

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

REFLECTION

What went well?

A good amount of...
bldg. trust rich data
...few monthly checkin...

COLLECTIVE FROM NEW as a PAM FPAR Partner

Open Mind and Friendly (The people from FPAR)

Look for all of FPAR program with NEW

→ Elected Document → Menor are more open and are able to express themselves, their experiences

What were the challenges

Balancing btw participation & getting things done

CHALLENGES FGD'S MEETING IS IN HALF-WAY SPECIFIC TREND IS NOT REPRESENTATIVE. FGD'S PROMOTION TO RESEARCHER & ETHNICITY

TIME Time

Weather

Food

larger participation base

→ Gap in addressing their issues
→ Meeting management chaotic

→ Expense of the researcher
→ Natural calamities stopped the work

Worked don't leave enough time to participate our research process

What was unexpected or surprising?

ave of trust building

UNEXPECTED FINDING THE THREE FGD'S WITH ABOUT 60% THE SM RESPONDENTS

→ Women are not able to link with IS empowerment facilities

background of women be a migrant workers

Expectations...

What is that you most need from Works

learning from the similar experiences

learning from other country process

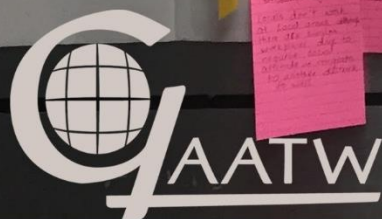
Gain more knowledge and understanding how to analyze data.

Clarity in Advocacy Action

ideas for a action laboratory

Learning from the other country process

Inputs on effective data analysis (Qualitative)



2018 ANNUAL REPORT
Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

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FOREWORD

The year 2018 was an important one for GAATW International Secretariat. In addition to implementing two thematic programmes that comprised five projects and straddled all continents, and carrying out our core functions, we also set out to address some of the structural issues such as membership and decision making processes. Following the organisational assessment carried out in 2017, it was imperative that we take steps to implement its key recommendations.

So it turned out to be a very busy year. We completed a research project with sex worker rights organisations in seven countries which documented how sex workers are organising to tell their own stories, improve their working conditions, and address exploitation, including trafficking. During the year we began three more feminist participatory action research projects in collaboration with partners in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Our advocacy work continued to engage critically with anti-trafficking initiatives and amplify progressive feminist analyses within the migrant and labour rights discourse and work. The publication of *Anti-Trafficking Review* was on schedule and the published essays were well appreciated by academics and practitioners.

Perhaps the most important convenings of the year were our meetings with members in all regions and the Forum on Women, Work and Migration. Project based funding since 2012 has made it quite difficult for the Secretariat to hold consultations with members. As such, the members meetings in 2018 were our first systematic effort to reach out to all our members after the 20th Anniversary celebration in 2014. These meetings were good opportunities to understand regional priorities and the current work of our members. The discussion in the meetings provided valuable input to our strategic planning process. Following the meetings, the Secretariat also took a decision that from 2019 onwards it will hold one global thematic consultation per year.

The knowledge sharing forum on Women, Work and Migration held in Colombo in April, was a unique initiative. Aimed to build cross-sectoral solidarity among women workers, the forum brought together over 60 civil society activists, community workers, worker representatives, migrant groups, trade unionists, and academics to discuss the key issues surrounding women's work across both formal and informal sectors. Encouraged by the response, we decided to do this as an annual event.

Another important decision in 2018 was to prioritise convening an annual meeting of the international board of directors. Over the last few years, funding constraints had not allowed us to convene such meetings regularly, which had impacted negatively on the governance and guidance aspect of our work. Following a meeting in May 2018, the board members worked together on a Handbook that will serve as a guide to new board members of the board. Finally, an assessment of our finance system carried out by an external consultancy group completed our organisational tasks for the year. In 2019 we'll be taking steps to implement the recommendations of the assessment.

A year packed with many important events meant that the small team of the Secretariat had to work very hard. I congratulate our team in carrying out all the tasks efficiently and for being supportive towards each other. All of us at the Secretariat appreciate the support we have received from our members, partners, allies, donors and our board of directors and we look forward to continuing our joint work in 2019, as we celebrate our 25th anniversary and begin implementing our new strategic plan.

Bandana Pattanaik

International Coordinator

THEMATIC FOCUS IN 2018

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 economic and labour migration policies can and should respond to migrant women's needs, aspirations, and abilities. 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. We emphasise the need to ensure that anti-trafficking and related policies increase rights protections for migrant women, rather than causing harm.



RIGHTS AND JUSTICE FOR WOMEN IN THE CONTEXT OF MOBILITY AND WORK

In 2018, GAATW-IS continued its collaboration with 11 partners from nine countries across Southeast, South, and West Asia on a joint research project named 'Safe and Fair Migration: A feminist perspective on women's rights to mobility and work'. Through this project, GAATW-IS aims to strengthen the capacities of women-led and/or women-focused organisations in deepening their understanding and recognition of women's autonomy and strength in making decisions regarding their work experience and mobility. By using Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) framework and methods, our objectives are to centre our analysis on women's complex realities in the world of work and migration, highlight the need to re-define safe and fair migration from migrant women's perspective, and to eventually push for evidence-based policies that work for women.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Throughout the year, GAATW-IS conducted a number of workshops and undertook learning and support visits to the partners. Our partners are based in countries of origin and destination, namely: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, and Thailand. Under the

umbrella theme of Safe and Fair Migration, each partner organisation chose a topic to explore women migrant workers' experience in labour and migration within their unique context. The organisations support women working in different sectors, such as domestic workers, ready-made garment workers, entertainment workers, and others.

FPAR Methodology Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand



In February, we held a three-day methodology workshop in Bangkok, with all project partners with three main goals: a) To gain conceptual clarity on our understanding of “safe” and “fair” migration and find out how it impacts women migrant workers; b) To learn the principles of Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) as a framework and build confidence in using FPAR as an approach and methodology; and c) To refine research questions and draw up a detailed research plan based on the understanding of FPAR. As most of the participants were new to the FPAR framework, they gained new insights and understanding on the principles of a feminist, participatory, and action-oriented research and movement building.

The following are some of the quotes we have excerpted from the meeting notes.

“We should also look at Fair Migration in the context of power relationships between employees and employers in destination countries. There should be a space to co-exist without imposing their [the employer’s] way of life.” (participant from Lebanon)

“Feminism believes in equality, there is no hierarchy. If we are researching on women’s lives, we believe that the greatest holders of women’s experience are women themselves.” (participant, details not available)

“I see this [engaging in FPAR] as an empowering process which will have a direct impact on women. FPAR highlights the importance of having the researcher from the community. Framing hypothesis and mapping of power

will be done collectively and because of this, it is an empowering process.” (a participant from Nepal)

Support and Learning Visits to Partner Countries



GAATW-IS staff visited the partners in Cambodia, Kuwait, Bangladesh, and Thailand and together carried out interviews and focus group discussions with women migrant workers.

Cambodia: In April, GAATW-IS and the Cambodian Alliance of Trade Unions (CATU) co-facilitated a one-day workshop with trade union members to introduce our project and hold a conceptual clarity session on FPAR. Twenty members of CATU joined the workshop including women leaders of smaller unions in the garment factories. While most of the participants shared that they have not heard of ‘feminism’ or had misconceptions about it, it was interesting that by the end, male participants acknowledged the multiple burdens that women have to take due to the socially constructed roles in the household. A staff from CATU also shared that the workshop helped them open their eyes to inequality, and the way in which globalised capitalism had pushed the Cambodian garment industry in a race to the bottom, which they did not necessarily give much attention before.

Kuwait: In June, GAATW-IS visited our project partner Sandigan Kuwait to better understand their activism and ongoing initiatives in service provision to Filipino domestic workers. We held a focus group discussion with women domestic workers at the shelter run by the Philippines embassy, in order to hear about their migration journey and their ideas about what will make their journeys better. They talked about their expectations before migrating, the gaps between pre-departure orientation trainings and the reality they faced in Kuwait, and their future aspirations. We also joined an International Domestic Workers Day event organised by Sandigan, attended by more than 200 overseas Filipino workers as well as employers, representatives from the Philippines embassy, donors and sponsors for the event.



Bangladesh and Thailand: In August, GAATW-IS visited Dhaka (Bangladesh) and Mae Sot (Thailand) to provide thematic and project support to our partners Karmojibi Nari and MAP Foundation.

In Bangladesh, we met the women in the Women’s Café in Mirpur – a safe space for garment factory workers to socialise and participate in skills trainings run by Karmojibi Nari. There was a mix of women who were returnee migrants and aspiring migrants currently working in the garment factory in Dhaka. Most of the participants pointed out poverty as the main reason that led them to decide to migrate for work. Although their family members depend on migrant women’s remittances, it was disturbing to find out that women migrants are usually stigmatised by society and their family when they return home. While their migration was not always a pleasant experience, many women expressed they want to re-migrate as it offers them economic independence and a sense of freedom.

In Thailand, women migrants from Myanmar shared the challenge in obtaining documentation which is costly for the migrants to afford and the rules keep changing. They spent most of their earnings for the documentation costs while nobody among the group was receiving the minimum wage. In most cases, employers would deduct workers’ wage and keep the work permits with them. One participant in the focus group discussion shared her frustration with the corruption of law enforcement saying, “No one should be above the law. We want to apply for our documents independently and not have to depend on the employer.” The fear of retribution was also mentioned as a reason that hinders migrant workers from demanding justice, fair wages, and decent working conditions.

Data Analysis Workshop in Dhaka, Bangladesh

In October, the project team met again in Dhaka to share preliminary findings and to collectively analyse the data and stories gathered from engaging with the migrant women. We also reflected on our own journey as researchers and discussed ways forward to turn the findings into actions for national advocacy. On the first two days the partners presented their findings with a preliminary analysis. Praveena Kodoth, a professor at the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum led a session on connecting macro-economic issues with micro-experiences of women migrants. On the last day, participants mapped out their action points for national advocacy based on the research

findings. They were particularly encouraged to devise an action plan that could bring systemic change for women migrant workers. The workshop closed with reflecting on our FPAR journey by sharing what we had learnt and what were the challenges in following the principles of feminist, participatory, and action-driven research framework.

Roundtable Discussion on Safe and Fair Migration



After the three-day workshop, we organised a Roundtable discussion “Safe and Fair migration: Towards ending violence in the workplace” which aimed to present the realities of migrant women’s experience to help contextualise and develop better policies at the national level. Along with our members in Bangladesh, several government representatives and journalists were present at the event. Some of the returnee migrant women made powerful speeches on the injustices that they have faced during the migration process, at the workplace and upon return. Although we did not have a concrete outcome from this roundtable, it offered an opportunity for women workers to voice their concerns directly to the policy makers. We hope to see more dialogue happening across different stakeholders especially one that listens to the lived experiences of women.

WAY FORWARD

Our project will continue until May 2019 and our partners will produce country reports on Safe and Fair Migration, each with their own focus topics. Based on our partners’ research, GAATW-IS will publish a compilation report highlighting women’s narratives on safe and fair migration with our feminist analysis. Our partners will also produce a number of communications and advocacy materials. Some of the planned outputs are handbook for aspiring migrant workers using comic strips, film screening event on migrant rights activism, documentary and animated film on women workers’ experience, among others.

WORK IN FREEDOM: TO ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF PARTNER ORGANISATIONS WORKING WITH MIGRANT WOMEN IN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION



GAATW recognised the invaluable contribution of community workers, to this project and beyond, in sustaining the work, bringing added value and knowledge to the community, especially among women and girls, and enabling the growth of women's leadership in a community that is dynamic, which shifts and changes socio-economically, culturally, and politically.

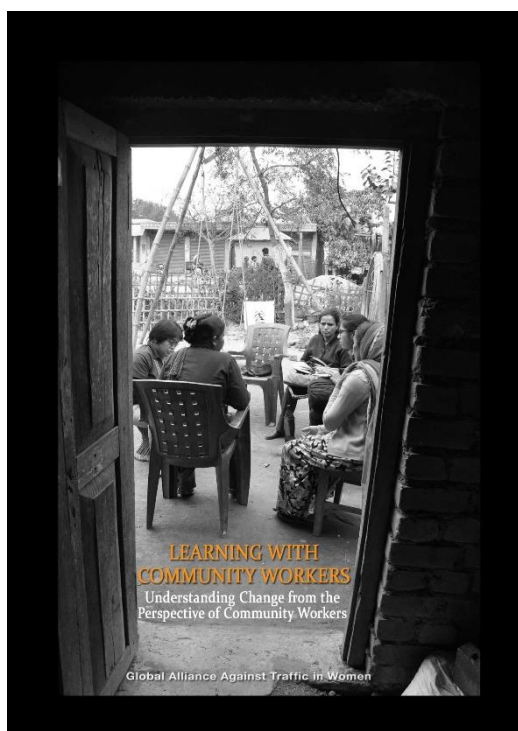
GAATW took the initiative to embark upon an intensive learning exercise with community workers (mostly women) of the WIF project, through a series of workshops, with the overall goal of recognising the vital role of the community worker in advancing the work of the project and in learning from her experiences. More specifically, the objectives of the exercise were to:

- Understand the insights and experiences of the community worker with regard to issues of migration, gender equality, women's work and right to mobility, among others;
- Map trends of change in the community, from a socio-cultural, socio-economic perspective, through the eyes of a community worker; and
- Understand the growth of the community worker, both personal and professional, especially with regard to leadership among women and promoting gender equality.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

There were three major accomplishments in the course of the project implementation. First is the production of outputs that will continue to support the work of local organisations who work directly with community workers.

Second, the key learning that we would like to highlight here through our invaluable engagements with project staff and community workers:



Mutual learning and collaboration, and developing connections between groups and activists in countries of origin and destination. Through the WIF programme, 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 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.

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 [resulting document](#) and accompanying [short video](#) are a collation of learning about women workers’ rights, and the understanding of empowerment and leadership as told by community workers themselves.

Understanding the motivations of rights activists. Asking labour activists and community workers why they do the work they do, and how it 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.

Third aspect was achieved through the structure of the WIF programme which included panels of experts, academics, and workers from across the region who shared their knowledge of the current and emerging trends on how the politics and policies of the region were affecting labour migration and women’s livelihoods in South Asia. This kind of event has allowed detailed **knowledge sharing** opportunities to learn about women workers’ lived experiences of the impact of economic uncertainty on their livelihoods, the impact of development on workers’ mobility, the impact of gender-based violence in the world of work, and media representations of women workers. The workshops also allowed participants to learn more about the concepts of “decent work”, “safe and fair migration” and the new ILO proposed convention on violence and harassment in the world of work.

TOWARDS EMPOWERMENT: WORKING WITH WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SOURCE COMMUNITIES AT THE PRE-MIGRATION AND PRE-DECISION MAKING STAGE

This project focuses on rural to urban migration and migration focussed skills building efforts of the government for indigenous girls in the state of Odisha in India. It is a continuation of our partnership with Caritas France and our two member organisations from Odisha – Institute for Social Development and Aaina. In 2018 the project worked with two key groups: women and adolescent girls. The two locations in Odisha where the project is being implemented are interesting for their links with rural to urban migration and migration-focused skills trainings.

The original goals of the project were:

- 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
- To link young women to various skills development programmes available in their communities to expand their livelihood options
- 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
- 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
- To build the capacity of field staff in analysis, documentation and reporting.

Additionally, this project also created an informal working group of NGOs in Odisha who focus on the issue of labour migration. The working group members meet four times a year and discuss the complexities around labour migration with each other and take appropriate policy advocacy steps as well as coordinate assistance programmes.

In 2018, the project was instrumental in strengthening the existing work with the same communities and schools. The new element was a documentation component so that the colleagues working in the project will have enhanced skills of analysis and reporting. This documentation training (carried out by GAATW-IS) included selected women and girls from the communities and schools.

The other new element was the hands-on support work provided by GAATW-IS in the tribal schools in collaboration with our member Institute for Social Development. Overall, the project focused on knowledge, skills building and strengthening women's rights at local level. In addition, it has a local advocacy component to influence policy and practice changes to address rights violations as well as better implementation of development programmes that can enhance livelihood options for women and girls in the communities.

LEARNING FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS

The aim of this project is to deepen the understanding of the lives of women migrant workers by documenting the continuum of violence and exploitation they experience, as well as the strategies they use to cope with these not just in their daily lives but throughout their migration journey. These experiences, documented through Feminist Participatory Action Research methodologies, will contribute to the direct service and advocacy work of GAATW and our partners in nine countries of South Asia, West Asia and the Horn of Africa.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Introductory Workshop for all project partners



The first convening of the project took place in June in Bangkok as a three-day orientation and documentation workshop for all project partners. The programme was designed to focus on the core methodology, and also to discuss and jointly decide the focus of the research. It was agreed that each of the individual country researches would address “safe and fair migration”, “violence against women in the world of work”, and “access to justice” using the guiding questions under each theme which were jointly identified during the workshop. It was also agreed that the project comprises two components – research, and advocacy (which would be discussed after the research is completed and when the partners meet again for the analysis of the findings).

All the partner organisations contributed actively to the programme, sharing their work and case-studies. This was important as it was the first time all the partners were meeting in person. For the partner organisations from the sending countries, the workshop provided an opportunity to seek clarification from colleagues in the Arab destination countries on some aspects of the *kafala* system.

Monitoring and support (online exchanges, country visits and documentation)

Following the workshop, GAATW-IS remained in regular contact with project partners via email and phone calls, checking-in on their preliminary findings and providing technical support as needed. We visited partners in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Lebanon, Nepal, and Sri Lanka to provide capacity-building support and also learn more about their work on the ground.

Since not all the researchers had been able to participate in the first workshop, we made efforts to ensure that the researchers would also have a good understanding of both FPAR and the research topics. In this regard, we organised small learning sessions on FPAR, research ethics and on the

concepts of “safe and fair migration”, “violence against women” and “access to justice”. In some instances, practical support for conducting focus group discussions and interviews were also provided.

In some countries, GAATW-IS also had the opportunity to meet with returnee women migrant workers who participated in the research. The women shared their stories of migration; many of them had worked abroad only for a short time before returning. Based on the interactions with the returnee women migrant workers, experiences of abuse at the hands of migration agent are common. Long working hours, lack of skills training, different work expectations, and restrictions on mobility are common themes in most women’s experiences. Many recognise the risks involved in migrating on short-term visit visas for domestic work, yet few are able to access better alternatives nor are they are able to take any measures to protect themselves in advance.

Most of the women spoke of the continuum of violence in their lives; many used migration as a route to escape domestic violence. In almost all countries, the recruitment agents were identified as one of the leading perpetrators of violence. Life after return is not easy either, with aspersions on their morals and attacks on their characters being a common experience for many returnee migrant women.

WAY FORWARD

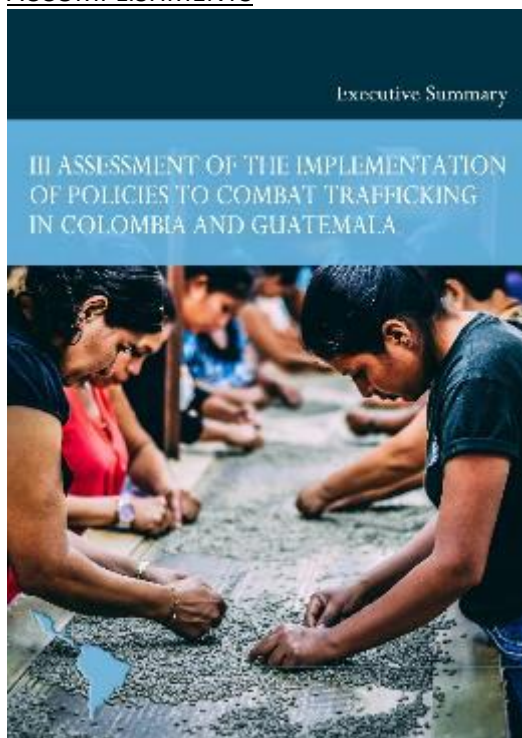
In 2019 the partners will meet to analyse the findings from each of the country researches. Following this, the partners will be preparing their individual country reports while GAATW-IS will use the collated reports to prepare a comprehensive joint report. Advocacy efforts to share the key messages and findings from the project will also be undertaken and some audio-visual materials will be prepared for their use on social media.

2. ACCOUNTABILITY

The 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.

Our 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, our 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](#) 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 trafficked persons 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.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



The adequate implementation of anti-trafficking legislation remains one of the main challenges in the Latin American region. For this reason, in 2016 and 2017 GAATW-IS and CHS Alternativo supported members in Colombia and Guatemala to implement an assessment of their states' implementation of anti-trafficking initiatives. One of the main conclusions was that monitoring needs to be done regularly because results can only be seen over a long period of time. To this end, our members in Colombia and Guatemala continued this activity in 2018. The IS supported them and published an [executive summary](#) in both Spanish and English.

2018 was a crucial year for the fight against human trafficking in Colombia as a new national strategy was to be developed to guide state efforts in the coming years. This new Assessment supports the adoption of initiatives including sectoral and inter-disciplinary protocols, rules, and regulations that seek to address the issue of human trafficking in all sectors. In

Guatemala, legislative progress was evident through the adoption of several measures to enhance the care for trafficked persons and support effective research. Nevertheless, there are still challenges in achieving an effective approach to prevent human trafficking and ensure the comprehensive protection of trafficked persons.

The activity in both countries that yields the most results is prevention, with efforts and workshops focused on training and awareness-raising. The protection and assistance of trafficked persons continue to generate the least amount of state action and the allocated budget to this area is insufficient.

Both country reports conclude with a number of recommendations aimed at different actors in order to enhance the areas of prevention, protection, and prosecution, as well as allocate adequate resources for their implementation.

WAY FORWARD

After three years of doing this exercise, the two partners have become confident and in the coming years the IS will continue to provide only limited support to their efforts by preparing a brief joint summary in Spanish in English. We will, however, support them in building on this work and addressing one of the identified weaknesses of the methodology, namely, the fact that the assessment is based on the governments' responses and the absence of migrant and trafficked women's views. To this end, in 2019, we will support several members across Latin America to conduct research among migrant and trafficked women to document their experiences with gender based violence and discrimination in the world of work as a common underlying narrative that connects job insecurity with trafficking in persons.

CORE FUNCTIONS IN 2018

3. PARTICIPATORY LEARNING AND CONVENINGS

Human trafficking is located at the intersection of migration, labour, gender, and development. Therefore, GAATW-IS employs a strong intersectional and feminist analysis of the broader socio-economic and political context, and how it affects women's mobility and their complex decision-making processes.

As the Secretariat of an international network, GAATW-IS has a mandate to take steps to enhance the capacities of CSO members and partners and to create spaces that allow them to reflect and analyse these complex issues and the interlinkages among them. We think that it is best done via focused, participatory learning initiatives which are followed by situation analysis and collaborative advocacy.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

KNOWLEDGE-SHARING FORUM WOMEN, WORK AND MIGRATION



In April we organised a three-day regional knowledge-sharing forum on Women, Work and Migration in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Focusing on South Asia, the Forum gathered over 60 civil society activists, community workers, worker representatives, migrants' groups, trade unionists, and academics to discuss the key issues surrounding women's work across both formal and informal sectors of work, including agriculture, sex work, entertainment, domestic work, garment, and manufacturing. The discussions centred on decent work, migration, gender-based violence in the workplace, and the need to build cross-sectoral solidarity between all women workers.

Countries of origin are disadvantaged in trying to push for the better treatment of their migrant workers abroad, when they don't respect workers' rights or create decent work opportunities at home. As a result of the growing informalisation of labour, women workers' lives are increasingly dangerous, irrespective of whether they are local or migrant workers. Governments' inability to

provide decent work alternatives or adequate living wages is compelling many women to move out of their homes and countries, not by choice but because of need. However, the paternalistic attitude to women’s migration is forcing many women to opt for irregular means of migrating.

Gender-based violence is a reality for all women. Understanding gender-based violence in the workplace can be complicated in the absence of a proper or inclusive definition of ‘workplace’; participants from across different sectors – garment, domestic work, construction and sex work – shared how violence at home and violence at work conflate or overlap.

Respect and security in work are key aspects of decent work. Workers need to have a representative voice in the community they live and work in. For migrant workers in destination countries, such spaces enable women workers not only to articulate their political voices but also provide a much needed safe space to have recreation and build friendships and social networks. Trade unions, workers and women’s movements must engage with larger trade and investment agreements beyond a narrow lens of looking at the relationships of “women and work” or “labour and work”.

In addition to the main programme, learning sessions were also held on dance movement therapy, the media reportage on women’s migration, safe and fair migration, and the upcoming ILO Convention on violence and harassment in the world of work.

LATIN AMERICAN KNOWLEDGE SHARING FORUM: UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING EXPLOITATION IN THE WORLD OF WORK

Preparatory work

GAATW-IS worked in collaboration with [Beyond Trafficking and Slavery](#) and [Translators without Borders](#) to translate into Spanish a collection of more than 50 well researched essays related to mobility, forced labour, labour exploitation and other issues closely linked to human trafficking. The translated articles were not only used as core material for the learning workshop in October, but have also allowed us to connect across national and linguistic borders with like-minded organisations and individuals. The translated articles have been collated into a PDF book and published at the BTS website under the name of [BTS en español](#).

Learning workshop

In October, GAATW-IS in collaboration with the [Rel-UITA](#) (Latin America regional branch of [IUF](#)) organised the **Latin American Knowledge Sharing Forum: Understanding and Addressing Exploitation in the World of Work**.



In the Forum we deepened in the understanding of concepts such as exploitation and forced labour, and their connections with human trafficking. The forum was an opportunity for members, potential allies from different social movements and unions and organised workers to come together and discuss the strategies that organised women workers use to address abuses and violence in the world of work. This knowledge fed into our approach of promoting migration and labour rights as core strategy to prevent human trafficking.

ASEAN CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATION ON WOMEN, LABOUR MIGRATION & TRAFFICKING



In November we organised a consultation for some of our Southeast Asia members and allies to discuss the policy landscape regarding the human rights of women migrant workers in the region. The Consultation offered a space for inter-movement dialogue, allowing participants to share their work and to jointly identify ideas for further engagement within the migration, anti-trafficking and human rights frameworks in the ASEAN region to promote the rights of women (migrant) workers.

With the entry into force of the ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) in 2017, GAATW-IS has initiated a landscape assessment on the impact of ACTIP on CSOs efforts to promote the rights of women migrant workers. While this research is still ongoing, this Consultation provided an opportunity to reflect on how civil society can push for accountability by ASEAN member states and regional policy actors or rights-based approach to the implementation of ACTIP. Participants recognised that while civil society engagement with regional processes is difficult due to limited opportunities and even fewer dividends, engagement is still important in our efforts to change the dominant anti-trafficking discourse and anti-trafficking laws that have been enforced to restrict, and criminalise migrants' rights to work and mobility.

RIGHTS-BASED RESPONSES TO EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING IN THE SEX INDUSTRY – A DONOR-ADVOCATE CONVENING

This project was closely related to the research conducted among sex worker organisations in seven countries (see the section Sex Workers Organising for Change on page 21). One of the goals of the research was to contribute to the recognition of sex worker organisations as partners in anti-trafficking work, including by donors. Therefore, the objective of this convening was to present the research findings to a group of human rights funders, discuss their challenges and good practices in funding the sex worker rights movements, and ultimately, contribute to more and better funding for sex worker organisations.



The preparations for this meeting began in mid-2017 and the actual meeting took place on 5-7 February 2018 in Bangkok with around 60 participants, representatives of anti-trafficking organisations, sex worker rights organisations and networks, and donors. The first two days were dedicated to discussions related to our research and, more broadly, the challenges that sex workers face. Participants from all regions shared their frustration with the sometimes violent treatment of sex workers by authorities, who regularly harass, arrest and deport them, often in the name of anti-trafficking. Participants also presented the strategies they employ to organise sex workers to increase their bargaining power and improve their working conditions. Another topic discussed was the funding available for sex workers' rights and how funders can support the sex worker rights movement in a more strategic way.

The final day was reserved as a peer, donor-only space, in which funders discussed their own challenges in supporting sex worker organisations and what they can do better.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION TO DEVELOP A WORKER-CENTRED APPROACH TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

This project contributed to the development of GAATW's next strategic plan 2019-2024 and, in particular, strengthening of a worker-centred approach to trafficking. The process involved two consultations with GAATW members and allies – in Europe and Latin America – to find out about the latest developments in the areas of migration, trafficking, domestic work, and sex work in their countries and regions, what common activities GAATW can initiate, and how the International Secretariat can support members.

Consultation with GAATW members in Europe

There are fairly clear divisions in Europe between the more economically developed countries in Western Europe plus Turkey, which are destinations for migration and trafficking, and the less developed countries in Eastern and South-eastern Europe, which are primarily origin countries. In-between are Poland and the Czech Republic which are both origin countries for people who move to Western Europe, but also increasingly destinations for migrants from Asian countries, such as Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines. This division was reflected in our members' concerns. Whereas the East and Southeast European members were concerned with low wages, unemployment, and lack of social protections in their countries that force their nationals to migrate and make them vulnerable to exploitation, members from Western Europe were concerned with the poor working conditions, low wages, and lack of effective monitoring and oversight in sectors where migrants work, such as construction, agriculture, domestic work, and sex work. Colleagues from Poland and the Czech Republic shared that there has been an increase in the number of labour migrants from Asia, and the need to better understand their social and cultural background.

Many members shared that cases of trafficking outside the sex industry are rarely identified in their countries, even though they felt that there are many more cases than the official figures suggest. While some attributed this to insufficient numbers of labour inspectors, all agreed that the crime of "trafficking for labour exploitation" is poorly understood by practitioners in their country. In particular, they were concerned about the lack of clarity among the relevant authorities on the differences between poor working conditions, labour exploitation, and human trafficking for labour exploitation. Furthermore, colleagues shared that in some of the less economically developed countries in Eastern Europe people are "tolerant of exploitation" and willing to accept and endure poor working conditions and low pay as "better than nothing". In such cases, people don't self-identify as victims of trafficking and don't seek help from authorities.

Most members said that sex work is not a "hot issue" in their countries, except in Spain where the government had recently dissolved a legally registered union of sex workers. Some members have well-articulated positions on sex workers' rights, while others not and several expressed the desire to learn more in order to feel prepared if debates erupt in their country.

Colleagues from several countries also spoke about the situation of domestic workers in diplomat households. Some of them had been working on this issue for years, others had only encountered one or two cases but all were frustrated with the inability to offer much help to them because of the immunity enjoyed by foreign diplomats and the unwillingness of their Foreign Ministry to raise the issue with the government of the diplomat's country.

Consultation with GAATW members in Latin America

The social, political, and economic contexts in Latin America are very challenging: extreme poverty, high informality of work, weak governments, political instability, civil society mistrust towards governments, and setbacks in civil, labour, and women's rights.

Members stressed the importance to understand and follow the migration flows within the region. Since 2015, more than three million Venezuelans have been displaced and are entering neighbouring countries. In general, the population from these countries is welcoming the displaced Venezuelans but the situation is overwhelming and the lack of resources and organisation in the reception and assistance is triggering xenophobic reactions. Most of these migrants are in a vulnerable situation and desperately trying to find jobs to survive and thus at high risk of exploitation. Members are struggling to assist newly arrived Venezuelan migrants, and stretching their existing resources.

Members from Guatemala and Mexico highlighted the impact of the migration happening in the

Central America region. Political turmoil, extortion and violence in El Salvador and Honduras are provoking a humanitarian crisis in which migrants are crossing borders in very precarious conditions. Both governments and organisations in transit and destination countries are overwhelmed and unable to cope with the situation. Members highlighted the importance of working with organisations from origin countries to understand the contexts and provide better assistance.

Sex work is a burning issue in the region. Abolitionist discourse is strong and spread across the countries, conflating sex work with human trafficking and exploitation. Organisations promoting sex worker rights are accused of pimping and human trafficking. Belonging to GAATW allows MOs, especially those dedicated to the protection of sex workers' rights, to gain greater respect among other civil society organisations dedicated to the issue of trafficking and to create links with other CSOs. Organisations highlighted the importance of working together and build a stronger common discourse against the abolitionist arguments.

Domestic workers in the region have a long history of organising. There are many domestic workers unions and organisations and most countries have ratified ILO Convention 189 (Mexico and Guatemala haven't and Peru will do so in November 2019). However, working conditions are still abusive and in many occasions domestic workers are excluded from the systems of social protection. Domestic work is often the labour sector in which some sex workers move when they get older. Similarly, sex work is on many occasions a way to earn some extra money for domestic workers.

Based on these, and other, discussions during the two consultations we identified several areas of interest where the GAATW Secretariat can lead specific actions in the coming years. In particular, members expressed the desire for the Secretariat to lead common research and advocacy, organise convenings for sharing of experience and mutual learning, as well as online learning opportunities such as webinars. These ideas are already being incorporated into GAATW's next strategic plan.

WEBINARS

In order to maintain inspiring conversation and collective action, we started to organise webinars on different topics related to our work. Given the cost and time demands of in-person meetings, webinars are a practical, if limited, alternative for cross-border exchange and learning.

Two webinars, both in Spanish, were organised in 2018. The first was led by Mike Dottridge and focused on his speech [Eight reasons why we shouldn't use the term 'modern slavery'](#) and second one was led by Mónica Hurtado, focusing on her article co-written with Catherine Pereira-Villa [Adverse Insertion of Labor: Another face of the "amorphous demon" of human trafficking](#).

The webinars were open not only to our members but also to other interested stakeholders. They gave us the opportunity to open another space for knowledge building and alliance strengthening and were appreciated by the participants.

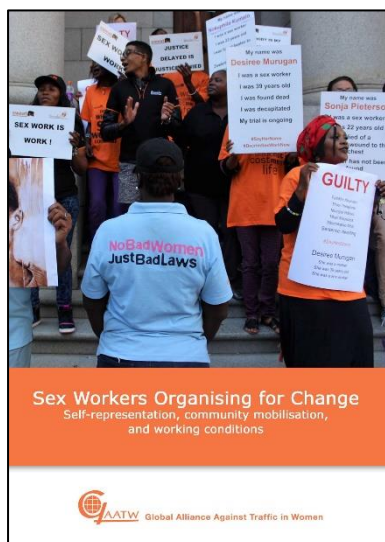
WAY FORWARD

The three regional forums and the webinars were greatly appreciated by our members and allies as learning spaces and an opportunity to foster new partnerships and deepen our common knowledge. In 2019 and beyond we will continue and, if funding allows us, strengthen this work. We will organise a global consultation on prevention of trafficking and will aim to make the knowledge-sharing forum on Women, Work and Migration an annual event and, if possible, a global one.

We will continue to organise open webinars on topics identified by the GAATW Secretariat and members, such as feminism, movement building, labour, sex work, and inter-regional migration.

4. RESEARCH

SEX WORKERS ORGANISING FOR CHANGE: SELF-REPRESENTATION, COMMUNITY MOBILISATION, AND WORKING CONDITIONS



Using a Feminist Participatory Action Research methodology, this project documented how organising, on one hand, has enabled sex workers 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 2017 in seven countries across different world regions: Canada, Mexico, Spain, South Africa, India, Thailand and New Zealand.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The [final report](#), published in February 2018, 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.

Following the publication of the report, we implemented several activities to promote its findings to a broad range of stakeholders. We wrote a [short piece](#) urging the anti-trafficking community to recognise the contribution of sex worker rights organisations towards supporting women who are trafficked in the sex industry. We published several other blogs in Open Democracy's *Beyond Trafficking and Slavery*: [the first one](#), published on International Sex Workers Day, summarising the background and main findings of the project; one presenting the [findings of the research in Spain](#), and one presenting the [findings from New Zealand](#). Our colleagues gave several interviews to Spanish media, such as [Contexto](#) and [El Mundo](#) citing the research.

The [announcement of the report](#) was translated by community members in [Spanish](#), [Polish](#) and [Swedish](#), and, later on, by Translators without Borders, in several other languages. Four of the country chapters – Spain, Mexico, Thailand and New Zealand – were translated into Spanish.

In March, we organised a parallel event at the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women, together with the research partners from SWEAT from South Africa and SANGRAM from India. Further, we supported the national research partners to implement activities at the national level to promote the report. In Canada we supported the capacity of Stella, Butterfly, and the Canadian Alliance for Sex Work Law Reform to engage in evidence-based discussions and advocacy for sex workers' rights, specific to migrant sex workers. They participated in various events where they spoke and diffused the findings of the research in Canada. In Mexico, Brigada Callejera organised twelve events (presentations, a press conference, an exhibition and a radio talk) in five cities to promote the report's findings. Around 20 articles were published in Mexican printed media, as well as one TV and one radio presentation. In South Africa, SWEAT and Sisonke organised two symposiums for sex worker rights, anti-trafficking, and government organisations to discuss the findings and recommendations of the report and update the draft *Protocol against sexual exploitation*. In India, VAMP translated the report in Marathi and presented it at two meetings: in Pune (with 92 participants) and in Bangalore (with 56 participants). Apart from presenting the

report, VAMP/SANGRAM also discussed the new Anti-Trafficking Bill and how it will affect sex workers. In Thailand, Empower presented the chapter to Thai sex workers and organised a symposium to review the anti-trafficking law and in particular the role of anti-trafficking NGOs vs the role of sex worker led organising. In New Zealand, NZPC organised a public event to present the research findings, which was attended by around 70 participants – members of NZPC, government representatives, and academics. The New Zealand Herald published two articles about the report and its findings in the country on the day before the event and on the day of the event. Further, NZPC used the report in their [submission to the CEDAW review of New Zealand](#), expressing concern about the susceptibility of migrant sex workers to exploitation, which the CEDAW Committee included in their [Concluding Observations](#).

This project allowed GAATW to re-establish durable and strategic partnerships with the sex worker rights movement and re-position itself as their ally. It contributed to our evidence-base that communities – of women, migrants, and workers – are essential partners in addressing exploitation and trafficking, and that community-based approaches to prevention and assistance are more necessary than ever. It also represented a major step towards the articulation of our new labour approach to trafficking, and we hope to conduct similar research in other labour sectors in the coming years. Importantly, we are also pleased that the sex worker community has taken ownership of the research and is using it in their advocacy (as evidenced by NZPC’s submission to CEDAW, or a recent briefing paper by the Global Network of Sex Work Projects which references our research).

WOMEN’S LABOUR MIGRATION ON THE AFRICA-MIDDLE EAST CORRIDOR

GAATW and the International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF) embarked on a new research project to better understand the processes, trends, challenges and opportunities around labour migration from select African countries to the Middle East for domestic work.

Most of the migrants taking up domestic work on this corridor are women. While some experience abuse and exploitation in the process of migration and/or at work places, many also achieve some degree of economic independence and support their families through this migration. As organisations committed to ending the abuse and exploitation of workers, including migrant workers, and to enabling migrants and their families to reap the benefits of migration, GAATW and IDWF hope that the findings of this research will enable them and other relevant stakeholders to strategise for better protection of the rights of migrant domestic workers nationally, regionally and internationally.

The research will take place in cooperation with IDWF affiliates in six African countries: Ghana, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Tanzania-Zanzibar. It will document the main routes, trends and realities of migration, the government policies that facilitate, or hinder, migration, the strategies that civil society organisations employ to support women who plan to migrate, or return from domestic work in the Middle East, as well as the perspectives of the women themselves.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As the project started in November, the work in 2018 consisted mainly of one activity: Methodology development workshop.

The workshop took place in December in Tanzania and was attended by two representatives of each research partner – one researcher and one (returnee) domestic worker – as well as GAATW-IS and IDWF Africa. The purpose of the methodology workshop was to introduce the topic and objectives to the researchers, and to develop a common understanding of the situations of domestic workers in

Africa and migration trends and patterns of domestic workers from Africa to Middle East. The workshop also built the researchers' understanding of Feminist Participatory Action Research and other forms of qualitative research methodology as well as their capacity on the research process and methods.

WAY FORWARD

In 2019 the six country research teams will conduct the research by interviewing migrant domestic workers (prospective and returnee) and, where relevant, their family members, government officials, recruitment agencies, trade unions and NGOs. This will be followed by a data analysis workshop. In the second quarter of the year GAATW will collect the research findings in a report and prepare policy briefs for national and international advocacy. The research partners in the six countries will organise awareness and advocacy events in their countries to highlight the findings of the research and demand policies that protect the rights of migrant domestic workers.

5. Advocacy



GAATW's advocacy work in 2018 continued to fall under 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

In the last few years GAATW has also moved towards greater engagement with labour rights spaces, reflecting a strategic shift in the focus of our work. A number of projects have also allowed us to deepen our understanding of the labour migration regimes, in particular in the domestic work sector. More recently, we re-engaged with the sex work sector (see above), and in 2018, we brought

together academics and activists from the fields of women's rights, migrant rights, anti-trafficking, and trade unions and workers associations at the Knowledge-sharing forum on Women, Work and Migration.

As such our future work and advocacy will be moving towards a more pronounced articulation of a **labour approach to trafficking**, which recognises that trafficking, exploitation, and labour rights violations are not an aberration, but are embedded in the current global neoliberal economic paradigm. They are primarily the result of the unequal power relationship between workers and employers in the labour market and state and corporate policies and practices that enable and sustain these relationships.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

To engage critically with the anti-trafficking framework

The **first pillar** envisions the following outcomes:

- 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 (UNTOC) and its protocols, including the Trafficking Protocol. In 2018 the Conference of the Parties to UNTOC [adopted the review mechanism](#) and we hope to engage with this in 2019. In this pillar GAATW's strategies have shifted from those focused purely on formal mechanisms to influencing discourse, promoting rights-protective anti-trafficking initiatives, donor influencing, and analysing the implementation of the anti-trafficking legislation at national and regional levels.

At the international level, towards the end of 2018 the **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** decided to elaborate a new [General Recommendation](#) on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration. GAATW started to work with the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia-Pacific (IWRAW-AP) to ensure that the recommendation will build on the existing strengths of the victim-centred and human rights based approach to trafficking. To this end, we participated at an Expert Working Group Meeting in Geneva, where we outlined to the Committee, based on the experience of our members and partners, good practices and approaches in preventing trafficking, and providing short and long-term assistance. The CEDAW committee will continue to consult with a broad range of stakeholders, such as governments, UN bodies, and civil society, in the preparation of the GR in 2019, and will release a first draft in mid-2019 and the final GR in February 2020.

GAATW members also engaged with the **UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons**, including through a consultation on social inclusion for victims of trafficking and a written submission on the same topic, both of which will feed into a special thematic report to be presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2019. We also made two written submissions to the **UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery** – one [on the gender dimensions](#) of contemporary forms of slavery, and one [on domestic servitude](#), together with PICUM and La Strada International. We further made [a written submission](#) to the **UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants** for a thematic report on access to justice for migrants presented to the Human Rights Council in June.

At the **regional level**, we continued consultations initiated in 2017 with anti-trafficking organisations in ASEAN member states with a convening in Bangkok in November. It was part of our efforts to

foster structured conversations on women's rights to work and mobility, to enhance civil society knowledge about interlinkages between women's rights, labour migration and anti-trafficking frameworks in ASEAN and to develop a robust advocacy plan, both at the national and regional levels, on a rights-centric approach to advancing the rights of women workers. This has opened opportunities to explore the possibilities of future advocacy efforts around the ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP) in 2019.

At the national level GAATW also engaged with anti-trafficking policy in India and Bangladesh. In **India**, a new *Anti-trafficking Bill* came before and was passed by the Lok Sabha (the lower house of India's bicameral Parliament) in July. GAATW joined a group of allies from academia and activism in resisting the adoption of the Bill and urging the referral of the Bill to a Parliamentary Standing Committee for further consideration, which ultimately happened. We published an [article in Economic and Political Weekly](#), and an [open letter](#) to Indian MPs. In **Bangladesh**, in October, GAATW and our members OKUP and BOMSA held a Roundtable Discussion on Safe and Fair Migration in Dhaka where speakers highlighted the realities of migrant women's experiences to help contextualise and develop responses and initiatives in shaping better policies at the national level.

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

Under this second pillar we worked 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.

Our **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 situation;
- to challenge the misuse of anti-trafficking arguments and ensure that actions in the name of preventing trafficking do not erode migrants' rights;
- to advocate for labour and labour migration policies that ensure the human rights of all women, including 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 2018 we sought to achieve these objectives principally through the advocacy work on the **Global Compact for Migration**, and also increasing our engagement with labour rights advocacy spaces through participation in the International Labour Conference.

2018 was another intensely busy year for migrant rights advocacy in which the negotiation of the GCM was held through a series of six sessions in New York, and the GCM was adopted at an intergovernmental conference on the margins of GFMD in December. GAATW attended two rounds of negotiations in New York, as well as the conference in December. Through our participation we aimed to strengthen (or at least ensure it's not weakened!) the global migration governance framework by making sure that it adheres to existing human rights protection standards, by:

- Advocating for the inclusion of language protecting the rights of migrant women, trafficked and smuggled persons in the Global Compact for Migration, through interventions, lobbying governments, and UN bodies

- Undertaking joint advocacy actions with other CSO actors to protect the rights of migrant women, including the launch of the [Women’s Rights Manifesto](#) and contributing to joint statements
- To strengthen relationships with other civil society actors, to follow the negotiations and be able to share proceedings with the membership.

It was a challenging year to do this. With the rise of xenophobic, right-wing political parties across Europe, and the anti-migrant regimes in the US, Australia, and Brazil among others, the political climate in which to advocate for the human rights of migrants felt to be at a low point.

Throughout the negotiations **clear divisions between states** remained – between the “like-minded” states (many Latin American states, who were allies on issues such as regularisation and labour rights protections) and other states and entities (EU, China, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, India, among many others) looking for more non-binding language, restrictions on services and rights of irregular migrants, greater distinctions between migrants and refugees, and refuting the applicability of the principle of *non-refoulement* in the GCM. Some “losses” sustained in the processes included the dilution of the principle of the best interests of the child, the non-inclusion of the term *non-refoulement*, and an exclusion of some rights protections to informal sector workers. Optimists would point to the references to climate change in the text, the inclusion of a paragraph on international cooperation, and open discussion and understanding of the concept of firewalls, among others.

We feel that the Compact retains a problematic approach to labour migration, and migration governance, offering a **Global North-centric view of migration, reflecting destination states priorities on return and national sovereignty**. In what is presumably an effort to convince states to open more pathways for migrant workers, the text promotes a “**triple win**” vision of migration, which envisions benefits for all parties, which risks overlooking the need to address exploitation, abuse and gender discriminatory provisions in existing labour migration agreements, and encourages a “migration as development” approach, which takes a focus away from states’ responsibility to create decent jobs and livelihoods at home.

The GCM was finally adopted at the UN General Assembly by 164 countries. While this is far from the widely adopted UN resolution, in the context of the current political climate, we need to see the victories in this achievement where we can. Certainly the GCM brings in some positive key changes in the way that migration is dealt with in the context of the UN – bringing it firmly within the UN architecture, rather than only in bodies further from the human rights framework. However, the GCM will be nothing without its implementation, the success of which remains to be seen. GAATW will, as much as we are able, remain engaged with this process, and seek to use any opportunities it creates to foster meaningful, migrant and labour rights-centred change.

Asia Pacific Peoples’ Forum on Sustainable Development 2018

In March, GAATW joined the Asia Pacific Peoples’ Forum on Sustainable Development (APPFSD) held in Bangkok. APPFSD is organised by civil society in collaboration with the UN ESCAP and the UN Environment Programme as a preparatory meeting for the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

During this forum, we co-organised a side event ‘People-Driven Accountability Methods and Monitoring for Sustainable Development’ together with Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) and Asia Indigenous Peoples’ Pact (AIPP). Drawing from GAATW’s experience in conducting Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) over the years, we highlighted the power of women’s narratives and stories that can counter the statistics-driven methods of SDG data

collection, monitoring and evaluation, as well as FPAR as an alternative tool to monitor duty bearers and hold them accountable. Based on the presentations and discussions throughout the workshop, we drew key messages on SDG and accountability:

- Accountability should not be driven by a top-down approach such as the SDGs, but rather be driven by the indicators communities develop to address their issues
- People-driven accountability methods are crucial to addressing the gap between the state's report and the ground realities. Local communities need capacity building in understanding the existing accountability methods of their duty bearers, and in evidence-based data gathering methods to effectively monitor how national revenues are generated and spent
- Civil societies need spaces to engage and negotiate with governments at the local and national level. One way to engage would be to work in coordination with parliaments
- For CSOs' monitoring and accountability against duty bearers to succeed, there should be strategic and consistent pressure simultaneously to all possible levels of authorities, from the lowest level (i.e. village) to sub-district, district, provincial level as well as reaching out to potential allies, such as parliamentarians
- The importance of capturing the journey towards achieving SDGs against a primary focus on achieving numeric goals should also be underlined and recognised. CSOs should keep pushing to monitor whether the states and institutions are also recognising and tackling the structural issues and systemic barriers which they failed to do so in the MDG era.

International Instrument on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work:

In line with a new shift towards a focus on the rights of women as workers, in 2018 GAATW started to engage with the ILO standard-setting process on "Ending violence and harassment in the world of work". This two-year process of negotiating the terms of an international instrument is an opportunity to address violence and exploitation of women workers through an international instrument that addresses workplace abuses against women from a labour rights perspective, and to contribute to the development of a strong law at the international level that sets a baseline for taking action to eradicate violence and harassment in the world of work.

We also hope that it could be important in improving protections for women in work situations that fall outside the protection of labour laws in many countries, including in domestic work and sex work.

At the knowledge sharing forum on Women, Work and Migration (see above) we discussed our initial priorities and concerns for such an instrument, and participants expressed these in a [Statement](#), which was published on International Labour Day, 1 May. At a Strategy meeting in Chennai, India in May we discussed implications and developed a perspective on the draft text, focusing on the rights of informal sector workers with our partners Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), National Workers Welfare Trust (NWWT), National Domestic Workers Movement (NDWM) and others. Thanks to SEWA, a number of the recommendations we had discussed were put forward at the 107th session of the ILC itself in June. GAATW and partners will continue to push for a Convention and a Recommendation to emerge from this process that will take an inclusive approach to work and workers, and seek to address systemic inequalities

6. 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, partners, and the general public.

We continued updating our website and social media pages with information about our and our members' work, as well as with statements, news, and events. We published [three issues of the GAATW e-Bulletin in English and four 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.

One major undertaking throughout the year was the translation of around 50 articles from Beyond Trafficking and Slavery (BTS) from English to Spanish. The translation was done by Translators without Borders with significant editing from the GAATW Secretariat. The articles in Spanish can be found [here](#), and [this piece \(in English\)](#) explains some of the rationale behind this undertaking. Later in the year we [contributed](#) to the BTS round table on the Future of Work.

We further published several short pieces from our research among sex worker organisations in [Beyond Trafficking and Slavery](#), and the [Thomson Reuters Foundation trafficking blog](#). Information about the research was also published in the [New Zealand Herald](#), and several Spanish-language media, including [Contexto](#) and [El Mundo](#).

ANTI-TRAFFICKING REVIEW IN 2018

We published two special issues of the *Anti-Trafficking Review* in 2018.



[No 10 \(2018\): Special Issue - Life after Trafficking](#)

Guest Editors: Denise Brennan and Sine Plambech

This special issue of the *Anti-Trafficking Review* documents the challenges that people face after exiting situations labelled as trafficking, as well as those whose exploitation garnered no legal protections or service provision. It introduces cases of life after trafficking in countries with robust anti-trafficking legal and care regimes, as well as in countries that offer little or no assistance. Contributions from countries as diverse as India, Thailand, Azerbaijan, the United States, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Denmark, United Kingdom and Switzerland highlight the lack of appropriate and comprehensive support for survivors after trafficking, as they struggle with family reunification, legal recognition and compensation, and long-term assistance. However, the issue also shows that ultimately, by taking back control of one's life, and tending to ordinary tasks and chores of resettlement, formerly trafficked persons move beyond the extraordinary cruelty of exploitation.

This issue was launched on 10 May at a public event in SEA Junction, Bangkok. Speakers included Dr Seree Nonthasoot, Representative of Thailand to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, Dr Ratchada Jayagupta, GAATW Board Member and representative of Thailand to the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children and the journal Editor Borislav Gerasimov from GAATW. Dr Seree and Dr Ratchada spoke about the challenges with identification, assistance and reintegration of trafficked persons in ASEAN, and Borislav presented briefly [the main points](#) highlighted in the journal articles.

No 11 (2018): Special Issue–Irregular Migrants, Refugees or Trafficked Persons?

Guest Editors: Claus K. Meyer and Sebastian Boll



This special issue of the *Anti-Trafficking Review* examines migratory categories and their use among authorities and humanitarian actors. Contributions from Indonesia/Malaysia, Hong Kong SAR, Italy, Peru and the United States explore the overlaps between categories such as “refugee”, “asylum seeker”, “smuggled migrant”, “irregular migrant” and “victim of trafficking” and their impact on the human rights of people on the move. In the debate section, four authors discuss the statement “It is important and necessary to make clear distinctions between (irregular) migrants, refugees and trafficked persons”.

This issue was launched at an event in the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand in October, where the guest editors, the GAATW International Coordinator, and one of the authors in the issue, Marika McAdam, discussed the categories applied to migrants and their impact on migrants’ lives. The issue was also presented in Marrakech in December at the margins of the GFMD, with speakers from ICMC, OHCHR and UNHCR and civil society organisations Justice Centre Hong Kong and the

Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network.

FINANCE

INCOME FOR JANUARY-DECEMBER

A: 2018

#	Funding Partner	Actual Income Jan-Dec 2018	Amount in USD	% of Actual Income compared with Total Income
1	Bread for the World	3,735,960	116,749	12%
2	American Jewish World Service	1,272,400	39,763	4%
3	Global Fund for Women	642,623	20,082	2%
4	Winrock International	- 6,211	- 194	0%
5	Caritas France	1,921,800	60,056	6%
6	International Labour Organization	5,213,873	162,934	16%
7	Oak Foundation	3,526,220	110,194	11%
8	Heinrich Böll Foundation	286,830	8,963	1%
9	Women's Fund Asia	8,166,375	255,199	26%
10	Swiss Development and Cooperation	5,937,641	185,551	19%
	Sub Total	30,697,511	959,297	96%
#	Organisational Income			
1	P-Fund	948,000	29,625	3%
2	Other (Donation + Bank Interest)	224,804	7,025	1%
	Sub Total	1,172,804	36,650	4%
	Grand Total	31,870,315	995,947	100%

BALANCE OF FUNDS AS OF 31

B: DECEMBER 2018

	In THB	In USD
Opening Balance as of 1 January 2018	17,297,158	540,536
Income in 2018	31,870,315	995,947
Total Funds	49,167,473	1,536,484

Less: Expenses 2018	30,832,694	963,522
Balance as of 31 December 2018	18,334,779	572,962

c: SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES IN 2018

Expenses from January-December 2018	In THB	In USD	% of Programme Expenses
OVERHEAD			
1. Personnel and Governance	2,686,080	83,940	9%
PROGRAMME			
2. Power in Migration and Work Work in Freedom Programme	10,109,862	315,933	33%
1. Towards Empowerment: Working with women and girls in source communities at the pre-migration and pre-decision making stage			
2. Learning from Experience of Women Migrant Workers			
3. Women's Migration on the Africa - Middle East Corridor			
3. Accountability Accountability in Latin America: Participatory Monitoring in Anti-Trafficking Initiatives	1,817,428	56,795	6%
4. Participatory Learning and Convenings	11,915,926	372,373	39%
5. Communications and Research	4,303,398	134,481	14%
Total	30,832,694	963,522	100%

ABOUT GAATW

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

GAATW promotes the 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 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 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 Members and the International Secretariat. Voluntary temporary bodies can be set up per need.

GAATW Member Organisations

At the end of 2018, the Alliance is comprised 84 Member Organisations from Africa (4), Asia (38), Europe (24), and the Americas (18).

The International Board

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. Dr Ratchada Jayagupta, Thailand – Representative
4. Dr Rosalia Sciortino - Representative
5. Komolthip Payakwichian - Representative
6. Bandana Pattanaik (representing the International Secretariat)

Regional Representatives

7. Evelyn Probst, Austria – Representative of Membership in Europe
8. Andrea Querol, Peru – Representative of Membership in Latin America

Individual Experts

9. Annalee Lepp, Canada
10. Elaine Pearson, Australia
11. Victoria Nwogu, Nigeria

The International Secretariat in 2018

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
9. Ratna Mathai-Luke, Programme Officer Asia

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4. Urmila Bhoola, UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, South Africa
5. Xiang Biao, Oxford University, United Kingdom
6. Luciana Campello, Panamerican Health Organization, Brazil
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
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18. Rebecca Napier Moore, Independent consultant, Thailand
19. Marina Novaes, Human Rights and Citizenship of Sao Paulo's City Hall, Brazil
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29. Marie Segrave, Monash University, Australia
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32. Rebecca Surtees, NEXUS Institute, United States
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