Zou (China) |
| 9. Fahima Charafeddine (Lebanon) | 20. Sajida Abdulvahabova (Azerbaijan) |
| 10. Mary Shanthi Dairiam (Malaysia) | 21. Anne-Marie Coriolan (Haiti) |
| 11. Indira Jaising (India) | |

More information about the elections, as well as a list of the current members of the committee, can be found at the OHCHR's website at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/elections.htm>.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The special issue of the abuses faced by domestic workers employed by foreign diplomats, and how to better support the victims of such abuses, has been raised in on several occasions by members organizations that have encountered such cases and tried to support to the workers. However, the immunity that in most cases protects foreign diplomats makes it very difficult to hold them

accountable for their actions and to bring redress and compensation to their victims.

Ban Ying, a member organization in Germany, is seeking examples from other countries of legal mechanisms that help domestic workers exploited by foreign diplomats. Ban Ying has handled similar cases and recognises a need to start collecting information about cases and the mechanisms available. While Ban Ying is especially interested in examples in the European context, they would also like to hear about experiences from other continents.

Please share with us cases, good examples and ideas by sending an email to nerea@gaatw.org, with copy to info@ban-ying.de.

Advocacy Update



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

July 2008

Welcome to the Advocacy Update for July. In this issue we provide a summary of GAATW's letter to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice outlining our concerns about the 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report.

We also give you information about upcoming advocacy opportunities such as the fourth session of the Universal Periodic Review (5 - 16 February 2009), including deadlines for stakeholders to submit reports, and the Secretary General's report on Resolution 61/144 (trafficking in women and girls) to the General Assembly.

We also have a Special Announcement about the upcoming appointment of the new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Please contact @gaatw.org with comments or request for additional information about anything in this issue. We look forward to hearing from you!

GAATW RESPONDS TO THE 2008 TIP REPORT

GAATW issues letter expressing concerns about the 2008 U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report and offering recommendations for future reports

15 July 2008. GAATW submitted a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice expressing concerns such as how the:

- lack of human rights impact assessment of anti-trafficking measures hinders full understanding of the trafficking situation;
- Conflation of trafficking with prostitution leads to harmful anti-trafficking policies; and
- Lack of proper reference or citation for research and statistics undermines the credibility of the TIP Report.

Furthermore, we noted the desire of the U.S. government's to focus more on the exploitation element of trafficking rather than the movement. This is an important development that will hopefully shift the discourse away from an overemphasis on punitive border control as a way to combat trafficking towards the eradication of exploitative working conditions. Still, we are worried that the U.S. may use this shift in policy to further their anti-prostitution position. In the letter, GAATW strongly urged the U.S. not to use this as a means to equate all sex work with trafficking and recommended that they distinguish between forced and voluntary sex work in its definition of trafficking.

Additionally, the letter offered concrete recommendations such as the need to:

- Incorporate an impact assessment of anti-trafficking policies and practices as part of the criteria for the TIP Report, including inter alia:
 - the impact of these policies and practices, especially that on the human rights of migrants and sex workers;
 - the ineffectiveness of conditional assistance;
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 - the impact of punitive migration policies.
- Use an evidence-based approach when assessing anti-trafficking measures.

- Reassess the U.S. government's position on the links between prostitution and trafficking. Examine the adverse affects the zero-tolerance prostitution policy is having upon those most vulnerable to trafficking.

To read the letter please visit:

http://www.gaatw.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=410&Itemid=200.

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The fourth session of the Universal Periodic Review is scheduled for 5 - 16 February 2009 during which the following Countries will be reviewed.

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NGOs are urged to contribute to the UPR process by submitting information for consideration by the Council. For NGOs interested in submitting a document for the 4th session of UPR the deadlines are listed below.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

- **1 September 2008** for Cameroon, Djibouti, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, Bangladesh, China and Jordan
- **8 September 2008** for Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, Mexico, Canada, Germany, Russian Federation and Azerbaijan.

To learn more about the UPR submission process please visit:

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Please let us know if you are planning to contribute to this process and if we can help in any way by emailing @gaatw.org.

General Assembly Report on Resolution 61/144 (trafficking in women and girls).

During its 61st session, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 61/144 on trafficking in women girls. This resolution highlighted how factors that make women and girls uniquely vulnerable to trafficking and offered recommendations for action to be taken up by governments, IGOs and NGOs. Furthermore it requested that the Secretary-General to issue a report of the successes and challenges of the Resolution during the coming 63rd session (beginning September 2008). This is an excellent advocacy opportunity for our members! GAATW expects to provide comments and recommendations on how to improve Resolution 61/144 and its implementation and we need your input!

To learn more about how you can be involved please email: @gaatw.org. We welcome your thoughts and comments and will keep you updated on the progress.

To read Resolution 61/144, please visit

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N06/503/07/PDF/N0650307.pdf?OpenElement>.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Louise Arbour steps down as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

On 30 June 2008 Louise Arbour stepped down at end of her first four-year term as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. She announced her intentions to leave during the 7th session of the Human Rights Council in March. Successors are currently being considered (see below). Ms. Arbour is a Canadian Supreme Court Justice who prior to being appointed as UN High Commissioner was a

prosecutor of UN war crimes tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. She succeeded Sergio Vieira de Mello, who was killed in a terrorist attack in Baghdad in 2003.

To read to the press release announcing her departure please visit:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=25899&Cr=arbour&Cr1=>.

Four candidates selected as possible successors to Louise Arbour

According to the Human Rights Tribune, four names have been selected as possible successors:

- **Louis Alfonso de Alba** of Mexico, the former President of the Human Rights Council and Mexico's Ambassador in Geneva;
- **Navanethem Pillay** of South Africa, currently a judge at the ICC (International Criminal Court) and a former defense attorney for political prisoners during apartheid;
- **Francis Deng** of Sudan, currently a UN special advisor for the prevention of genocide; and
- **José Ramos Horta**, a Nobel Peace Prize winner and President of East Timor.

Louis Alfonso de Alba of Mexico and **Navanethem Pillay** of South Africa are said to be favoured by Ban Ki-Moon, who will announce his choice to the UN General Assembly.

Advocacy Update



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

September 2008

Welcome to the Advocacy Update for September! This is a bumper issue due to staff changes in the Secretariat in recent months. We said a sad goodbye to Amy Bain who has returned to the US in August, and now give a warm welcome to Caroline Hames who is joining us in coming months.

Two topics are highlighted in this issue:

1. **GAATW's letter to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice** - we give a summary outlining our concerns about the 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report.
2. **An update on the 9th HRC session.** GAATW advocacy staff attended to meet with the new Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, and see her give her first report. This includes information about a funding opportunity for small NGOs.

We also give you information about upcoming advocacy opportunities such as the **fourth session of the Universal Periodic Review** (5 - 16 February 2009), including deadlines for stakeholders to submit reports, and the **Secretary General's report on Resolution 61/144** (trafficking in women and girls) to the General Assembly.

We also have a **Special Announcement** about the upcoming appointment of the new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Please contact eleanor@gaatw.org with comments or request for additional information about anything in this issue. We look forward to hearing from you!

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We also noted the U.S. government's desire to focus more on exploitation than the movement of persons into trafficking. This is development will hopefully shift the anti-trafficking discourse away from punitive border control measures towards the eradication of exploitative working conditions. Still, we are worried that the U.S. may use this shift in policy to further their anti-prostitution position. In the letter, GAATW strongly urged the U.S. not to use this as a means to equate all sex work with trafficking and recommended that they distinguish between forced and voluntary sex work in their definition of trafficking.

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Ms Shahinian noted the importance of the post and outlined her focus themes for the next 3 years:

- a.) Forced Labour
- b.) Child Labour
- c.) Domestic Work.

Her reasons for choosing these themes were their global nature and that they are specific to her mandate. She noted the importance of a gender perspective and also said that her role was very complex because slavery overlaps with so many other human rights violations.

In discussions between GAATW and the SR, and in her presentation of the report to the HRC, Ms Shahinian stated that she will coordinate with other mandate holders such as the SR on trafficking in persons; the SR on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the SR on violence against women. She also said that she intended to consult regularly with National Human Rights Institutions, civil society and intergovernmental organizations.

Ms Shahinian also wishes to document examples of best practice and raise awareness about contemporary forms of slavery, exchanging knowledge during country visits and taking action in relation to allegations of slavery. Upcoming calendar of visits:

- Global Forum on Migration and Development, October 2008
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- Country visit to **Brazil**, early 2009

Responses from Governments

The majority of governments at offered their support and welcomed Ms. Shahinian's report. Some, however expressed concern, notably Egypt on behalf of the Africa Group and Pakistan on behalf of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, that Ms Shahinian's plans do not include reporting on prostitution during her mandate. They said she is failing to follow on the work of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, which her post was designed to replace, especially its consideration of "forced prostitution and its human rights dimensions". Ms Shahinian is independent and does not take instructions from States, but she might expect criticism from these governments in future if she sticks to her plans.

Recognising the links with trafficking, Israel and Argentina noted the importance of the post for trafficking citing various trafficking related initiatives their countries have recently taken.

NGO Responses

Several organizations, notably Anti-Slavery International and Franciscans International, campaigned strongly for the creation of this mandate to replace the former Working Group. They hoped that it would give greater prominence to slavery issues in the Council. In their response to her report, Franciscans International welcomed Ms Shahinian's approach and asked if she would consider charting best practices and drawing up model agreements for governments, she stated that her role was to put pressure on governments to draw up their own agreements not to write them for them.

In discussions with Ms Shahinian GAATW noted that we have many hopes for this mandate, and that we are in support of the three thematic areas that she has outlined, especially the domestic workers. We hope that she will look at the impact of anti-slavery and anti-trafficking policies on individuals, as well bringing attention to emerging issues.

The UN Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

On Tuesday 9 September, the new SR on Contemporary Forms of Slavery held a side event with the UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. The UN Trust Fund worked closely with the former Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, and funded NGOs to travel to Geneva to meet with the Group. The Fund welcomed the new SR and discussed new ways of collaborating, including possible regular meetings between the SR and NGOs.

Background: The fund was established by the General Assembly in 1991 to offer grants to NGOs dealing with slavery to meet with the former Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and to offer "humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals who are victims of such violations." The Fund is administered through a Board of Trustees of five members.' (source OHCHR). Mr David Weissbrodt, an internationally acclaimed expert in slavery is the Chair of the Fund.

The Fund Offers small grants of up to \$15,000 to NGOs who can show that they provide either:

- direct assistance to individuals whose human rights have been violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery.
- indirect assistance to victims through prevention measures and training.

"Contemporary forms of slavery" includes trafficking in persons, as well as forced labour, debt bondage, serfdom, child labour and child servitude. For more information see:
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The new SR described her areas of future focus during her mandate:

- better understanding of types of violence against children and contributory factors;
- Implementation of a comprehensive child protection system;
- Effective cooperation at all levels.

She also decided to focus on three themes that previous post holders have said need more research: Child pornography; The sale of children's organs; The sale of children for adoption.

The two new Special Rapporteurs present their reports: (l) Ms. Najat Maala M'Jid, (centre) Ms. Gulnara Shahinian.

General Assembly Report on Trafficking in Women and Girls, August 2008. In the June 2008 issue, we flagged that the GA President would issue a report on State's efforts to implement GA Resolution 61/144. This resolution urged states to take more action to combat trafficking. This report is now out and can be downloaded at:
<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/449/61/PDF/N0844961.pdf?OpenElement>.

The Report, based on survey responses from governments, is generally congratulatory and unrevealing, but it does recommend that more needs to be done. In respect to assistance, the GA urges states that "Measures to protect and support victims, including the granting of residence permits or stays, should be unconditional and independent of a victim's ability or willingness to assist in the investigation or prosecution of offenders." Great!

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The fourth Conference of Parties is being held between 8 and 17 October 2008 in Vienna. The Conference will address trafficking on the 13th and 14th October. On these days, States will present the efforts they have made to implement the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children. NGOs have been invited to join in an NGO 'fair day' to promote their work, and may also attend and observe at the plenary sessions.

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GAATW made a submission to the office of the President in June, in the lead up to this report. We are very pleased to see that, although the Report is quite congratulatory of states' efforts, it does recommend that more needs to be done. In respect to assistance, the GA reflects one of our specific concerns, that "Measures to protect and support victims, including the granting of residence permits or stays, should be unconditional and independent of a victim's ability or willingness to assist in the investigation or prosecution of offenders."

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Octubre 2008

¡Bienvenid@s a la edición de octubre de "Incidencias Actualizadas"!

Este mes os informamos acerca de la recientemente celebrada 4ta Conferencia de los Estados Partes de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas contra el Crimen Organizado Transnacional y sus protocolos (UNTOC), incluyendo el Protocolo para la Prevención, Supresión y Castigo de la Trata de Personas, Especialmente Mujeres y Niños.

Tres colegas del Secretariado y cuatro miembros pudieron asistir a esta Conferencia, encontrarse con sus gobiernos y ejercer presión para una mayor protección de los Derechos Humanos de las personas Tratadas. Uno de los ocho días de la conferencia fue dedicado a una discusión acerca de la Trata de Seres Humanos, específicamente la protección de víctimas y testigos.

El asunto principal de discusión fue si acaso se necesita un mecanismo de Monitoreo más formal para alentar a los Estados a implementar el Protocolo. Esta podría ser una oportunidad potencial para las ONG de comprometerse con sus gobiernos para la implementación del Protocolo, aunque deberíamos observar el mecanismo de revisión que sea propuesto.

Lea abajo para más información acerca de la Conferencia y los resultados.

Contacte a caroline@gaatw.org para hacer comentarios o para pedir información adicional acerca de esta edición. Esperamos oír de vosotr@s.

*Traducido gracias a la colaboración de Marina Herman

CONFERENCIA DE REVISIÓN DE LA CONVENCION SOBRE CRIMEN ORGANIZADO TRANSNACIONAL

La GAATW asistió al Cuarto Periodo de Sesiones de la Conferencia de las Partes de UNTOC, Viena, 8-17 octubre 2008.

De acuerdo con la Convención, los miembros de la UNDOC se deben encontrar cada dos años para "mejorar la capacidad de los Estados Parte de combatir el crimen transnacional organizado" y para promover y criticar la implementación" de la Convención por parte de los Estados Parte. Este encuentro, llevado a cabo en las oficinas de las Naciones Unidas en Viena, es conocido como La Conferencia de los Estados Parte.

El staff de la GAATW asistió a esta conferencia con miembros de la GAATW: la señora Nelia Sancho, representante de la Fundación Buhay para Mujeres y Niños de las Filipinas; la señora Vichuta LY, representante de Apoyo Legal para Mujeres y Niños (LSWC) de Camboya; la señora Andreza Smith de Sodireitos, Brasil; y la señora Marieke Van Doorninck de La Strada Internacional en Los Países bajos.

Además de tener un foco internacional, la Conferencia es una excelente oportunidad de comprometerse con los gobiernos nacionales, la sociedad civil y el staff de las Naciones Unidas que trabajan contra la Trata, y discutir sobre los pasos hacia un enfoque basado en los Derechos

Humanos en países determinados. Los miembros de la GAATW hicieron dos intervenciones en la reunión: una acerca de “Daño Colateral” y la otra acerca de un Mecanismo de Monitoreo. También organizamos junto a Anti-Slavery Internacional y La Strada Internacional un evento paralelo acerca de un posible mecanismo de Monitoreo, Tanto Nelia como Marieke expusieron en este evento (vea más abajo).

Más aun, los representantes de la GAATW pudieron establecer relación con representantes de la sociedad civil, que trabajan en otros asuntos de UNTOC y sus Protocolos, tales como Transparencia Internacional (la cual trabaja sobre la corrupción) y Cadena de Acción Internacional en Pequeñas Armas (International Action Networks on Small Arms).

Para ver documentos relacionados con la Conferencia, visite:

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

DISCUSIÓN DEL PROTOCOLO SOBRE LA TRATA

El día 13 de octubre hubo una consulta de expertos sobre la implementación del Protocolo sobre la Trata de Personas.

El Secretariado de la UNDOC abrió la discusión formulando las siguientes preguntas:

- ¿Qué hechos podrían mejorar la gravedad de los casos?
- ¿Cuáles son las mejores prácticas que existen para agravar o atenuar las circunstancias y apoyar a las víctimas y testigos para que testifiquen?
- ¿Qué enfoques podrían ser adoptados para aquellas víctimas que han cometido delitos como resultado o durante su situación de Trata o enfoques para asegurar que el procesamiento no recaiga solamente en el testimonio de la víctima?
- ¿Que regula la indemnización de personas Tratadas por daños y perjuicios?
- Finalmente, ¿qué herramientas prácticas podrían ayudar con el procesamiento de la Trata?

Las respuestas de los Estados incluyeron las siguientes sugerencias:

- Nigeria resaló la necesidad de entrenar a la policía en la lucha contra la Trata.
- Alemania afirmó en el 2005 ampliaron su definición de la Trata para incluir la privación de la libertad. Han establecido un grupo de coordinación nacional sobre la Trata que se reúne cuatro veces al año para estudiar las tendencias en la Trata de personas. En el 2007, aumentaron la cooperación entre la policía y servicios de orientación y crearon un entrenamiento estandarizado para los distintos grupos de profesionales.
- Noruega notó que el Protocolo de la Trata de Seres Humanos los ha forzado a observar el lado de la demanda en la Trata y la necesidad de proteger a las víctimas en vez de criminalizar los servicios sexuales, es importante abrir una discusión sobre estos temas.
- Egipto aseguró que han criminalizado la prostitución, pornografía, extirpación de órganos (con o sin consentimiento) y la pornografía infantil. Su legislación sobre la Trata está orientada a la Trata de niños, niñas y adolescentes, y hay una ley aparte para las mujeres.
- La CE aseguró que están completando un acuerdo de 3 millones de euros con las Naciones Unidas para implementar los protocolos de la UNTOC en la Unión Europea.
- Japón afirmó que han reforzado sus controles sobre la inmigración para prevenir la Trata. Además han enmendado el Código Penal para criminalizar la Trata de Seres Humanos.
- Suiza pidió una definición más clara de ‘explotación’ en el Protocolo de la Trata de Seres Humanos, cuestionando si se refiere a explotación laboral o sexual.
- Cuba mencionó su oposición al informe TIP de los Estados Unidos, el cual sienten que clasifica a los Estados injustamente.
- Venezuela considera que la clave para combatir el crimen organizado son las medidas de prevención.

Durante la consulta de expertos sobre la protección de víctimas y testigos hubieron intervenciones de:

- Sudáfrica, la cual aseguró que tienen órdenes de protección temporaria de 14 días, tiempo durante el cual un análisis de amenazas es llevado a cabo y después de este lapso de tiempo implementan una respuesta basada en la víctima. Notaron el desafío de hacer un balance entre las necesidades del Estado y sus recursos con los derechos de la víctima.
- Alemania aseguró que un abogado está presente en todas las entrevistas a las víctimas si es que así ella lo desea y que la policía está obligada a dar detalles acerca de los servicios de asistencia.
- Francia notó que los programas de protección son muy importantes así como la cooperación con las ONG. Las víctimas no deberían ser solo valoradas por sus testimonios si no por su condición de seres humanos. No deben ser criminalizadas.
- Finalmente el Reino Unido estableció que las víctimas deben sentirse empoderadas.

EXITO! MECANISMO DE MONITOREO DEL PROTOCOLO CONTRA LA TRATA!

Porque un nuevo Mecanismo de Monitoreo...

Revisar si y como la Convención y los Protocolos han sido implementados es esencial para asegurar que los países estén actuando consistentemente y estén haciendo progresos en sus esfuerzos de combatir crímenes organizados como la Trata.

La Conferencia bianual fue establecida en parte para hacer esta clase de revisión, como las mencionadas previamente. Se utilizaron métodos tales como el envío de un cuestionario preparatorio a los Estados Parte, promoviendo discusiones abiertas en las reuniones plenarias, y organizando grupos de trabajo para la discusión de asuntos técnicos específicos.

Desafortunadamente, muy pocos Estados se molestaron en devolver los cuestionarios, y las sesiones plenarias fueron utilizadas principalmente como un foro para los Estados hablar de sus logros. El rol de la sociedad civil está limitado a actuar como observadores de las sesiones plenarias -no podemos responder los cuestionarios y estamos excluidos de los grupos de trabajo.

Las ONGs e inclusive algunos Estados han encontrado la Conferencia frustrante e inefectiva. Se ha considerado que un mecanismo más claro y formal para evaluar la implementación de los Estados debería ser desarrollado. Desde la perspectiva de la GAATW, esto sería útil si pudiera proveer una oportunidad de reflexionar sobre el impacto de iniciativas anti-Trata y ampliar la discusión a más que la aplicación de la ley.

Discusiones en la Conferencia

El 9 de octubre la Conferencia sostuvo una sesión plenaria para debatir si se necesita un mecanismo de Monitoreo más fuerte. El staff de la GAATW asistió a este debate con el status de observadores. El punto culminante se esta sesión fue una propuesta, hecha por las delegaciones argentinas y noruegas, para el establecimiento de un mecanismo de revisión de la UNTOC y sus Protocolos.

¡La propuesta conjunta de Argentina y Noruega de un Mecanismo de Revisión fue adoptada por la Conferencia de las Partes el 17 de octubre! Esto significa que durante el 2009 un grupo de expertos se reunirá para discutir las distintas opciones de monitoreo. Presentarán sus recomendaciones en la próxima Conferencia en 2010. Sin embargo, no está claro a esta altura que rol la sociedad civil puede tener en estas negociaciones.

Evento paralelo de ONGs

La GAATW junto con La Strada Internacional y Anti-Slavery International presentaron una perspectiva de la sociedad civil sobre el concepto de mecanismo de revisión en el evento paralelo del día 13 de octubre: "Un mecanismo de revisión para el Protocolo de la Trata de Seres Humanos". Más de 80 personas asistieron, incluyendo representantes de al menos 17 Estados tales como India, Canadá, Noruega, Turquía, Alemania, Sudáfrica, Nigeria, México, Zimbabwe, Malasia, Polonia, Argentina y

Austria.

Tres expositores realizaron presentaciones, las cuales fueron seguidas por discusiones. Nelia Sancho -un miembro de la Junta Directiva de la GAATW- habló sobre la necesidad de un mecanismo de revisión independiente y objetivo. La señora Gillian Dell de Transparencia Internacional habló sobre el nuevo mecanismo piloto de revisión de la Convención hermana de la UNTOC, la Convención contra la Corrupción, y sobre el rol de la sociedad civil en el mismo. Finalmente, Marieke Van Doorninck de La Strada Internacional presentó nuestras recomendaciones acerca de lo que un mecanismo de revisión debería incluir. Estamos agradecidos con la señorita Gillian Dell por compartir su aptitud, a UNDOC y Tim Lemay, Jefe de la Sección de Gobernanza, Seguridad Humana y Norma de la Ley en UNDOC por facilitar la discusión.

Los exponentes argumentaron que un mecanismo de revisión apropiado no solo podría mejorar la implementación de la Convención sino que además sería parte vital del éxito del Tratado, así como lo demuestran otros ejemplos de Tratados. Sin embargo, fuimos cautelosos en no apoyar ningún mecanismo de revisión específico. Un mecanismo débil y opaco podría potencialmente tener un impacto negativo, excluyendo aun más a la sociedad civil y arraigando un enfoque poco amplio como el de la aplicación de la ley.

¿Cómo debería ser un Mecanismo de Monitoreo o Revisión?

En la Declaración que distribuimos las tres organizaciones en la Conferencia, propugnamos a los Estados a tener en cuenta las siguientes recomendaciones para cualquier mecanismo de revisión:

1. **Compromiso de la Sociedad Civil:** Creemos que muchas organizaciones de la sociedad civil tienen aptitud en las áreas cubiertas por UNTOC, por lo cual proveerían ideas importantes acerca de la implementación de la Convención. Más aun, las opiniones alternativas presentadas por la sociedad civil acerca de las acciones de Estados particulares pueden ser catalizadores esenciales para el cambio.
2. **Revisión de la implementación y el impacto de la implementación:** Pedimos un proceso de revisión que considere hasta qué punto los Estados están implementando UNTOC y cuán lejos las medidas adoptadas se adecuan a sus objetivos. Esto nos permitiría incluir los principios de Derechos Humanos y el impacto de la implementación sobre las personas Tratadas.
3. **Un programa de visitas a los países:** Sentimos que esto debe ser incluido en cualquier mecanismo de revisión para asegurar que los informes de los países conlleve una amplia variedad de tomadores de decisiones y representantes, especialmente ONG e Instituciones nacionales de Derechos Humanos.
4. **Expertos independientes:** Al estudiar otros mecanismos de revisión, sentimos que un comité de expertos podrá asistir el proceso de reportes y podría proveer una ayuda vital para los Estados cumplir con sus obligaciones de informar.
5. **Financiación sostenida:** La financiación, idealmente proveniente del presupuesto regular de las Naciones Unidas, es requerida para el éxito de cualquier mecanismo de revisión.

OPORTUNIDADES DE INCIDENCIA

Ahora que los gobiernos han decidido considerar un mecanismo de revisión, también debemos hacer algunos razonamientos:

- ¿Es importante para nosotros evaluar la implementación del Protocolo de Palermo?
- Si es así, ¿Cuál sería el mejor mecanismo para asegurar una implementación efectiva? ¿Cómo podrían las ONG nacionales tener la participación más efectiva?
- ¿Cómo podemos asegurar que un mecanismo guarda lugar para que las ONG jueguen un rol crítico y constructivo en la implementación por parte de ciertos Estados?

Dentro de los próximos meses estaremos sosteniendo estas discusiones entre nosotr@s y vosotr@s. ¡Por favor envíennos sus opiniones!

RECONOZCAN DERECHOS DEL PROTOCOLO CONTRA LA TRATA

Durante la Conferencia de Viena, la GAATW circulo una Declaración y habló en plenario acerca de conclusiones de nuestro informe de 2007, 'Daño Colateral': el impacto de los Derechos Humanos en iniciativas anti-Trata a lo largo del mundo. Quisimos resaltar la obligación de los Estados parte de implementar el Protocolo con entero respeto por los Derechos Humanos de las personas Tratadas (Artículo 2). Los puntos clave en nuestra declaración fueron:

- **Prevención:** medidas restrictivas y represivas llevadas a cabo por los Estados para limitar la inmigración, a menudo restringen derechos fundamentales como la libertad de movimiento y el derecho a no ser discriminado. Pedimos a los Estados que reconozcan la conexión entre la Trata y la migración y que tomen acciones para mejorar la protección laboral y las oportunidades de migración legales.
- **Protección:** evocamos con fuerte preocupación el hecho de que si la asistencia y protección que se ofrece a las personas Tratadas es de forma condicional, los Estados fallan en cumplir con el artículo 6 del Protocolo y en prevenir que la Trata ocurra nuevamente.
- **Procesamiento:** Establecimos como nuestras conclusiones demuestran que el acceso a la justicia de personas Tratadas universalmente es casi nulo, por lo cual pedimos a los Estados que aseguren que las personas tratadas tengan acceso a una restitución e indemnización por las violaciones de Derechos Humanos que han sufrido.

Advocacy Update



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

November 2008

Welcome to the Advocacy Update for November! It includes:

1. An update on the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD)
2. US President-elect Obama and TIP report possibilities
3. CEDAW General Recommendation 26 on Women Migrant Workers
4. Upcoming events: ASEAN People's Forum, 3rd UPR.

Our main focus for this month is the frenzied, varied and inspiring activities which took place in Manila around the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD). Official events took place between 27-30 October and parallel events organised by NGOs and trade unions went on between 19-30 October. We bring you reports from the official CSO days and the parallel events and some feedback from GAATW members who attended.

We acknowledge the efforts and energy of GAATW board members and member organisations who worked with the secretariat to make our voices heard at the GFMD, including AMUMRA, ATKI-HK and Jakarta, Buhay Foundation for Women and the Girl Child, CWCC, Sintrasedom, Solidaritas Perempuan, TWC2 and WOREC.

A staff member of the GAATW IS attended the official Civil Society days on behalf of the Alliance. In addition, GAATW actively participated in the rich dialogue and meetings that took place among civil society organisations outside of the formal event. IS-organized events/actions included:

- An International Forum on Collateral Damage
- A workshop on the Recognize Rights Campaign
- A consultation with the Special Rapporteur (SR) on Contemporary forms of Slavery, its causes and consequences and the SR on the Human Rights of Migrants (coorganised with CARAM Asia and the Asia Pacific Forum for Women Law and Development)
- A statement for the event which was supported by 30 members

More about these below!

As ever your thoughts and impressions are key, please don't hesitate to contact us with ideas, questions, criticisms or additions.

Please contact caroline@gaatw.org with comments or request for additional information about anything in this issue. We look forward to hearing from you!

GLOBAL FORUM FOR MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The second ever GFMD took place in Manila this year. The first GFMD took place in 2007 in Brussels. It is an event primarily for governments to discuss migration-related issues, and is intended to be informal, non-binding, multilateral and state-led. It is thus not connected to the UN (as was originally hoped). The stated aim of the GFMD is to 'address the migration and development interconnections in practical and action-oriented ways'.



GAATW lantern making workshop

The GFMD offers very limited access, weight or time to civil society. Civil society is not allowed to attend the government session of the GFMD. Therefore, an official CSO meeting of two-days was created.

with an additional half a day committed to interaction with state representatives.

However, we feel that there were productive outcomes from such a large gathering of NGOs, trade unions and grassroots organizations focused on migrants' rights and migration issues.

GAATW Statement to the GFMD

The GAATW statement to GFMD presented our position regarding the organized GFMD roundtables on protecting the rights of migrants and on managing migration and minimizing the negative impacts of irregular migration.

The statement, which followed GAATW's approach to trafficking and migration from a human rights perspective, made three requests:

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

After circulation to all members 30 signed it and we found it a useful tool for presenting GAATW's position at GFMD. We also used it to lobby the governments of Australia, the Netherlands, Venezuela, the US and the Philippines. Furthermore we provided copies to the SRs on Migration and on Slavery.

GFMD - Official Civil Society Days

The two official GFMD CSO Days included plenary discussion and development of recommendations. The agenda of the two days followed the agenda of the State's meeting. The organisers provided external 'experts' who gave presentations at the outset of each session. This structure did not leave much time for debate, **CSOs did manage to raise some important topics during these days including:**

1. The global Recession and its impact on the labour market
2. State ratification of the Migrant Workers Convention and ILO Conventions 97, 143, 181
3. The portability of social security
4. The human rights impact of the EU Return Directive
5. The over-reliance on remittances for economic growth
6. The recognition of domestic work as work
7. The upcoming ILO Convention on domestic work
8. The prevention of criminalization of undocumented workers
9. The creation of channels for regular migration
10. Placing the GFMD back in a UN framework
11. The need for labour laws which protect migrants and offer access to redress
12. Critique that temporary migration programmes do not maintain health, education, social security rights
13. The regulation of recruitment

Trafficking was frequently mentioned, but both States and 'experts' mistakenly equated trafficking with irregular migration. The suggested response to this problem was stricter border enforcement and migration management, even involving detention and deportation, without considering the human rights implications of such actions.

Other topics which elicited debate included:

Temporary channels for migration

- States and 'experts' believed that circular migration provided opportunities for migrants.
- CSOs stated that temporary programmes rarely provide migrants with realization of rights to health care, social security or access to justice and do not lead to the 'development' that GFMD is trying to promote. This is because migrants do not have the opportunity to learn a

skill well if they must return in one or two years.

- There was also concern that while some States may offering more channels for legal migration this might be coupled with stricter enforcement of migration laws.

Human Rights

Human rights was added to the agenda of GFMD this year, but it was optional for Governments to attend these sessions. Human rights protection was also described mainly in an instrumentalist manner (for achieving more efficient migration and higher production) rather than as a general obligation.

GFMD Process

As in 2007, civil society organisations raised a number of concerns about the transparency of selection processes for GFMD events, for example:

- The selection of delegates to the official CSO Days
- The selection of the 17 CSO delegates who attended part of the Government Days and presented the CSO recommendations
- The selection of 'experts' who gave papers at most CSO day sessions. The majority of them were academics and generally promoted the government-set agendas for the Forum

In all cases, it was unclear how the selections were made and several activists were disappointed that few migrants themselves were included.

A half-day was given for the 17 CSOs to dialogue with the governments, but the 17 delegates returned expressing some frustration. They said that few government representatives attended and those that did attend did not discuss the CSO recommendations in a meaningful way or engage on policy issues. Many CSOs called for a full day of CSO-Government engagement next year.

Comments from a GAATW member:

John Gee (TWC2):

"In general, the subjects of the different sessions were thought out well. They were something of a compromise between a governmental perspective focused on the management of migration and development and an NGO one that was more concerned with issues of migrants' rights and benefits for migrants and their families and communities. [...] participation of people from an NGO background in panels and the questions raised from the floor helped to project NGO concerns. They brought in a stronger grasp of practical issues and developments on the ground.

[...] it would have been good to see more of a governmental presence there. To the extent that there were governments represented, they were mostly people who were pretty sympathetic, and we need to see how we can engage some of the people we are going to disagree with much more. [...]

We need to find allies at the governmental level who will do things like meet for briefings, and raise matters from the GFMD-CSO session in the course of their own contributions.

[...] I suspect that if NGOs do decide that it is worth working on this in the future, one plank of our engagement has to be with home governments over an extended period of time, seeking to promote certain inputs, obtain commitments to support particular undertakings. It's a huge job, though!"

Parallel events organized by civil society

As just 230 CSOs were represented at official GFMD CSO days, groups formed outside official events, both to protest their exclusion from the official process and to raise issues that would not otherwise have been raised in this fora.

GAATW members and IS staff attended both the People's Global Action (PGA) and the International Assembly of Migrants and Refugees (IAMR) parallel events.

The People's Global Action (PGA) parallel events, held from 22-30 October, were convened to provide a space for voices that were not allowed inside the official GFMD, as there are only limited spaces in the official days.

GAATW played a part in the International Working Group for the PGA. GAATW members and IS attended and were impressed by the energy and diversity of PGA events.

The PGA events started before the GFMD, enabling NGOs and Trade Unions to propose Recommendations to GFMD. Trade unions were heavily involved in the PGA, and brought together nine global trade unions for two days of meetings. GAATW co-organised a seminar called Organising Undocumented Migrant Workers with the union *Building and Woodworkers International*. Ms. Jackie Pollock from the Migrant Assistance Program in Thailand, and long-time GAATW ally, spoke at the seminar.



IMA chair, Eni Lestari.

The International Assembly of Migrants and Refugees (IAMR) parallel events operated in direct protest to the GFMD. Organised by the International Migrants Alliance (IMA), IAMR took a strong stance, denouncing the GFMD as talking about migrants, their rights, and migration and development, without migrants being part of the discussion. Their other critique was of governments using migrants as instruments of development through remittances and thus shifting the development burden from governments to migrants.

The IAMR consisted of a mixture of plenary sessions and workshops, a rally and strategizing for next years' GFMD. Grassroots migrants groups were present at both workshops and in plenary. Participants emphasised the strong links between the labour and migrant rights movements, and also had interesting discussions about women's empowerment and migration.

GAATW events at GFMD

GAATW's International Forum on Collateral Damage, held on 23 October, brought together more than 75 people.

These included migrant domestic workers; GAATW member organizations from Indonesia, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Colombia, Philippines; the UN Special Rapporteur on Slavery; and representatives from embassies (Australia, USA, Netherlands, Venezuela, Cuba), trade unions, the Philippines Foreign Affairs & other government agencies working on trafficking & migration, ILO, Save the Children, Asia Acts, local and regional NGOs, and media.

Four speakers presented different aspects of the human rights impact of anti-trafficking policies, focusing on the findings and recommendations in Collateral Damage.

The audience asked many questions about the recommendations, migration policies and some specific issues in the Philippines. The UNSR on Slavery also gave a strong closing statement, commended Collateral Damage and noted her commitment to using a human rights approach in her work.

The Recognise Rights campaign workshop was held on 27 October and focused on informing participants about the campaign and ways in which GAATW members are campaigning on human rights issues. Participants discussed creative strategies for campaigning on the protection of rights, and decorated lanterns with Rights messages for a parade.

For more information on the campaign events, please see GAATW's October e-bulletin or contact zoe@gaatw.org

Meeting with UN Special Rapporteurs

GAATW, along with APWLD and CARAM Asia, co-organised a Joint Regional Consultation with the UN Special Rapporteurs Dr. Jorge Bustamante (SR on Human Rights of Migrants) and Ms. Gulnara Shahinian (SR on Contemporary Forms of Slavery) which has held on 23-25 October 2008.

The event involved more than 60 participants, from 26 countries, 6 GAATW member organisations participated: AMUMRA, ATKI-Hong Kong (and ATKI-Jakarta), Buhay Foundation, Sintrasedom, Solidaritas Perempuan, and TWC2.

Domestic Workers gave strong statements on the issues that they are facing, particularly human rights violations that result from repressive migration policies. Participants discussed the vulnerability of women to exploitation where they are seeking employment as domestic workers in countries abroad where domestic work is not recognised as work.

45 strategies and recommendations to address key issues impacting domestic workers, improve relationships with the UNSRs, and to Promote, Advance and Strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers were identified. Recommendations provided concrete areas for future advocacy with governments.

The UNSR on Slavery, Gulnara Shahinian, spoke to many domestic workers present at the event and noted that she would include recommendations made into her report. The UNSR on Migrants, Jorge Bustamante, emphasised the need to focus on child labour and providing accurate statistics or data on issues of migration. He spoke out about the EU Directive and the need for united action by NGOs and migrant workers against it, highlighting the extension of detention for irregular migrants in the Directive as a specific concern.

Overall, the Consultation was a great success. GAATW and co-organisers wish to express our thanks to the Special Rapporteurs for making the time to meet with the participants, and to the many domestic workers who shared their experiences and expectations during the Consultation.

The next GFMD will be in Greece in November 2009. We will keep you updated as the plans progress.

Advocacy Opportunities

US PRESIDENT ELECT OBAMA - a new lobbying era?

This November the world watched as Barack Obama was elected 44th President of the United States of America. With a strong Presidential mandate, and a Congress under Democratic control, many avenues for negotiation on policies established by the current administration have opened up.

An area where GAATW-IS believes it will be crucial to engage with the future Obama administration is the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. We are aware that some GAATW members have taken issue with the way the process and content of the TIP report in the past. Lobbying this new administration for changes to the report might have more impact than we have seen previously.

Your thoughts or suggestions on possible campaigns, specific TIP report changes you would like to see and suggestions for collaborative work across themes or areas are warmly welcomed.

CEDAW General Recommendation 26 on Women and Migrant Workers

On 5th November the CEDAW Committee approved General Recommendation 26 on Women Migrant Workers.

The recommendation mentions State obligations towards female migrant workers, citing need to address the unique circumstances, both in terms of push and pull factors but also discrimination, faced by female migrants. Whilst GR 26 refers to the fluidity of migration and categories of migrants, and mentions numerous coercive factors in relation to migration, trafficking is not explicitly referred to in the recommendation. *This recommendation can now be used as a national and international advocacy tool - CEDAW committee GRs, although non-binding, are recommendations issued to all States Parties to CEDAW.*

You can access the full text of GR 26 on the OHCHR website:
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/comments.htm>

Upcoming Events

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) People's Forum

The ASEAN Peoples' Forum is scheduled to be held at Chulalongkorn University from December 12 to 14, 2008 prior to the 14th ASEAN Summit in Chiang Mai (December 15-17, 2008) [although this may change due to the current political tensions in Thailand]. The conference will involve plenary sessions and workshops on current ASEAN issues including: peace and human security; environmental and sustainable development; globalization, labor, trade and global financial crises; and avenues of action and participation for ASEAN civil society

Universal Periodic Review - 3rd session

The Universal Periodic Review working group will conduct its 3rd session between 1-15 December, Countries under review in the order of consideration are: Botswana; Bahamas; Burundi; Luxembourg; Barbados; Montenegro; UAE; Israel; Liechtenstein; Serbia; Turkmenistan; Burkina Faso; Cape Verde; Colombia; Uzbekistan; and Tuvalu.

You can access further information about the UPR on the OHCHR website:
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx>

Advocacy Update



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

December 2008

Welcome to the Advocacy Update for December in which we reflect on advocacy from 2008 and look forward to the year ahead.

2008-09

GAATW-IS and alliance members key international advocacy activities carried out this year were:

1. The Vienna Forum and European Collateral Damage campaign launch, February 2008
2. The 8th and 9th Sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC), Geneva, March and September 2008
3. The United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) Thematic Debate on Human Trafficking, New York, June 2008
4. Response to the release of the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, July 2008
5. The 4th Conference of Parties (CoPs) to the United Nations Transnational Organised Crime Convention and the protocols thereto, Vienna, October 2008
6. The Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD), Manila, October 2008

2009 -10

GAATW's main international advocacy foci for the coming year will include:

1. The United States (US) presidential inauguration and the TIP report, January 2009
2. The 10th Session of the HRC, March 2009
3. The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) engagement including a CEDAW and advocacy workshop, March/April 2009
4. Anti-trafficking day in Europe, October 18 2009
5. Lobbying for a monitoring mechanism to the Human Trafficking Protocol, ongoing

We would love you to offer your thoughts on these activities and suggestions of further advocacy activities.

Please contact caroline@gaatw.org with thoughts or responses to any of the issues raised in this issue. We look forward to hearing from you!

Reflecting on Advocacy from 2008-09

Feb 2008: The Vienna Forum and Collateral Damage campaign launch

The Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking was organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN-GIFT) programme.



International Press Conference on Human Trafficking organised by GAATW in co-operation with LEFÖ. 12.02.2008. On the podium: Eleanor Taylor-Nicholson, Dr Renu Rajbahandari, Evelyn Probst, Dr Helga Konrad (from left to right).

In November 2007, GAATW International Members Congress (IMC) decided that the Collateral Damage report launch should coincide with the Vienna Forum. The launch was attended by the media and GAATW alliance members including WOREC, Lefo, LSI and Ban Ying.

The Vienna Forum took place over 3 days with around 1800 attendees including governments, IGOs, NGOs and law enforcement bodies. Members of the GAATW alliance in attendance included La Strada International (LSI), Lefo, Women's Information Center for women from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe (FIZ), Forum for Women (FFW), Proyecto Trama, Centro de Orientacion e Investigacion Integral (COIN) and Proyecto Esperanca. There was a strong focus on law enforcement and prosecution at this event and CAATW had a significant presence. Discussions of human rights were lacking although some interesting discussion took place around the OHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines and migration

March and September 2008: The 8th and 9th Sessions of the Human Rights Council, Geneva

8th Session: Whilst GAATW-IS did not attend this session we lobbied for the appointment of the new Special Rapporteur (SR) on Trafficking, Ms Joy Ezeilo and supported the new mandate of SR on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences for which Ms. Gulnara Shahinian was appointed.

9th Session: The new SR on Slavery reported for the first time, outlining the intended thematic direction of her work: 1. Forced labour; 2. Child Labour; and 3. Domestic work. GAATW-IS attended this session and following prior consultation raised alliance member's concerns with Ms Gulnara Shahinian who seemed open to work with civil society. We met Ms Mariana Katzarova the Advisor to the new High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Justice Navanethem Piliay, who noted her intention to produce a commentary to the OHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines. She intends to launch these at the 10th Session of the HRC in March 2009 when there will also be an update on the work of the UN on human trafficking and the SR on Trafficking in Persons will report for the first time.

May - June 2008: The General Assembly (GA) Thematic Debate on Human Trafficking, New York.

Human trafficking was considered at the GA as part of a series of GA thematic debates, the topic for consideration was 'strengthening cooperation and raising greater awareness on combating human trafficking'. The concluding comments of the Vienna Forum were also presented to the GA at this time. Discussions fell into the three categories: prevention, protection and prosecution. GAATW-IS attended in observer status and met members of the New York Anti-Trafficking Network whilst there in order to discuss trafficking trends and challenges and possible future collaborations.

July 2008: Response to the release of the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report

In July following consultation with the Alliance, GAATW-IS wrote to the US Secretary of State, Dr Condoleezza Rice, in response to the publication of the annual TIP report. We raised three key failings of the report: a lack of human rights impact assessments of anti-trafficking measures; the conflation of trafficking with prostitution; and a lack of proper referencing or citations. Following this we entered into a dialogue with the US administration on this matter which is still ongoing.

October 2008: The 4th Conference of Parties (CoPs) to the United Nations Transnational Organised Crime Convention and the protocols thereto (UNTOC), Vienna

At the UNTOC CoPs GAATW-IS and alliance members, Sociedade de Defesa dos Direitos Sexuais na Amazônia (Soderitos), Legal Services for Children and Women (LSCW) and the Buhay Foundation for Women and the Girl Child collaborated with Anti-Slavery International and LSI to call for a monitoring mechanism to the Human Trafficking Protocol. This issue was discussed both in plenary session and during our side meeting which was attended by over 80 people including representatives of at least 17 states including India, Canada, Norway, Turkey, Germany, South Africa, Nigeria, Mexico, Zimbabwe, Malaysia, Poland, Argentina and Austria. On the closing day of CoPs two resolutions were agreed by States Parties, one calling for an inter-governmental open ended working group to look at means of monitoring implementation of UNTOC and the other calling for further discussions on establishing a formal review mechanism to UNTOC.

October 2008: The Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD), Manila

GAATW board members and member organisations including AMUMRA, ATKI-HK and Jakarta, the

Buhay Foundation for Women and the Girl Child, Cambodia Women's Crisis Centre, Sintrasedom, Solidaritas Perempuan, TWC2 and WOREC worked with the secretariat at GFMD.

A staff member of GAATW-IS attended the official Civil Society days on behalf of the Alliance. In addition, GAATW participated in parallel events organised by civil society. GAATW-IS issued a statement for the event, supported by 30 members and organised or co-organised the following events: A forum on Collateral Damage; A workshop on the Recognize Rights Campaign; and a consultation with the SR on Contemporary forms of Slavery and the SR on the Human Rights of Migrants.

Forthcoming International Advocacy Foci 2009-10

January 2009: The United States presidential inauguration and TIP report



President Elect Obama and Senator Hillary Clinton

Following the election of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the USA and appointment of Senator Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State we believe that avenues for negotiation on policies put in place by the current administration have opened up.

An area where GAATW-IS believes it will be crucial to engage with the future Obama administration is the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. We are aware that some GAATW members have taken issue with the way the process and content of the TIP report in the past. Lobbying this new administration for changes to the report might have more impact than we have seen previously.

Membership involvement:

- Would you like to see the TIP report abolished or improved, or for it to remain as it is? We need to hear from you;
- Offer specific examples of whether the TIP report accurately reflects the situation in your country

March 2009: The 10th Session of the Human Rights Council

The 10th Session of the HRC looks set to have a strong focus on Trafficking as the SR on Trafficking in Persons will deliver her first report. The GAATW-IS is hoping to hold a side event at this meeting in order to ensure that the human rights perspective to trafficking gains as much attention as possible. We are thinking of trying to raise the profile of domestic worker exploitation making the linkages with trafficking.

Membership involvement:

- What would you like to raise with the SR on Trafficking in Persons, do you have specific messages you would like GAATW to take to the 10th HRC on your behalf?
- Would you like to attend the HRC and require GAATW's logistical or other substantial assistance?
- Do you have any thoughts on raising the issue of domestic work and trafficking at the HRC?

March 2009: the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) engagement including a CEDAW workshop

GAATW-IS is hoping to collaborate with the International Women's Rights Action Watch - Asia Pacific (IWRAP) in order to organise a workshop on advocacy and CEDAW. This will also be an opportunity to discuss the new General Resolution 26 on Women and Migrant Workers and how CEDAW can be used as an advocacy tool. This would be an opportunity for those GAATW alliance members who have either an interest in or experience of working with CEDAW to come together to discuss advocacy possibilities for CEDAW.

Membership involvement:

- Do you use CEDAW as an advocacy tool in your country/region - let us know about it if so, how have you been successful in making change happen through CEDAW?
- Would you be interested in attending such an event?

October 18, 2009: Anti-trafficking day in Europe



The European Commission declared 18 October 2007 as annual EU Anti-Trafficking Day. This year GAATW and member organisations plan to organise a joint action on this day. This year is particularly important for the future of trafficking efforts in Europe as the thirteen independent experts to serve on the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) were elected this month at the first meeting of the Council of Europe (CoE) Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. GRETA will monitor the implementation of the CoE Convention - group members serve a term of 4 years starting on the 1 January 2009. The thirteen experts are:

Vessela Banova (Bulgarian)
Louise Calleja (Maltese)
Josie Christodoulou (Cypriot)
Davor Derencinovic (Croatian)
Vladimir Gilca (Moldovan)
Hanne Sophie Greve (Norwegian)
Nicolas Le Coz (French)
Alexandra Malangone (Slovak)
Nell Rasmussen (Danish)
Leonor Maria Da Conceição Cruz Rodrigues (Portuguese)
Gulnara Shahinian (Armenian - and also the new SR on Contemporary Forms of Slavery)
Robert Stratoberdha (Albanian)
Diana-Florentina Tudorache (Romanian)

More information about the new GRETA members can be found here: http://www.coe.int/t/dg2/trafficking/campaign/Docs/Monitoring/GRETA_en.asp

At its first meeting the CoPs adopted its rules of procedure and elected Ambassador Pēteris Kārlis Elferts, Permanent Representative of Latvia to the Council of Europe, as Chair, and Ambassador Bruno Gain, Permanent Representative of France to the Council of Europe, as Vice-Chair, for a first term of office of one year.

Membership involvement:

- Whether you are based in Europe or elsewhere we would like to hear your thoughts on specific issues you would like to see raised at a European level.
- Do you have thoughts on the composition of GRETA, the CoE Convention which you would like GAATW to raise on your behalf.

Ongoing: A monitoring mechanism to the Human Trafficking Protocol

As noted above, the last CoPs to UNTOC saw States Parties adopt two resolutions concerning monitoring UNTOC and its protocols. Whilst GAATW alliance members joined other organisations in calling for a monitoring mechanism to the Human Trafficking protocol the GAATW-IS deliberately restrained from stating what shape or form we would like to see the mechanism take, other than noting that civil society involvement is key to any mechanism, and treaties, success.

This year we anticipate further States Parties dialogue on this issue and are planning to engage in both this process and join those working towards a monitoring mechanism to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) which also falls under the mandate of the UNODC.

Membership involvement:

- Do you think there should be a monitoring mechanism to the human trafficking Protocol?
- If so what shape would you like to see it take - are there key aspects of the Protocol or the Convention as a whole that you don't think States Parties are fulfilling?
- Perhaps you feel the human trafficking protocol has improved the situation for trafficked persons in your country, can you offer examples if this is the case?