

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

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# FOREWORD

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2017 was a very busy year for the GAATW Secretariat as a small number of staff covered a range of intensive programme areas and core tasks through which we made some progress in deepening our engagement with the Alliance. It was a year of transition, as some projects and project phases came to an end, and efforts were invested into planning for new ones. Though challenged by uncertainty in our funding scenario, the IS is maintaining pre-existing plans with regard to activities, advocacy and research. We said goodbye to three colleagues, and welcomed two new ones who will work on Research, and South and Southeast Asia.

Our thematic areas of Accountability, Access to Justice and Power in Migration and Work remained key priorities. Throughout 2017 projects and research in Latin America, Southeast Asia, South Asia and parts of Africa, and advocacy at the global level, particularly around the Global Compact for Migration enabled the IS to engage deeply with members and partners, and to collaboratively push for policies that promote and protect the human rights of all migrating people, including trafficked persons. A key highlight of our work in 2017 was a global conceptual clarity workshop on Modern Slavery, Trafficking and Forced Labour in conjunction with Beyond Trafficking and Slavery (BTS), which enabled the IS for the first time in a few years to create a learning and networking space where members and partners from all over the world could meet.

Another thematic area of focus for GAATW in 2017 was a re-engagement with the migrant rights advocacy space, particularly through the consultation phase of the Global Compact for Migration, the preparatory phase for intergovernmental negotiations on a new framework for migration governance to be negotiated in 2018. GAATW's members and a network of civil society partners have been engaged in this process and are working towards building consensus on an approach and language that protects and promotes the rights of all migrants, including trafficked persons, in a challenging context where xenophobic, nationalist, and populist discourse and politics are threatening to further externalise and militarise borders, restrict migration policies, and exacerbate risks for migrating women across the globe. 2017 saw a further shrinking of civil society space, and a crackdown on human rights activists including migrant rights activists. But civil society activists are challenging this trend, and GAATW pays tribute to the brave women and men, whose acts of support, solidarity and resistance are a continuous source of inspiration for our work. We are looking forward to deepening the new connections made in 2017 and working with partners and members, old and new, in organising for progressive change in 2018.

# SUMMARY OF GAATW PROGRAMME WORK IN 2017

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GAATW has three thematic priorities designed to protect and promote the human rights of all migrant women from a feminist perspective, through the Alliance's two-pronged approach involving (1) critical engagement with the anti-trafficking framework and (2) linking trafficking with gender, migration, and labour frameworks.

Our work in 2017 continued to focus on the three key areas:

- 1) **POWER IN MIGRATION AND WORK:** Centring an analysis of women's power in their labour and migration to better assess the impact of migration and labour policies on women, and to work towards labour and migration processes that reflect migrants' needs, aspirations and capabilities.
- 2) **ACCOUNTABILITY:** Advocating for the accountability of anti-trafficking stakeholders in all responses to trafficking to end harms caused by repressive anti-trafficking assumptions, policies and measures.
- 3) **INCREASING ACCESS TO JUSTICE THROUGH NON-DISCRIMINATION APPROACHES:** Broadening spaces for trafficked persons and migrant workers to practice their human rights by improving access to justice and combating all forms of discrimination that impact women's ability to exercise their human rights.

We also note the strategic importance of a focus on labour rights and of a worker-centred approach that runs throughout each of our themes. Without departing from our principles and methods, our work has been converging towards taking a more explicit **worker-centred approach** to human trafficking. 2017 saw an exacerbation of troubling economic, social and political trends at sub-national, national and global levels. Growing inequality, and the gendered nature of poverty emphasise to us that labour rights, including ground-up, democratic and representative whole-worker-organising, including by marginalised groups such as migrants, women, and informal sector workers, are central to resisting neoliberal economic policies that increasingly threaten equality and rights. This must be a global effort. In countries of origin, women are under pressure to migrate for work due to the lack of sustainable, local work that ensures a decent life. In countries of transit and destination, the most egregious forms of labour rights abuses come in the form of severe exploitation and trafficking. Many migrant women are denied their human and labour rights, working for poverty wages, in sectors not covered by labour laws, which are usually poorly enforced. Thus we see the centrality of strengthening the rights of women (migrant) workers in countries of origin and destination in order to address the factors that lead to unsafe migration and human trafficking.

GAATW's members have long looked at and will continue to work on the sectors where women work, the conditions that enable, or prevent, exploitation and trafficking in these sectors. We seek to document and strengthen strategies that women migrant workers, and civil society actors, employ to support women and protect their rights, and supporting efforts to create space where women can meet and organise. GAATW-IS aims to contribute with a critical learning space where migrant rights, anti-trafficking, women's rights and labour rights activists can converge to develop comprehensive, all-of-society critiques of development, migration, labour and economic policies and formulate instead a just, equitable and sustainable collective vision and plan of action.

One initiative that accompanied this approach in 2017 was a research project which looked at working conditions in the sex industry in seven countries as experienced by sex workers, and the role of sex worker rights organisations in assisting sex workers. We will continue to seek opportunities to develop a worker-centred approach to our work and advocacy in 2018. In April 2018 we will organise a knowledge-sharing forum Women in the World of Work, which will bring together women's rights, labour rights, migrant rights organisations and trade unions. Throughout 2018, we will also work with

partners from South and Southeast Asia and the Middle East to conduct research among women migrant workers and understand from their perspective the factors that facilitate and hinder their right to mobility and work in both countries of origin and destination, as well seeking to advance a women's worker centric agenda in international labour rights advocacy spaces.

## **1. Power in Migration and Work**

The Power in Migration and Work programme focuses on an analysis of women's power in migration processes as a means of averting protectionism and identifying how labour migration policies can and should respond to migrant women's needs, aspirations, and capabilities. This programme area sees trafficking, and risks of exploitation, inversely correlated to how much power people have in their decision-making process in terms of migration and work. By emphasising power in migration and work, we are shifting away from vulnerability-based discourse. It has emphasised the need of ensuring anti-trafficking and related policies increase rights protection for migrant women, rather than causing harm.

As part of this programme GAATW has implemented projects that include working with women in source communities at the pre-migration and pre-decision making stages in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh, as well as supporting migrant domestic workers in destination countries (specifically, Lebanon). In 2017, in addition to our work under the ILO's Work in Freedom Programme, GAATW was able to work on these issues in Ethiopia, running a training workshop on Trafficking and Safe Migration in collaboration with The Freedom Fund and Geneva Global.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### **Ethiopia Hotspot Program Training on Trafficking and Safe Migration**



The Ethiopia Hotspot Program is a multi-year initiative focused on decreasing the vulnerability to unsafe migration leading to domestic servitude among Ethiopian women and girls migrating to the Middle East. The programme aims at prevention of unsafe migration and focuses on (1) increasing knowledge on safer migration within source communities, (2) developing and improving economic alternatives to help in prevention of and recovery from situations of unsafe migration, and (3) strengthening capacity of NGOs to influence systems to better prevent unsafe migration as well as empower women and girls who choose to migrate. In 2016, Ethiopia lifted the previous three-year

migration ban, and thus NGOs in Ethiopia are now increasingly preparing awareness raising materials and, in some cases, adapting their approaches to prevent unsafe migration.

GAATW's extensive work in the areas of anti-trafficking in the context of migration is grounded in our long journey in keeping women workers' realities and perspectives at the centre of our anti-trafficking initiatives. We facilitated a five-day training workshop on trafficking and safe migration from 3 to 7 April 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The training was conducted for Geneva Global partners from thirteen organisations who are currently involved in the *Ethiopia Prevention of Unsafe Migration Program*. The five-day workshop was divided into conceptual and practical sessions. The first two days focused on conceptual clarity sessions beginning with a global overview of migration patterns, challenges around labour migration, the concept of safe migration, and trafficking and other rights violations in the context of migration. These sessions also went into deeper reflections in looking at the different roles of stakeholders, and the importance of strengthening the capacity of returnees and their means of engagement in women's migration issues. We were excited to work with new partners in East Africa, and in the context with our work in countries of destination in the Middle East, to fill in important gaps in our collective understanding of migrant communities in countries of destination in the Middle East, with a view to supporting stronger solidarity networks between domestic workers in particular.

### **Work in Freedom Programme**

GAATW continued to partner with the ILO on the DFID-supported *Work in Freedom* programme. Work in Freedom is an integrated development cooperation programme aiming to reduce vulnerability to trafficking and forced labour of women migrating to work in the garment sector and domestic work. The programme works along migration pathways in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Jordan and Lebanon. Interventions focus on promoting mobility by choice, fair recruitment to decent jobs and safety and dignity for migrant workers. Information on the lessons learnt in this programme can be found [here](#).

In 2017 GAATW's role focused on the work and personal journeys of community workers towards women's empowerment and social change within the community. GAATW-IS conducted a number of workshops and learning visits with community workers and with migrant workers in communities of origin in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, and in sites of destination in Delhi, Lebanon and Jordan (see full list below).



The workshops aimed to provide some conceptual clarity around safe migration and human trafficking to community workers who work with women at the pre-migration and pre-decision stage. At the same time, it was an opportunity for the IS to understand their insights and

perspectives on key issues related to women's labour migration, women's work, and the role of NGOs in communities of origin. In October and November GAATW organised site visits for mutual learning to one destination site (New Delhi, India) and to one source community (Rupandehi, Nepal). In December GAATW-IS visited Lebanon and Jordan to understand the role of community workers in building communities and creating solidarity among migrant communities in destination country. Other workshops focused on learning and documentation practices, and building and understanding of community worker's approaches, experience and outreach strategies.

Full list of workshops and other engagements held under the Work in Freedom Programme in 2017:

- Five-day Workshop for Community Workers of CINI and Samarthan in Ranchi, India, May
- Two Learning Workshops for Community Workers of OKUP and BOMSA in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 9-12 July
- Learning Documentation with three WIF Partners in Nepal, 17-21 September
- Learning documentation and community workers' visit to destination site in Delhi, India, 8-12 October
- Conceptual Clarity Workshop on Trafficking, Forced Labour and Modern Slavery in Kathmandu, Nepal, 1-3 November
- Learning documentation and site visit to source community in Rupandehi, Nepal with Bangladeshi community workers, 1-5 November
- Meeting with SEWA/NAWO/AAINA Community Workers
- Meeting with migrant workers' support groups and migrant community leaders in Beirut, Lebanon and Amman, Jordan, 9-19 December.



Figure 1: GAATW organised a Learning Workshop for community workers under the WIF program in Nepal

**Community workers Handbook:** GAATW developed a Community Workers Handbook as an output of this project to support the work of local organisations who work directly with community workers. The handbook provides information for community workers engaged in outreach and awareness raising programmes on the issues of women's migration and human trafficking. We hope it will be useful for NGOs and community workers in that it focuses on how community workers can create space for women to make informed decisions about their migration. The bulk of the work on the

handbook was done in 2016. In 2017, based on the inputs from partners, the handbook was revised and will be finalised in 2018.



Figure 2: GAATW organised a learning visit for Bangladeshi community workers to visit the WIF project location in Rupandehi, Nepal

**Mutual learning and collaboration, and developing connections between groups and activists in countries of origin and destination:** Through the WIF program, GAATW-IS has had the opportunity to work directly with community workers in enhancing their knowledge base on migration and women's rights. The project has been successful in creating a lot of room for interaction between partners, and has been a very grounding experience for partner organisations and the IS. The invaluable work of the community workers is often overlooked, and the community workers' passion and commitment in giving their best to the women in their communities has been brought to the fore through this project, through focus group discussions, workshops and individual interviews.

**Empowering community workers in their work and, learning and documenting their experiences:** It was clear to us that the community workers are not accustomed to being addressed as holders of knowledge – their assumption was more often that we are there to train them in something, rather than to learn about and discuss their own knowledge and experiences. Below are excerpts from our conversations with community workers, organisers, migrant support groups and migrant workers in South Asia and the Middle East.

Through a series of workshops, with the overall goal of recognising the vital contributions of community workers in safe migration programmes like the WIF project, GAATW-IS initiated a learning framework exercise with community workers. The learning document which will be shared with all stakeholders in 2018 is a collation of learning about women workers' rights, and the understanding of empowerment and leadership as told by community workers themselves.

GAATW: How has your community work changed you?

*Ankumari, Community Worker, Nepal: Taking risks in life! Even if the whole community is against me I will continue to work for a good cause. I am what I am now because I have taken the risk. I am ready even if it meant that my husband will leave me. I know I am able to take care of*



*my children. Not a lot of women can do the same because of patriarchy; women are being suppressed by men.*

**Understanding motivations of rights activists:** Asking labour activists and community workers why they do the work they do, and how the work impacts them personally had often impressive and emotional responses, as many saw this line of work as integral to who they are and who they have become:

*I fight for other people because I hate to see the superior people taking advantage and making a profit out of the fact that others don't know or can't get their rights.*

**Natasha from Madagascar, Al Hassan Workers' Centre in Jordan**

*Empathy has been my motivation for change. I cannot just sit and not do anything if someone is in pain.*

**Ankumari, Focus Group Discussion, Kathmandu**

*Being part of the union ... makes me try to do everything I do better, because I know, as I am in a position of leadership, if I do something wrong, everyone will look at me, and it will reflect badly. I sometimes get sick because I get exhausted of listening to the problems of the domestic workers, but I love this work of listening to others and trying to solve their problems. I feel the weight of responsibility.*

**Marie Constance, Domestic Workers Union leader, Lebanon**



*Figure 3: A cultural activity hosted by the Al Hasaan Community Workers' Center, Jordan*

**Building an understanding of community work in sites of destination:** While most work on safe migration is centred on the pre-decision and pre-departure stages, relatively little is known about the work that is done by support groups and migrant workers themselves at destination countries. While the work of community workers in countries of origin have some form of legitimacy and are well-structured around project-based work, community work in destination countries can be seen at two levels. One is through support services by local organisations, where potential women leaders are identified to network with other women migrants who may benefit from the services and life skills trainings provided by the organisation. The other is in the work that the migrant women leaders do in their own communities, among their peers with or without external support. Inspired by the positive reflections from the project, GAATW-IS visited Lebanon and Jordan to understand the role of community workers in building communities and creating solidarity among migrant communities in

destination countries. Earlier in the year, a destination site visit to Delhi for community workers from Jharkhand and Chhatisgarh was organised so that the women working with potential migrant workers get see how things are in a destination site and what support system exists for the workers.



Figure 4: Community workers from CINI and Samarthan visited a migrant community in New Delhi.

**Strengthening conceptual clarity around human trafficking, modern slavery and forced labour:** As civil society organisations working on migration, there is a need for us to understand migration in the context of larger economic, political, social and environmental changes. Migration being posited as an answer to these social and economic changes and pressures does not necessarily represent a rights-based solution. We conducted two workshops with partner organisations in India (May) and Bangladesh (July), which laid the ground for a larger three-day conceptual clarity workshop in November that brought together WIF partners from India, Nepal and Bangladesh to discuss the concepts of human trafficking, forced labour and modern slavery and to strengthen our critical understanding of the use of these terms. Here, we questioned assumptions about migration, to ask who we are serving by promoting migration as a coping mechanism to deal with inequality, poverty, injustice and discrimination. We also critically discussed slavery and forced labour as frameworks and the instrumentalisation of these concepts, and critiqued the use of benchmarking and indicators of slavery and forced labour to further interventionist, neo-colonial and oversimplified solutions to complex issues. It was emphasised that forced labour today cannot be looked at in isolation from the immense power of corporate actors.

#### CHALLENGES

In the implementation phase, while the project has enabled the IS, our members and partners to gain important new insights and analyses, embedding concepts like empowerment into the work of partners, many of whom are new to women's rights work, has proved challenging. Patriarchal attitudes and power dynamics within communities and organisations can create challenges in the project too, by limiting the opportunities for women leaders to emerge, learn and engage with others.

Although partners recognise information as a tool for safe migration and empowerment, some of them sometimes lack the time and/or capacity for critical reflection on the relevance and need for empowerment of women, and have a tendency to base their analyses on pre-existing assumptions, or tailor their engagements to (real or perceived) donor preferences. There is sometimes a false assumption made by organisations that returnee migrants and survivors of trafficking and exploitation want to be vocal leaders in their communities. This is not true for everyone and leadership roles taken on by returnee migrants depend on the circumstances, personality and choices of the returnees involved. It is important to take into consideration the role of community organisations in preparing the process for returnee women to take on leadership role by giving opportunities for capacity and knowledge building support, in order for them to process their experience and its relevance in the community programme.



Figure 5: Photo Exhibit at the Al Hasaan Workers' Center

Relatively little is known about the work that is done by support groups and migrant workers themselves in destination countries, despite some progress made in this area late into this project phase. We value the time spent in knowing the efforts made, particularly by migrant communities, to serve as a support groups to those who don't have access to or are unable to visit migrant centres. Acknowledging the diverse need of migrant workers, individuals and organised migrant groups are providing alternative spaces for mutual support and collaborations. However, these alternative spaces may not always be visible for local support groups to access and may get less support for resources in order to be sustainable.

Mutual learning and cross-regional collaborations between countries of origin and destination remains a challenge due to language differences, lack of resources and the absence of established practices for referral of victims of trafficking and abused migrant workers.

In terms of our internal challenges with this project, the pace of activities has been quite intense, leaving IS staff little time to feel certain about and to fully analyse the success of each activity before the next begins, and limited time in which to ensure that we are able to document everything adequately. We also sometimes faced challenges between partners, with some heads of organisations showing negative attitudes towards our approach.

#### WAYS FORWARD

Since the start of the project, a lot of effort has gone into enhancing the knowledge and learning of community workers on safe migration in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. In 2017, the project focused

on creating effective participatory learning spaces and documentation. The learning framework developed for this project can be adapted to other work and is effective in recognising and placing women's experiences as part of a larger structure, and highlighting the insights and knowledge produced by them. A full documentation of the learning experience based from the sharing of selected community workers and migrant support groups in countries of origin and destination will be shared in a learning document in the first quarter of 2018.

The outcomes of the project emphasise the need to continue to document the experiences of migrants and community workers, to validate the impact of community work and women's leadership. We hope to bring in the importance of documentation and analysis from the perspectives of women to create a grounded understanding of how change happens within their environment.

GAATW will continue to provide opportunities for thematic discussions with partners around trafficking and forced labour, and to focus on the importance of supporting workers organising and understanding local power dynamics. These are the approaches that are key to bring through in our future work, in this programme and beyond. In the immediate term, the learning created in this project will feed into a Women Workers Forum to be held in early 2018, convened by the ILO and GAATW. The Forum will bring together trade unions and civil society organisations from across the region working to share experiences in strengthening solidarity and advocacy among women worker's organisations, migrant groups, women's rights groups and other advocacy groups.



Figure 6: GAATW Learning Workshop with community workers from BOMSA

### **Towards Empowerment: Working with women and girls in source communities at the pre- migration and pre-decision making stage**

This project, carried out in collaboration with Indian members AAINA and Institute for Social Development (ISD), focuses on some semi-urban and rural communities of Odisha, India, which have seen a steady rise in inter-state female labour migration. Labour migration here arises from economic pressure, and also because people's rights are not protected or their livelihoods are negatively affected by policy decisions. The project thus works at two levels: it provides information to women and girls with regard to safe migration and it also actively unionises women before they migrate so they can use their collective bargaining power. The project also tries to address distress migration by increasing women's economic self-sufficiency; not directly to earn more money, but to move to natural farming methods and to inculcate healthy habits so that families save avoidable expenses on health care. The project works with two key target groups; women and adolescent girls.

While the activities with women start with the assumption that all women are workers and tries to enable them to be strong, active members in the world of work, the interaction with adolescent tribal girls aims to build their capacities so they can understand their interests and aptitudes better and choose from the many skills trainings that are available for them in the government supported programmes.



**The objectives of the project are:**

1. To work with women and young girls so that they develop adequate awareness regarding demands of paid work, job markets, workers' rights and life skills necessary for working away from their home villages
2. To link young women to various skills development programmes available in their communities to expand their livelihood options
3. To educate migrating women to join unions to enhance their collective bargaining and to form cooperatives and small businesses should they decide not to migrate any more or not at all
4. To build adequate knowledge and skill of NGO partners on trafficking, migration and labour to deliver work at the community level effectively and connect to advocacy spaces at state and national level

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The two partners focused on two different districts within the same state. AAINA worked in five Gram Panchayats (village councils) in Soroda block of Ganjam District and ISD worked in the girls' hostels of seven residential schools for rural and indigenous students in Khorda district. Aaina had already started working in the same Gram Panchayats as part of their other projects so the additional financial support gave them an opportunity to continue and deepen their engagement with women in the communities. ISD, on the other hand, had to break new ground. Not only were they new to this work, these schools are also not a typical a focus area of NGOs. As fully Government funded educational institutions for marginalised children and adolescents, the school authorities are wary of NGO involvement, fearing negative reporting. Yet these schools, especially the adolescent girls are the main source for trainees in various skilling programmes. Given this context, ISD faced a lot of difficulties in getting access to the schools and five months of the project time was lost.

Activities carried out by AAINA included safe migration information sharing in communities, training in organic farming for women farmers, setting up of seed banks by women farmers, herbal medicine preparation by women, income generation trainings for women and unionisation of women workers. Activities carried out by ISD included an orientation programme on rights and responsibilities of adolescent girls, a training on health and hygiene, setting up of libraries in the hostels, regular interaction with learning facilitators in each library, leadership training, career counselling and a Dance Movement Therapy (DMT) workshop. As part of this project GAATW also held two state level workshops with NGOs working on interstate migration in Odisha. The aim was to set up a State Level Working Group that would meet at regular intervals to discuss issues around labour migration and plan collaborative advocacy.

### CHANGES OBSERVED AND CHALLENGES

In villages of Ganjam where AAINA is working, we have noticed a visible change. Although not all changes can be attributed to AAINA's efforts nor to the activities of this project over the last 12 months, it is clear that the women and girls from these villages now understand better how things work in the world of work. After initial resistance, they have also become strong proponents of organic farming, and have realised the value in joining the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) union. The value of getting the women to learn about natural farming and to practice it is immense, addressing food security and health care too. Organic farming is continuing in the villages of Gopalpursasan, Barapradhani and Sundhidihapalli. AAINA's work has also taken proactive steps to empower women economically by making market linkages, which have been established with the vegetable whole-seller of Sorada. Now women deliver vegetables directly in the vegetable market and do not go through middlemen, increasing their profit margin. Organic seeds are again available for small-scale farmers from the seed bank. Organic seed-saving had been customary until the invasion of chemical fertiliser and the pesticide lobby destroyed this practice. It will take many years of steady work to change the practice and replenish the soil, but the women in the villages of Soroda block have made a beginning through this project.

ISD's work has also started effecting some behavioural and attitudinal changes in the girls. They are taking better care of themselves and their surroundings, embracing weekly sessions with the learning facilitators and reading books outside their curriculum. The DMT workshop taught them life skills using fun-filled and expressive methodologies. The state level working group discussions were good, however some NGOs expected that somehow participation in the group would bring them funding for projects. Although migration is a key issue in the state, it has not attracted many donors.<sup>1</sup> At present GAATW does not have the capacity to secure funds for this work. A second convening focused on the western region of the state and it was much more focused. The NGOs have some projects for their work with migrant workers and welcomed conceptual discussion on women workers.

This project will continue in 2018, with work in the school hostels to be stepped up. The Western Odisha network will also carry out an assessment with returnee women migrant workers.

## **2. Accountability**

GAATW's Accountability programme aims to increase accountability of anti-trafficking stakeholders in implementing anti-trafficking measures, ensuring that they are accountable to the persons whose human rights they purport to protect. To do this GAATW has been constantly engaged in reviewing anti-trafficking measures and initiatives and their impact on trafficked persons. We have carried out a number of research studies to understand trafficked persons' perceptions and views on the measures and initiatives intended to benefit them.

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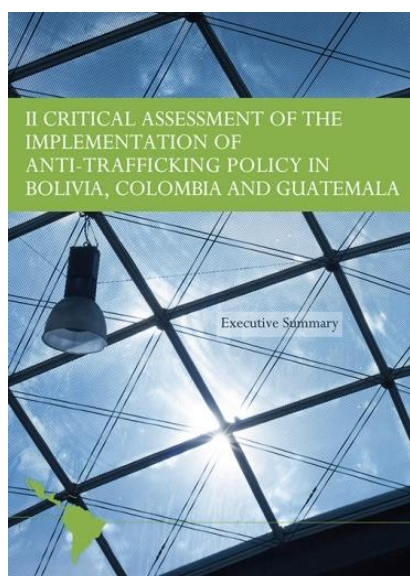
<sup>1</sup> TATA Trust had supported some NGOs for a few years but has now decided to give financial support to the Government. Whether the Government will disburse some funding to the NGOs is yet to be seen.

GAATW's 2007 report *Collateral Damage* highlighted that anti-trafficking initiatives have had numerous negative, rather than positive, impacts on trafficked persons, as well as other groups. Furthermore, GAATW's 2010 review of anti-trafficking reports found that measures routinely failed to incorporate an assessment by the person who had been trafficked. GAATW carried out another participatory research project "*Towards greater accountability - Participatory Monitoring of Anti-Trafficking Initiatives*" in 2013 across Latin America, Europe, and Asia to look at the assistance work of Alliance members from the perspective of trafficked persons. Some of these studies show that testimonies of victims reflect the gap between the legal framework and the actual provision of services, including those with comprehensive regulatory frameworks that are consistent with international instruments. The main challenge identified in LAC region was the proper implementation of legislation against human trafficking. In the Latin America Regional Report, participating members echoed that the State is the principal guarantor of rights and services toward trafficked persons and needs to be held responsible for the same. Cumulatively, these findings revealed the need for more regular monitoring and evaluation of anti-trafficking initiatives.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### **Accountability in Latin America**

In 2017 GAATW carried out, for the second year running, a '**Critical assessment of the implementation of anti-trafficking policy in Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala**'. This assessment reviewed the provisions of anti-trafficking legislation compared to the actual services provided on the ground, building on the [data collected in 2016](#). This project was implemented by Fundación La Paz in Bolivia, Corporación Espacios de Mujer in Colombia and ECPAT in Guatemala with the support from the GAATW International Secretariat.



As part of this assessment GAATW [published](#) an executive summary, while three national level reports were published. The executive summary highlights: (1) the existing gaps between what the anti-trafficking legislation states and the actual services provided by government agencies, and (2) concrete recommendations for the three governments to take forward. Similar to the 2016 Assessment, the one published in 2017 found that institutions in the three countries are not fulfilling their legal responsibilities and are failing to guarantee the rights of trafficked persons and at-risk groups. Governments do not allocate appropriate budgets, do not collect statistical information, and do not ensure training for state officials.

GAATW believes that exercises like these are critical to raise the expectations of CSOs, trafficked persons and the general public of their governments to provide information (which States are legally obliged to share), and to match on the ground services with governments' formal commitments to the rights of trafficked persons. Civil society organisations in the three countries have expressed their satisfaction with the valuable contribution of this assessment, in providing a baseline for analysis, and clear goals for advocacy. There are different methods used to disseminate the findings of the report and advocate for change at the national and international level. At national level, both in Bolivia and Colombia, important progress has been made in alliance building and strengthening between civil society networks, while at the regional level, the report was shared at the meeting of the Latin American Observatory Committee in 2017 and results from last year were presented in the Fifth Regional Conference against Human Trafficking.

## CHALLENGES

During the data collection process in 2017, institutions were less cooperative, and in some cases hostile, to the requests for information they received from the national partners. In Bolivia there was a strong feeling of risk and a fear of reprisals, mainly from the national government, as a result of the gaps identified by the assessment. This is yet another manifestation of the shrinking space for civil society that we are witnessing throughout the world and the diminished opportunities for NGOs to act as watchdogs, an issue on which GAATW published [an opinion piece](#) in Open Democracy's 'Beyond Trafficking and Slavery' blog in 2018.

## WAY FORWARD

Influencing governments for change is a long journey and needs continuous engagement. In 2018 GAATW-IS, along with members CEM and ECPAT, who conducted the study in Colombia and Guatemala respectively, CHS, a Peruvian NGO who conduct such assessment in Peru since 2009 and first shared its knowledge and experience to support our work, along with other strategic allies, will meet to assess the impact of the two years of work with a view to evaluating the methodology we have used for the assessment and seeing how to strengthen the data analysis process. Given the State-centric nature of the assessment, GAATW is keen to include a social/human rights approach to the work.

## **Accountability in ASEAN**

In March 2017 the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) came into force. ACTIP was signed by the ten member states of ASEAN on 22 November 2015, after a four-year negotiation and drafting process.<sup>2</sup> GAATW has been involved in collaborative advocacy on ACTIP since 2014, when member and partner organisations and organisations in Southeast Asia met to discuss collective challenges and identify strategies to address these issues regionally. While the document does not reflect GAATW's perspectives on trafficking, we are seeking the entering into force of the Convention to create civil society momentum around a human-rights-based implementation.

ACTIP commits state parties to strengthen their individual and collective responses to trafficking in Persons, including to better protect the safety, privacy, and freedom of trafficked persons. Moving into compliance with ACTIP will require policy reform in all ASEAN countries, to greater or lesser extent. However, such reforms will likely not happen automatically. Instead, advice, support and pressure will be needed from various stakeholders to highlight the need for change. Among the most effective stakeholders for bringing about policy change on TIP is CSOs that work on trafficking. CSOs are uniquely placed because they have regular contact with trafficked persons and other vulnerable groups, often have long experience in the region, understand the cultural, political and social frameworks in which they operate, and are committed to social, political and/or economic change. At the same time, the space for CSO's to do advocacy work differs between the various ASEAN countries, as does the interest, capacity, and experience of CSOs to undertake policy advocacy.

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<sup>2</sup> The ten member states of ASEAN are Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, The Republic of Singapore, The Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

To prepare for this work, in 2017 GAATW conducted an initial landscaping exercise to map the perspectives of civil society organisations leaders on advocacy work related to trafficking in persons in five Southeast Asian countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand, with plans to extend the study to other ASEAN countries in 2018. The initial portion of the study was undertaken by GAATW with the support of Winrock International, as part of its implementation of the USAID Asia Counter-Trafficking in Persons Program (2016-2021).

The aims of the landscape assessment were to support CSO engagement on TIP policies at national and especially regional levels, by:

- Understanding the political context for policy advocacy from the perspective of CSOs; and
- Engaging CSOs in a process of self-assessment of their capacity to carry out policy advocacy at national and regional levels.

The mapping was not an external assessment of CSOs and their work, but rather draws on the views of the advocacy landscape of CSOs themselves. In this way, it hopes to build interest and ownership of future advocacy work, and to avoid reinventing work that is already being done. These CSOs all had different goals and plans for the coming years, yet some commonalities emerged:

- The legal framework governing TIP at national levels is perceived as sufficient in four of the five countries, and CSOs are focused on implementation of the law rather than law reform;
- Current opportunities for law reform are perceived to be on related issues, such as migrant worker protection, labour protections for all, child rights and women's rights;
- Space for advocacy is narrowing across much of the ASEAN region, yet CSOs have found ways of continuing to work on TIP and to engage decision-makers in policy discussions;
- Few CSOs are aware of ACTIP and what it would mean for their countries of work, and are generally sceptical of ASEAN processes and commitment to rights protections;
- The capacity of organisations to increase their advocacy work is severely constrained by funding limitations, as they perceive donors to have shifted away from funding advocacy work, and indeed from funding anti-trafficking work. Some also lack information and training on both TIP, and on developing an advocacy campaign;
- Despite the challenges, CSOs were enthusiastic to re-engage in TIP advocacy around implementation of ACTIP and requested to be included in any follow-up programme.

## WAY FORWARD

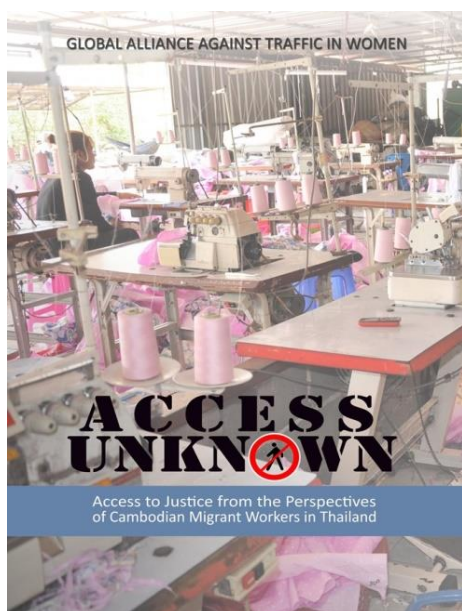
At the moment we are looking for resources to continue with our plan for the ASEAN-focused portion of our Accountability Programme. This initial assessment of five countries and institution mapping was the first phase of the study. The second phase will be undertaken in 2018 to build on the findings and recommendations of the current study and will include an extension of this initial landscaping with organisations in Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam.

### 3. Access to Justice

The Access to Justice programme aims to broaden spaces for trafficked persons and migrant workers to access human rights and to improve access to justice as they relate to trafficking. Despite many efforts, access to justice remains a significantly underserved right for migrant workers. In countries of destination and upon returning home, very few migrant women and men are able to access sufficient support services and/or legal and other justice institutions to remedy the wrongs they have experienced. In some cases, the exploitation experienced amounts to trafficking, but few are identified as 'trafficked' and provided with the services and access to justice available under domestic anti-trafficking frameworks or promoted under international law.

In 2017, GAATW-IS finalised the work and launched reports on two projects: [Access Unknown](#), which highlights the experiences of abuse, labour exploitation, and human trafficking of Cambodian migrant workers in Thailand, and [Enabling Access to Justice](#), which focuses on the experiences of CSOs in trying to support South Asian women migrant workers abused and trafficked in the Middle East.

#### Access UNKNOWN: Access to Justice for Cambodian Workers in Thailand



Over the past decade numerous steps have been taken in ASEAN to build the capacity of law enforcement, governments and service providers to address human trafficking and labour exploitation. Regional governments have also amplified their efforts to support the rights of migrant workers. Despite all the resources and efforts dedicated to improving the conditions of migrant workers and addressing trafficking in Thailand, access to justice remains an underserved right for many trafficked persons. Cambodian migrant workers are the second largest group in Thailand, but there is little information on their situation and working conditions.

In this context, this project was initiated in August 2015 to inquire as to whether Cambodian migrant workers or trafficked persons in Thailand have been able to access justice as they themselves defined what is just and fair. The research was to examine why there is still such a significant

disconnect between the currently available options in the legal system and Cambodian workers' unwillingness or inability to practically access them, and explore the access to justice scenario from their experiences and insights at both origin and destination.



#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**February 2017: CSO regional meeting between Cambodia and Thailand on Access to Justice:** Our project employed participatory methodologies, which not only gathered detailed perspectives from migrant workers, but also included capacity building for service providers, and shared findings among key stakeholders to form a preliminary basis on which recommendations and future actions were made and planned for implementation. In February 2017 GAATW-IS

coordinated a meeting of Thai and Cambodian civil society organisations in Phnom Penh to discuss opportunities for cross-border collaboration and create a platform for joint action. The meeting participants came up with a set of recommendations to 1) Strengthen cross-border linkages, 2) Enhance Direct Service Provision and 3) Come up with a plan for joint regional advocacy initiatives.

**Published Final report: Access Unknown: Access to Justice from the Perspectives of Cambodian Migrant Workers in Thailand.** The report documents how lack of information about migration and



work procedures and working conditions, mistrust of authorities, and lack of information about sources of support, prevent Cambodian workers from seeking justice for rights violations in Thailand. We launched the report with an event held at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand in Bangkok, with speakers from GAATW, our Cambodian member

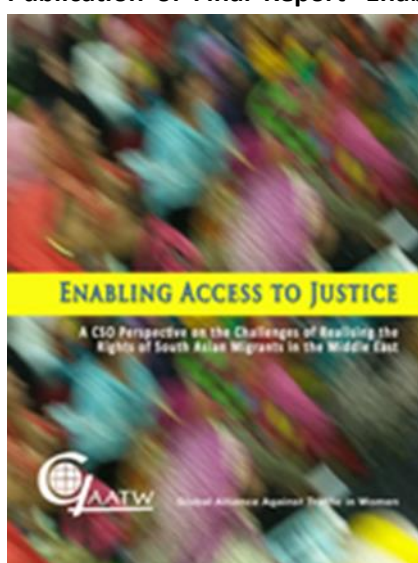
LSCW, Migrant Working Group and the Human Rights and Development Foundation (Thailand).

### CHALLENGES

There were number of challenges during the research. In some cases, it was difficult to gain access to the workers even after they had been identified as trafficked. Circular migration patterns that many Cambodian migrants practise limited the interviews in Cambodia to holidays when migrant workers would return home. Researchers received fewer interviews with Cambodian migrant women than anticipated due to the fact that migrant women whom we had access to in the domestic work and garment sectors were not employed as full-time workers and frequently moved between different employers. CSOs supporting migrant workers had a tendency to focus on Burmese workers and had less contact with Cambodian workers.

## **Addressing Labour Trafficking of South Asian Migrant Workers in the Middle East**

**Publication of Final Report ‘Enabling Access to Justice’:** In this project the IS was working with members and partners from South Asia and the Middle East to identify and analyse barriers that exploited and trafficked migrant workers from South Asia face in countries of origin and destination when accessing justice and the opportunities therein. The overall project objective was to advance the rights of migrant workers on the South Asia-Middle East migration corridor to make a stronger case against human trafficking in the context of labour migration, with a special focus on female migrant workers. The aims of the project were:



1. To build strategic alliances with key civil society organisations in countries of origin and destination; and

2. To analyse barriers for trafficked migrant workers from South Asia in the Middle East in accessing justice and identify opportunities for future collaboration to overcome such barriers.

A total of thirteen partner organisations from seven countries (Bangladesh, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Nepal and Sri Lanka) participated in the project. The report aims to capture one area of learning that emerged from the project: the barriers that project partners experience or observe

when supporting migrant workers to access justice. Although specific barriers to justice may differ between countries, and even regions within countries, project partners identified many in common, which can be briefly summarised as: *Legal Barriers, Enforcement and Operational Barriers, Practical Barriers, Social and Cultural Barriers and Organisational Barrier*.

The report concludes with reflections on the lessons learnt by GAATW about the obstacles to justice for migrant workers, but also for organisations seeking to assist migrant workers and the effort required to overcome those barriers. It is not intended to dissuade civil society organisations or legal service providers from working to improve access to justice for migrant workers, but rather to highlight the complexity of human trafficking, and the many challenges along the road to justice.

[Video documenting the experiences of trafficked women from Nepal](#): This short video produced in connection with this project aims to document the experiences of South Asian trafficked persons and abused migrant workers in the Middle East and the ways in which civil society is trying to support them in accessing justice through the personal stories of three Nepali women.

### CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

GAATW is learning from the challenges that we and our partners faced in improving access to justice for migrant workers. These challenges have pointed us towards **a worker-centred approach** to access to justice in our future work. Discrimination against migrant workers, based on gender, class, race, ethnicity, religion or other grounds permeated all discussions throughout the first phase of this project, with low-wage migrant workers, especially undocumented or female migrant workers, particularly affected. These discriminations and barriers put the concept of (legal) justice beyond the reach of most migrant women workers we encountered. Informal (and formal) organising structures can offer women migrant workers avenues through which they can assert their labour and human rights, and have grievances heard.

GAATW also believes there is a strong case for **improving the documentation of the experiences of migrant workers** through their participation in migrant workers centres. Through our Access to Justice programme, not only in the South Asia-Middle East corridor, but also in Southeast Asia, one obstacle faced by civil society organisations, was finding positive examples of migrants who had successfully accessed justice, or had received compensation after suffering exploitation.

GAATW is also learning from challenges and drawing on opportunities created through this work to **develop our thinking on labour migration**. By better understanding the barriers to women's safe and fair labour migration, we are creating an alternative, feminist, and women-centred vision of labour migration, which we will build on in 2018 through feminist participatory action research.

The connections and collaboration in countries of destination is also helping the IS and partners to **strengthen cross-border cooperation** through a project that supports women migrant workers organising in the South Asia-Middle East labour migration corridor that will commence in 2018.

**Advocacy to the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery**: Based on our two Access to Justice reports, as well as reports by GAATW members from Europe and consultations with members in Asia, we prepared a [submission](#) to the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery for a special report on access to justice and remedies for victims of contemporary forms of slavery. It is clear from our work that justice remains an elusive concept for many trafficked persons and abused migrant workers the world over, and cannot be separated from the broader issues of democracy and rule of law. In many countries, corrupt, slow, and inefficient legal systems prevent marginalised groups, such as migrants or trafficked persons, from seeking justice. In many countries, trafficked persons don't even associate the concept of justice with the legal system and simply want to move on with their lives and find a new, non-exploitative job, without seeking recourse for the abuses they suffered. We were pleased that these, and other issues we highlighted, were included in the [Special Rapporteur's report](#).

# GAATW'S CORE FUNCTIONS IN 2017

## 1. Participatory Learning and Conceptual Clarity

Participatory learning and capacity building is a core part of the IS' work, and integrated into all of our programmes. Most of our projects in 2017 had strong training/learning component which aimed to support knowledge and skills building for members and partners engaged in projects. We also had some more standalone participatory learning events:



**Human Trafficking, Forced Labour and Modern Slavery: Understanding Popular Narratives and Planning Strategic Action, 17-20 August 2017**

This convening was organised by GAATW-IS and [Beyond Trafficking and Slavery \(BTS\)](#) and brought together 40 participants from GAATW member organisations and allies from across the world. The primary goal was to understand the human rights implications of frameworks such as human trafficking, forced labour, and modern slavery that claim to address rights violations in the context of people's migration and work today, through prevention, protection, and prosecution and more broadly, state control of human mobility in a globalised world. While acknowledging the fluidity of these frameworks, we wanted to understand the politics behind their popularity at a time that is marked by massive displacement and loss of livelihood, weakening of the welfare state and the public sector, erosion of human rights, rise of aggressive nationalism and religious extremism and shrinking space for civil society.



Over the course of three days, the participants discussed the evolution of laws and policies around human trafficking and safe migration and their impact on the lives of trafficked persons and migrants; the use of statistics, estimates, and grading/tiering of countries; the conceptual quagmire that has been created by the 'modern slavery' discourse and its interchangeable use with human trafficking and forced labour; and tried to unpack related concepts, such exploitation and decent work, and what they mean in different contexts. On the final day we identified together some opportunities for future actions that the GAATW Secretariat can undertake on behalf of members and partners.

This type of consultation is particularly important for our on-going efforts to strengthen the Alliance, as they offer us and our members an opportunity to come together, learn from each other and plan strategic actions. Our currently limited core funding may not allow us to organise a similar workshop in 2018 but we will organise one for members and partners in Latin America in September 2018, and the insights from this conference have enabled the IS to lead similar discussions and share this information at Conceptual Clarity sessions at the Asia People’s Meeting in Yangon, 2017, and in Nepal at the Conceptual Clarity Conference as a part of the ILO Work in Freedom Programme in November 2017.

## 2. Research

Research, Communications and Advocacy form GAATW’s other core activities. Below are some of the highlights under these activities.

### Sex Workers Organising for Change: Self-representation, community mobilisation, and working conditions



Organising is seen as an empowering strategy for all workers and human rights activists always stand in solidarity with organised workers. Because some people (who include activists, policy makers and donors) do not accept sex work as work, they refuse to recognise how organised sex workers have been trying to address abuse and exploitation (including trafficking) within the sex industry as well as the discrimination and injustice which they face outside their workspace. As such, organised sex workers often do not receive the same degree of support and solidarity from feminists and/or human rights activists who are concerned about trafficking and often conflate sex worker organising with strengthening the potential for trafficking. This blindness affects the sex worker community in very concrete ways. They do not receive adequate

financial support and their efforts to realise their rights as human beings and as workers are often met with limited success. Many activists suspect that sex workers rights groups are likely operating under ‘false consciousness’ or as the mouthpiece of brothel owners. Sex worker organisations often face hostility from some mainstream feminists who therefore tend to not include sex worker rights in their broader activism for gender justice and labour rights.

Using a feminist participatory action research methodology, this project has documented how organising, on one hand, has enabled sex workers groups to address the discrimination and stigma they face in society and additionally, deal with trafficking situations or elements of trafficking which some of their peers experience. The research took place in seven countries across different world regions: Canada, Mexico, Spain, South Africa, India, Thailand and New Zealand. The [final report](#) documents the negative impact that the anti-trafficking framework has had on the lives of sex workers and on the working conditions in the industry. It also looks at the sex industry as one sector where women, often migrant and of low socio-economic status, work and the strategies that they, and the organisations that support them, employ to improve working conditions and address

violence, exploitation, and trafficking in the industry. We hope that it will ultimately lead to a new approach to addressing human trafficking and other rights violations in the sex industry—one that is based on meaningful engagement with those in the industry themselves and responds to their needs, as they articulate them.

Initial preparatory thinking around this research began in 2015. Most of the field work took place between January and March 2017. In April 2017 members of the research team and all national researchers came together at a workshop to present, discuss, and jointly analyse the research data. The country chapters were prepared between May and October 2017, and the report was finalised by December 2017. In October we presented some of the research findings to our European member at the La Strada International NGO Platform. In December we wrote a [short piece](#) urging the EU to recognise the contribution of sex worker rights organisations towards supporting women who are trafficked in the sex industry, and we presented the research at [the second conference](#) on “Human Rights, Sex Work and Human Trafficking” organised by Hetaira in Madrid. During the conference we emphasised the need of delinking human trafficking and sex work to better and more effectively guarantee women their rights. Also in December, we presented the research at a consultation of the Indian feminist organisation CREA.

In 2018 GAATW and the organisations taking part in the research will publicise the research through different online and printed materials and events, including through a parallel event at the UN Commission on the Status of Women, and a dedicated donor-advocate convening for advancing sex workers’ rights. With these events we want to educate the anti-trafficking community and donors of the important work that sex workers organisations are doing to prevent and address exploitation, including trafficking, in the sex industry.

This project also allowed GAATW to reconnect with sex workers organisations and reconfirm our unwavering support for the rights of sex workers. GAATW’s position on sex work has always been clear but in the past few years our project work had focused more on migrant women in the domestic work sector. We hope that this research will again position GAATW as an important ally of sex workers.

### 3. Communications

As the Secretariat of an international alliance, internal and external communication forms an integral part of our work. Throughout the year, we continued sharing information, news, and insights from our work with members and partners, although not as much as we wanted, given the large number of project activities and the limited core funding.

We continued updating our website and social media pages with information about our and our members’ work, as well as concrete statements, news, and events. We published [one issue of the GAATW e-Bulletin in English and three issues in Spanish](#). The e-Bulletins are the main tool to share synthesised information with members and partners, as well as specific resources that can be useful in their work. E-mail communication related to specific issues, events and strategies took place on an ongoing basis. In particular, the GAATW advocacy officer sent regular advocacy updates to the members throughout the year.

We published several articles from the *Anti-Trafficking Review* in shorter, blog-style versions on [Beyond Trafficking and Slavery](#) (BTS). Towards the end of 2017, through a new strategic partnership with BTS, the banner of the *Anti-Trafficking Review* and the contents of the latest issue are displayed prominently on the BTS website.

## **Anti-Trafficking Review in 2017**

We published two special issues of the *Anti-Trafficking Review* in 2017.

### **No 8 (2017): Special Issue—Where’s the Evidence?**

**Guest Editor: Sallie Yea**



This issue of the *Anti-Trafficking Review* explores the role of evidence, research and data in anti-trafficking work and how they influence our understanding of the issue and responses to it. Contributors examine the evidence used—or rejected—in the formation of national anti-trafficking policies in Northern Ireland, Canada and India, as well as the role of statistics, and monitoring and evaluation of anti-trafficking interventions. In the debate section, four authors take turn defending or rejecting the proposition 'Global Trafficking Prevalence Data Advances the Fight against Trafficking in Persons'.

This issue was launched on 27 April in **Cape Town**, South Africa. The journal Editor, Borislav Gerasimov, presented some of the main themes in the issue, while Annalee Lepp from the University of Victoria in Canada and Susann Huschke from the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa presented two of the articles. The issue was also presented in Vienna, at the 26<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), where Borislav was joined in a panel along with GAATW board member Evelyn Probst, Anne Gallagher and two other authors – Jennifer Lynch from University of Hertfordshire and Katerina Hadjimatheou from the University of Warwick. In June we presented the issue in Bangkok at an event at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand, with the guest editor Sallie Yea and authors Ben Harkins, David Feingold and Charlie Thame.

### **No 9 (2017): Special Issue—The Lessons of History**

**Guest Editor: Julia O’Connell Davidson**

This issue of the *Anti-Trafficking Review* explores some of the histories that created and continue to shape the phenomena discussed under the rubric of human trafficking, and the contemporary discourse of trafficking itself. It highlights the ways in which simplistic analogies between wrongs past and present can hamper, rather than facilitate, efforts to secure rights and protections in the contemporary moment. Contributions from Africa, Europe and the Americas focus on the race politics of ‘modern slavery’ campaigns, the history of indentured and ‘coolie’ labour, the legacies of anti-white slavery legislation and the restrictions on labour migration that can exacerbate human



trafficking. Ultimately, they reveal that more critical engagement with the histories of transatlantic slavery, colonialism and their afterlives can teach us a great deal about the forms of violence, injustice and oppression that are tolerated today in the dominant liberal world order.

The issue was launched on 21 September 2017 at an event in the University of Bristol with the guest editor Julia O'Connell Davidson and author Sam Okyere.

## 4. Advocacy

Advocacy Work in 2017 emerges from a revised strategy which sees our work fall under two main pillars, with two strategic objectives:

1. To engage critically with the anti-trafficking framework
2. To amplify progressive feminist analysis within the migrant and labour rights discourse and work

And one cross-cutting objective, to **contribute conceptual clarity** – on trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, and migration and women's rights and labour, and to build a constituency with that understanding.

### To engage critically with the anti-trafficking framework

The **first pillar** envisions as outcomes that,

- Intergovernmental processes on trafficking in persons ensure accountability of state and non-state actors for the human rights of trafficked persons, and
- Actors in the anti-trafficking sector and others who intersect with this work support human rights based anti-trafficking work.

This pillar integrates our previous work on the call for a Review Mechanism to the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime and Protocols thereto, specifically, the Trafficking Protocol. While advocacy on this particular issue is currently at a standstill, we remain engaged with this pillar by advocating for the human rights of trafficked persons, in particular women, and influencing the anti-trafficking community, including donors. Some examples of our work under this pillar in 2017 include:

- **Asia Pacific Feminist Forum in Chiang Mai, September 2017:** GAATW held a workshop entitled *Resisting Mainstream Narratives in Anti-Trafficking Work*, whereby GAATW member organisations from India (Jharkhand Anti-Trafficking Network), Nepal (WOFOWON) and Empower from Thailand led an interactive workshop to reflect on the journeys their organisations have taken, how they have each resisted narratives, as well as migration and labour policies that seek to restricts women's rights to work and migrate, and an interactive game to reflect on privilege and agency in decision making about work and migration. Highlights included hearing how migrants and would-be migrants are managing to shift policy in India at state level from being anti-migration and depriving people of their liberty in contravention of the Constitution of India to moving to a safe migration framework, and learning how entertainment sector workers in Nepal are breaking down barriers which have seen the discrimination of and exclusion from society of female entertainment and sex workers through organising.
- **Conceptual clarity building on trafficking through GAATW 's engagement with the thematic session on smuggling and trafficking through the preparatory process for the Global Compact for Migration:** International Coordinator Bandana Pattanaik was selected to [speak](#)

[on human trafficking to UN member states](#), while three GAATW member organisations made interventions and speeches at the sessions and side-events. This was also an opportunity for the Secretariat to re-engage with some of our earlier work on migrant smuggling.

- **Publication of two issues of the Anti-Trafficking Review** (see more below), and launch events including at the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, and public interactive launch events in Bristol, Cape Town and Bangkok. In 2018 GAATW is also co-editing an upcoming edition of the ATR in collaboration with the UN Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT) and Mahidol University on Mixed Migration, which will be published in September 2018.
- **Preparatory work for upcoming advocacy on the implementation ACTIP in Southeast Asia**, looking at civil society's current engagement at the national level, with the long-term goal of setting up a civil society-led anti-trafficking monitoring group.



Figure 7: 1st Thematic Consultation on the Global Compact on Migration in Vienna

## **To amplify progressive feminist analysis within the migrant and labour rights discourse and work**

Under the **second pillar** we work to increase the recognition of the rights and autonomy of migrant and working women, including those who have been trafficked, in intergovernmental and non-governmental work on migration and labour.

GAATW's **main objectives** here are:

- to ensure a rights-based, gender responsive understanding of migration and migrants' rights;
- to ensure non-discrimination including in the recognition of the human rights of migrants in an irregular status;
- to challenge the misuse of anti-trafficking arguments and ensure that actions in the name of preventing trafficking is not used to erode migrants' rights.
- to advocate for labour and labour migration policies that ensure the human rights of all women, including for those in work sectors not covered by labour laws
- to work towards organising structures (such as unions) of inclusion and participation for women migrant workers, including/especially for those in the informal sector, and promote and protect the rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining.

- to guarantee a living wage and equal pay for work of equal value, and the elimination of violence against women in the world of work.

In 2017 we have sought to achieve our objectives under this pillar through the **advocacy** work on the **Global Compact for Migration**, which, while having a migration focus, has also opened space for advocacy and learning on decent work, trafficking, and smuggling, among others.

2017 was an intensely busy year for migrant rights advocacy in which six thematic consultations were held in New York, Geneva and Vienna, in advance of a stocktaking meeting which took place in December in Mexico. The intergovernmental negotiations will commence in early 2018 after the publication of the Secretary General’s report on the Compact and the release of the zero draft of the document.



GAATW’s secretariat and membership were actively involved in this process throughout 2017, participating in regional preparatory meetings, multi-stakeholder meetings and associated international meetings including the Global Forum on Migration and Development, four of the six thematic sessions: on the human rights of migrants (May), on international cooperation and migration (June), smuggling and trafficking (September) and labour rights (October), as well as regional consultations and related

meetings. The GAATW IS and members delivered a total of 19 inputs to this process (16 from the IS, 3 from member states) through speeches, interventions and responses to these consultations, including four [position papers on four thematic areas](#) and a written [submission to the Secretary General’s forthcoming report on the GCM](#). We also contributed to regional civil society meetings on the GCM, including by providing conceptual clarity sessions on mixed migration at a Southeast Asia civil society meeting in April, by sharing updates and information with like-minded CSOs, by co-hosting informational webinars on the compact for activists and allies, and organising a successful side event on women’s labour mobility at the UNESCAP Asia Regional Consultation on the Global Compact in November. In 2017 GAATW sat on the Stakeholder Steering Committee for the selection of civil society speakers for GCM thematic and multi-stakeholder events.



We are also using the occasion of the GCM to share feminist migration analyses and advance the rights of migrant women, including with the new **Special Rapporteur** on the human rights of migrants and in collaboration with allied groups and networks, particularly **the Women in Migration Network**, with whom we have worked closely around the Global Forum on Migration and Development, co-authoring organisational position

papers, and the thematic sessions of the GCM.

Throughout this process, we are calling for states to comply with their human rights obligations to migrants which is provided for by the core human rights treaties and pushing back against policies which seek to undermine migrants' human rights. 2018 will be a year in which the text of negotiated by member states, primarily in New York. We will need to keep up all the pressure we can on states to support a right-based compact and a transparent and inclusive process.

The IS has sought in 2017 to communicate advocacy activities to members with more frequency, and has successfully increased member participation in advocacy. The GCM has also allowed GAATW staff to build stronger relationships with external institutional stakeholders.

Other activities under this pillar included:

- A joint submission of a **Civil Society Shadow Report** with our member OKUP, on the occasion of the review of Bangladesh under the international Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers' and their Families in March 2017.
- A joint **submission on justice for migrant workers** along with GAATW members to the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in a special report on Access to Justice.
- Reengagement with the **ASEAN people's forum** in order to support our planned work around a women-centred safe and fair migration policy in the future.
- Participation at the **Commission on the Status of Women**, trying to secure language on the right to work and migrants' rights in the agreed conclusions.
- **Conceptual Clarity on labour rights discourse:** While much of our work on anti-trafficking and migration naturally takes in an analysis of labour, the tendency of policy spaces to silo issues can mean that trafficking gets parsed out from other related issues. Throughout 2017, we refined our analysis of the trend towards the use of the term "modern slavery", we have been following developments on the implementation of ILO Alliance 8.7, including by attending a strategy session at Wilton Park in February, a civil society forum in September, and IV Global Conference on Sustained Eradication of Child Labour in November.

GAATW will continue to advocate for the use of terms and application of ideologies that enable real, grassroots change on Access to Justice, and will continue to seek opportunities to influence labour rights discourse in 2018, including through re-engaging with the International Labour Conference, and their upcoming discussion of a Convention on Violence and Harassment against Women and Men in the World of Work in May 2018.

# ORGANISATIONAL ASSESSMENT

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GAATW completed 23 years of her journey in 2017. Due to shifts in the political, economic and funding climates, the alliance is facing several challenges that necessitate a need to renew and strengthen our structure, functioning, programming and roles within the membership and Secretariat. These included the IS taking up more and more project-based work, and because of its base in Asia most of the projects also focus on this region, fewer opportunities and resources to bring members together for consultations and discussions on issues of common concern and for mutual learning or planning collective action.

It was thought that an organisational assessment by external experts would help the IS to identify, more objectively, our areas of strength and weakness, and locate concrete ways of more effectively managing and overcoming these challenges. Consequently, with the financial support of Oak Foundation, the IS commissioned an organisational assessment with the aim of identifying and addressing areas of strengths, weaknesses, gaps, challenges, and opportunities in its programming and operational structure, to better enable it to move forward with a clearer vision and strategic direction, and strengthened operations. Consultants Sudarsana Kundu and Carol Miller from Gender at Work Consulting conducted the assessment. The Assessment thus aimed to:

- Conduct an organisational capacity assessment of the Alliance, the membership, the International Secretariat, the International Board and the Advisory Groups;
- Prioritise the action items emerging from the assessment into immediate, short-term, and medium-term; and
- Assist the Alliance, and particularly the IS, in preparing an organisational development plan and a strategic framework which will serve to guide its annual programme plans on the basis of the identified priorities.

The organisational assessment was carried out from August 2017 to December 2017. Following the literature review, document review and selected key informant interviews, a survey instrument was developed for GAATW member organisations. Two focus group discussions were conducted with IS staff and interviews were conducted with Member Organisations, Advisors, Board Members and other key stakeholders. The assessment found that, despite challenging contexts, GAATW has created a niche for itself by bringing a unique rights-based, feminist perspective to trafficking and migration. As an Alliance it has been able to build solidarity across CSOs that work on trafficking and who often work alone in their own country contexts. It has a diverse set of member organisations that are spread across the world, and has been extremely successful in critiquing the trafficking framework through a feminist lens, bringing a distinctive voice and credibility to the global discourse on trafficking and migration. The *Anti-Trafficking Review* and some of GAATW's publications were said to be acclaimed for their analysis that is able to build a bridge between the views of academics and practitioners.

The Assessment also identified on-going challenges the IS has struggled to address. Recommendations the OA makes to strengthen the IS and the alliance focus on the need to rethink the structure of the Board, clarify GAATW's identity as a membership-led or a looser and more inclusive Alliance, and invest in the development of the capacity of Secretariat staff. The assessment will feed into the development of the next strategic plan 2019 – 2024, which will commence in 2018.

# FINANCE

## A. INCOME FOR JANUARY-DECEMBER 2017

#	Funding Partners	Actual Income Jan-Dec 2017	Amount in USD	% of Actual Income compared with Total Income
1	BFW (Bread for the World)	6,563,200	182,311	21%
2	American Jewish World Service (AJWS)	2,524,750	70,132	8%
3	Global Fund for Women	652,028	18,112	2%
4	Winrock International	1,333,672	37,046	4%
5	Caritas France	1,875,150	52,088	6%
6	The International labour organization (ILO)	4,743,751	131,771	15%
7	Oak Foundation	4,885,048	135,696	15%
9	Heinrich Boll Foundation	346,167	9,616	1%
10	South Asia Women's Fund	8,083,500	224,542	25%
#	Organisational Income			
1	P-Fund	467,000	12,972	1%
2	Others (Donation + Bank Interest)	412,065	11,446	1%
<b>Total Cash received as of Dec 2017</b>		<b>31,886,330</b>	<b>885,731</b>	<b>100%</b>

## B. BALANCE OF FUNDS AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2016

	in THB	In USD
Opening Balance as of 1 January 2017	9,822,961	272,860
Income in 2017	31,886,330	885,731
<b>Less: Expenses 2017</b>	<b>24,412,197</b>	<b>678,117</b>
<b>Balance as of 31 December 2017</b>	<b>17,297,094</b>	<b>480,475</b>

### C. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES IN 2017

<b>Expenses from January-December 2017</b>	<b>In THB</b>	<b>In USD</b>	<b>% of Programme Expenses</b>
<b>OVERHEAD</b>			
<b>1. Personnel and Governance</b>	<b>3,947,149</b>	<b>109,643</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>PROGRAMME</b>			
<b>2. Power in Migration and Work</b>	<b>4,835,759</b>	<b>134,327</b>	<b>20%</b>
Work in Freedom Programme			
Towards Empowerment: Working with women and girls in source communities at the pre-migration and pre-decision making stage			
<b>3. Accountability</b>	<b>4,128,467</b>	<b>114,680</b>	<b>17%</b>
Accountability in Latin America: Participatory Monitoring in Anti-Trafficking Initiatives			
Accountability in ASEAN			
<b>4. Access to Justice</b>	<b>3,553,078</b>	<b>98,697</b>	<b>15%</b>
Addressing Labour Trafficking of South Asian Migrant Workers in the Middle East			
Access Unknown: Access to Justice for Cambodian Workers in Thailand			
<b>CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE IS</b>			
<b>5. Participatory Learning and Conceptual Clarity</b>	<b>4,687,866</b>	<b>130,219</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>6. Communications, Research and Advocacy</b>	<b>3,259,879</b>	<b>90,552</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,412,197</b>	<b>678,117</b>	<b>100%</b>

# ABOUT GAATW

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GAATW's mission is to ensure that the human rights of all migrating women are respected and protected by authorities and agencies.

GAATW promotes rights of women migrant workers and trafficked persons and believes that ensuring safe migration and fair workplaces should be at the core of all anti-trafficking efforts. We advocate for living and working conditions that provide women with more opportunities in their countries of origin, and to develop and share information to women about migration, working conditions and their rights.

GAATW advocates for the incorporation of Human Rights Standards in all anti-trafficking initiatives, including in the implementation of the Trafficking Protocol, Supplementary to the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime (2000).

GAATW strives to promote and share good practices of anti-trafficking initiatives but also to critique practices and policies that are having a negative impact or are causing harm to trafficked persons, migrants, and other communities.

GAATW supports the self-organisation of women in vulnerable and marginalised situations, especially migrant workers in the informal sector and aims to strengthen their efforts of self-representation and advocacy.

GAATW's mandate focuses on migration, labour and human trafficking with a special emphasis on women. GAATW International Secretariat (IS) works in conjunction with its member and partner organisations and aims to plan and implement the strategic agenda of the Alliance in a democratic manner, centring the rights of all migrating people.

## GAATW Structure

GAATW has a simple structure: the Board, the Membership and the International Secretariat. Sometimes voluntary temporary bodies are set up as per need.

### GAATW Member Organisations

In 2017, GAATW welcomed three new Member Organisations to the Alliance: Novi Put, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Justice Centre Hong Kong, and Human Trafficking Legal Center, US. At the end of 2017, the Alliance is comprised 82 Member Organisations from Africa (4), Asia (35), Europe (24), and the Americas (19).

### The International Board

The incumbent board of GAATW invited four new Bangkok-based Board Members in late 2016, and held a meeting with all of them in March 2017. The current International Board comprises the following Members:

#### *Executive Committee Members*

1. Manassanan (Ma) Pongnorrawish, Thailand – Chair
2. Thipsuda (Ching) Taweesaengsuksakul, Thailand – Vice Chair and Treasurer
3. Supang Chantavanich, Thailand– Secretary
4. Dr Ratchada Jayagupta, Thailand – Representative
5. Dr Rosalia Sciortino - Representative
6. Komolthip Payakwichian - Representative



7. Bandana Pattanaik (Member representing the International Secretariat)

#### *Regional Representatives*

8. Evelyn Probst, Austria – Representative of Membership in Europe
9. Andrea Querol, Peru – Representative of Membership in Latin America
10. Renu Rajbhandari – Representative of Membership in Asia

#### *Individual Experts*

11. Annalee Lepp, Canada
12. Elaine Pearson, Australia
13. Victoria Nwogu, Nigeria

#### **The International Secretariat in 2017**

1. Bandana Pattanaik, International Coordinator
2. Alfie Gordo, Finance and Admin Manager
3. Apivart (Nong) Chaison, Finance and Administrative Officer
4. Naetima (Mui) Kosolsaksakul, Accountant (part time)
5. Chus Álvarez, Programme Officer for LAC Region
6. Leah Sullivan, Communications and Advocacy Officer
7. Borislav Gerasimov, Communications and Advocacy Officer
8. Eunha Gim, Research and Training Officer (joined November 2017)
9. Ratna Mathai-Luke, Programme Officer Asia (joined December 2017)
10. Gitanjali Jena, Programme Coordinator (until October 2017)
11. Maitreyi Gupta, Programme Officer, South Asia (until September 2017)

#### **The Editorial Board of the Anti-Trafficking Review**

1. Rutvica Andrijasevic, University of Bristol, United Kingdom
2. Jacqueline Bhabha, Harvard School of Public Health, United States
3. Urmila Bhoola, UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, South Africa
4. Xiang Biao, Oxford University, United Kingdom
5. Luciana Campello, Panamerican Health Organization, Brazil
6. Mike Dottridge, Independent Human Rights Consultant, United Kingdom
7. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, University of Nigeria; Former UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Nigeria
8. Anne Gallagher, Independent scholar and legal advisor, Australia
9. John Gee, Transient Workers Count Too, Singapore
10. Chandre Gould, Institute for Security Studies, South Africa
11. Suzanne Hoff, La Strada International, The Netherlands
12. Kristiina Kangaspunta, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Austria
13. Kamala Kempadoo, York University, Canada
14. Annalee Lepp, University of Victoria, Canada
15. Marika Wen McAdam, Independent Consultant, Australia
16. Sverre Molland, The Australian National University, Australia
17. Rebecca Napier Moore, Independent consultant, Thailand
18. Marina Novaes, Human Rights and Citizenship of Sao Paulo's City Hall, Brazil
19. Victoria Ijeoma Nwogu, United Nations Development Programme, Somalia
20. Julia O'Connell Davidson, University of Bristol, United Kingdom
21. Pia Oberoi, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Switzerland
22. Sam Okyere, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom
23. Elaine Pearson, Human Rights Watch, Australia
24. Nicola Piper, University of Sydney, Australia
25. Nivedita Prasad, Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences, Germany
26. Caroline Robinson, Focus on Labour Exploitation, United Kingdom

27. Jyoti Sanghera, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Switzerland
28. Marie Segrave, Monash University, Australia
29. Elena Shih, Brown University, United States
30. Kendra Strauss, Simon Fraser University, United States
31. Rebecca Surtees, NEXUS Institute, United States
32. Sallie Yea, Independent scholar and consultant, Australia
33. Cathy Zimmerman, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom



**Prepared by:** GAATW International Secretariat

**Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women**

P.O. Box 36, Bangkok Noi Post Office

Bangkok 10700 Thailand

Email: [gaatw@gaatw.org](mailto:gaatw@gaatw.org)

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



**Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women**

**P.O. Box 36 Bangkok Noi Post Office  
Bangkok 10700 Thailand  
Tel: +66-2-8641427/28 Fax: +66-2-8641637  
Email: [gaatw@gaatw.org](mailto:gaatw@gaatw.org) Website: [www.gaatw.org](http://www.gaatw.org)**