



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GAATW sees the phenomenon of human trafficking as intrinsically embedded in the context of migration for the purpose of labour.

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e-Bulletin

September 2025

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Dear friends,

Warm greetings from the GAATW International Secretariat.

This year we announced in our previous issue that we have formally structured our work into three thematic programmes: **Human Trafficking and Forced Labour**, **Women on the Move**, and **Women Workers for Change**. These programmes bring sharper focus to the intersections of trafficking, migration, and labour, and create more space for joint advocacy and reflection. In each of the thematic programmes, we have formed Program Advisory Committees (PACs) composed of members and experts to provide strategic guidance to our thematic areas of focus. We also invited members to join one of the thematic groups on anti-trafficking, migration, and labour. Now, we have sorted your contributions into these new sections.

Some updates on our Thematic Programmes:

**Women on the Move** has launched a new mailing list where members are sharing updates, campaigns, and reflections on migrant women's rights, including care work, forced migration, and border securitisation. We are also completing our desk research on migrant care workers' programmes in South Korea and Japan. And to broaden our understanding of the context of the increasing reliance on migrant workers in the care economy, we will look into the main issues driving the crisis in care.

In **Human Trafficking and Forced Labour**, we have begun a new research on trafficking for forced criminality across our members' regions, and are building a *Lived Experience Digital Library* that will include summaries and translations of GAATW's publications so that they are easier to access for all of you.

The **Women Workers for Change** has been an ongoing programme for the past years, and recently we completed an evaluation that highlighted the importance of creating safe spaces for critical literacy and valuing the expertise and knowledge of

women workers in the informal economy. After a very active first half of the year, the remainder will focus on partner support and field visits.

Additionally, we strongly stand in solidarity with members, and across social movements mobilising in Nepal, Indonesia, France, and many other countries where demonstrations are taking place against systemic corruption and unjust austerity measures, and calls for greater accountability and the defence of human rights.

We look forward to deepening these conversations with you in the months ahead.

In solidarity,

*The GAATW International Secretariat*

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## News from the GAATW International Secretariat

### Events and Activities: GAATW's key activities

#### Dance and Movement Therapy Training of Trainers in Bangkok



From 2–6 June, GAATW-IS hosted a Dance Movement and Creative Arts Therapy (DMT) workshop in Bangkok for partners of the Women Workers for Change (WW4C)

programme. Six partner organisations from Thailand, Indonesia, and Nepal participated, representing migrant workers, domestic workers, garment workers, platform workers, agricultural workers, home-based workers, and women porters. Co-hosted with [Kolkata Sanved](#) as knowledge partner, the workshop combined DMT sessions with reflective discussions, enabling participants to explore self-care, emotional expression, and well-being, while connecting these practices to their community and advocacy work.

Throughout the five days, participants engaged in rhythm-based activities, relaxation exercises, metaphorical movement, storytelling, and group choreography, fostering both personal insight and collective care. They also discussed strategies for documenting experiences, sharing narratives through accessible media, and applying DMT techniques in their communities. Organisational planning sessions allowed partners to reflect on achievements, set future goals, and create actionable plans for integrating DMT practices into their work with workers' communities.

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## Regional Migrants Summit 2025 - Trends, Rights and Actions: Understanding migration development in Asia Pacific

Alfie Gordo, of GAATW-IS, participated in the Regional Migrants Summit 2025, organised by the Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM) and the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD). The event was held in Manila, Philippines, from 21-22 June 2025. The event provided an intimate space for policy discussions, sharing research and experiences of organising, and building solidarity among



migrant-led organisations and allies. APMM also launched the "[Module of GCM Indicators by Migrants and Refugees](#)," a tool designed to monitor the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). Additionally, speakers addressed the intersectional issues related to health, labour, and social justice, along with the importance of migrant organising and solidarity building. Read the Summit proceedings [here](#).

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## Joint Human Rights Council (HRC) Side Event

On 25 June 2025, we held a side event at the UN Human Rights Council with Sexual Rights Initiative, Global Network of Sex Worker Projects (NSWP) and ESWA on the harms caused by the conflation of trafficking and sex work. On behalf of GAATW, Sole from *FIZ - Advocacy and support for migrant women and victims of trafficking* spoke alongside sex workers and the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking. The event was well attended by Member States and it was the first opportunity we have had to publicly speak about sex

work and trafficking alongside the current Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, Siobhan Mullally.

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## **Annual Interface and Dialogue between AICHR and CSOs**

On 10 July 2025, GAATW participated online in the Annual Interface between ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and CSOs in Kuala Lumpur, using the space to strongly emphasise the urgent need to address the rights of migrant women workers across ASEAN.

In a Joint Statement delivered with other CSOs, GAATW underscored the issue of advancing the rights of migrant women workers, highlighting the systemic and gendered violations they face, including exclusion from labour laws, exploitative recruitment practices, forced contraception, and lack of access to justice. GAATW called on AICHR and ASEAN member States to recognise domestic work as work, regulate recruitment agencies, ensure protection and regularisation pathways, and uphold migrant women's bodily autonomy and dignity.

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## **Women Workers for Change meeting with the Phuket Pinay Migrants Association (PPMA)**

GAATW-IS organised a Women Workers for Change (WW4C) Meeting, in collaboration with Phuket Pinay Migrants Association (PPMA), on 27 July 2025, in Phuket, Thailand. PPMA is part of the WW4C programme, which aims to support a feminist change agenda by and for low-wage women workers. Jean Aquiatan, the President of PPMA, opened the meeting by welcoming 25 participants, which included 12 PPMA members and 13 newcomers from diverse professional backgrounds, primarily in education and care work.



The meeting included a Dance Movement Therapy session facilitated by PPMA members who attended GAATW's Dance Movement Therapy Workshop in (month) in Bangkok. The session emphasised solidarity and the importance of community support for migrant workers. Bandana Pattanaik, of GAATW-IS discussed the WW4C programme as it creates learning opportunities for critical literacy, allowing participants to understand their experiences and question inequalities, such as wage disparities and discrimination. The final session on care work, led by Alfie Gordo, shared some inputs on the gendered assumptions that reflect and reinforce structural inequalities in women's paid and unpaid care work.



## Statements

### **Statement to Uphold Human Security And Human Rights, End Mass Deportations And State Repression**

In June, GAATW issued a statement expressing full solidarity with human rights advocates and organisations calling for an end to the systems of securitisation, surveillance, and state-led repression being used to criminalise migrants, immigrants, and refugees, including trafficked persons. Recent reports highlight the forced removal of working-class migrants in the United States from homes, schools, and workplaces without due process, disproportionately affecting women and girls and exposing them to increased risks of gender-based violence.

We invite you to read the full [statement](#), which calls for an end to the criminalisation of migration, protection for advocates and NGOs, transparency and fairness in detention, and accountability for state violence. GAATW continues to urge governments to uphold the human rights of all people and to ensure safety and justice are defined through human rights rather than excessive surveillance and control.

## Other Resources

### **Honouring Domestic Workers on International Domestic Workers' Day**

In June, in collaboration with our member in Colombia SINTRASEDOM, we shared a social media [post](#) to mark the International Domestic Workers' Day, highlighting the leadership, strength, and resistance of domestic workers advocating for dignity and justice. Together with members and allies, the campaign called for legal recognition, fair wages, rest days, the right to organise, safe migration, an end to exploitative systems like sponsorship regimes, and justice for victims of violence and abuse.

The video also promoted the "[Meet Our Members](#)" series around this issue and the publication [Narrative for Domestic Workers](#), inviting viewers to learn more about domestic workers' experiences and advocacy.

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### **Statement for Argentina Migration Law Reform**

Our member in Argentina, AMUMRA, issued a statement firmly rejecting the Urgent and Necessary Decree (DNU) 366/2025, published on May 29, which seeks to amend Migration

Law in the country.

The organisation highlights that the decree is unconstitutional, violates fundamental rights, and dismantles essential protection mechanisms, leaving migrant and refugee women at risk, especially those in vulnerable positions such as domestic workers, street vendors, agricultural labourers, older adults, and persons with disabilities.

The [statement](#) calls for the immediate repeal of DNU 366/2025 and urges the creation of inclusive, democratic dialogue spaces led by migrant organisations.

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## SEEAC shares their five years of Collective Journey of Impacts

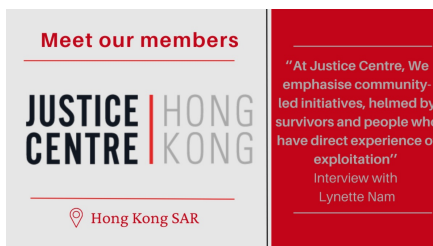
On 10th September, the Southeast and East Asia Centre (SEEAC) launched their [5-Year Impact Report: A Collective Journey for Resilience, Empowering & Caring Communities](#). Compiling this report was a process of reconnecting with community members, colleagues, and partners to ensure their voices truly shaped the story of the past five years.



And on page 32, you'll even find a special highlight of SEEAC as a member of GAATW!

## Alliance News

### Members' Spotlight (MOM Interviews)



In May, we interviewed the [Justice Centre Hong Kong](#), a non-profit organisation that provides support to refugees, asylum seekers and victims of human trafficking in Hong Kong SAR. Vivian Cartagena, Programme Officer Alliance Strengthening had an interview with Lynette Nam, Executive Director, who spoke about the journey of their organisation.

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In June, we interviewed [Jan Vikas Samiti](#), one of GAATW's newest members in India, who has long worked toward the development of marginalised

### Meet our members



Uttar Pradesh, India

"Learning from Women's Experiences allows us to shape our work"  
Interview with Chandran Riymonds

communities - especially women, children, and persons with disabilities. Vivian Cartagena from the GAATW Secretariat spoke with the Executive Director, Mr. Chandran Riymonds to learn more about their journey and hopes for inter-regional collaboration.

### Meet our members

حركة مناهضة العنصرية  
Anti-Racism Movement

Beirut, Lebanon

"Our dream and aim is to build an alternative system, not to reform Kafala, because it's not reformable."  
Interview with Farah Salka

In July, we interviewed the [Anti-Racism Movement \(ARM\), Lebanon](#). Launched in 2010, ARM began as a grassroots collective of Lebanese feminist activists and migrant domestic workers living in Lebanon. They are one of few organisations in Lebanon focusing specifically on migrant workers. Their theory of change shifts the positionality of migrant workers from "beneficiaries" to leaders and agents of change.

### Meet our members



Paris, France

"When we talk of law enforcement and prosecuting the traffickers, there is a bit of a narrative of 'us saving you'"  
Interview with Flora Enifo

As part of GAATW's efforts to highlight the work of our members on the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, our Programme Officer Alliance Strengthening, Vivian Cartagena, spoke with Flora Enifo, Community Organiser from [MIST Association](#), an organisation based in Paris, France. Flora shared how MIST supports Nigerian women affected by trafficking, the challenges they face, and what the situation looks like on the ground for migrant communities in France.

### Meet our members



Kathmandu, Nepal

"To us, the word assimilation seems more appropriate than the word 'reintegration' for the returnee migrant women workers"  
Interview with Manju Gurung

In August, Vivian Cartagena, Programme Officer Alliance Strengthening had an insightful interview with Manju Gurung, the co-founder and Chairperson of [Pourakhi Nepal](#), a pioneering organisation advocating for the rights and well-being of Nepali migrant workers, especially women. She explained how their work spans from providing emergency shelter, psychosocial and legal support, and reintegration assistance, to conducting policy advocacy on migration, trafficking, and citizenship rights.

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### Meet our members

**Nigat**  
Global Initiative

📍 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

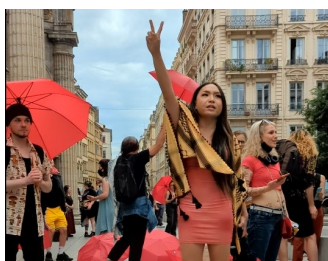
"Our greatest challenge is not a lack of vision or strategy, but the global silence when African youth are trafficked or enslaved abroad."  
Interview with  
Daniel Melese

This month, as part of GAATW's efforts to highlight the work of our new members, Trinity Blacklock, intern from GAATW, interviewed Daniel Melese Areda, founder of [Nigat Global Initiatives \(NGI\) in Ethiopia](#). In their conversation, he described the organisation's origins, its survivor-centred approach, and its commitment to systemic change in anti-trafficking work.

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## Highlights from the Regions: Our Members' Work

### A recap of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of International Sex Workers' Day in Lyon and beyond



As the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this day was approaching, our member, the European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance (ESWA), saw it as our responsibility to honor their predecessors and make sure the torch they lit shines brighter than ever. Fifty years since the beginning of anything is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. They felt that this anniversary needed to include once again, half a century later, the powerful symbolism of a church occupation. ESWA wasn't the only group to arrive at this conclusion. We began working with sex worker-led member groups across Europe, laying the groundwork for a more coordinated pan-European celebration.

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### XVI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

The XVI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Mexico City from 12 to 15 August 2025, under the theme "Transformations in the political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental spheres to promote the care society and gender equality." This event brought together governments, civil society organisations particularly feminist groups, academia, and





intergovernmental organisations to address the disproportionate burden of care work on women and the need to build a care-centered society.

Our GAATW member in Ecuador, Fundación Mujer y Mujer, organised the side event "[From Diverse and Popular Feminisms, We Build an Intercultural Care Proposal,](#)" which gathered feminist and social organisations from across the region to reflect on how care responsibilities affect diverse women (Black, Indigenous, rural, working-class, migrant, and sex-gender diverse) and to advocate for intersectional care systems that recognise cultural diversity, incorporate ancestral knowledge, use native languages, and guarantee decent working conditions for care providers.



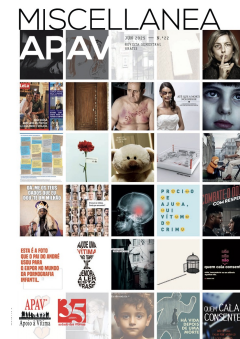
Our GAATW member in Mexico, Brigada Callejera de Apoyo a la Mujer, E.M.A.C., used the occasion to [demand government action](#) to eradicate informal "territory" fees (cobro de piso) imposed on sex workers, stop extortion by organised crime gangs, and end feminicides of trans women, particularly sex workers. They also highlighted the work of migrant women in sex work and to defend Amparo 112/2013, which recognises sex work as legitimate work in Mexico City.

## Human Trafficking and Forced Labour

### APAV launched Miscellanea APAV #22

In July, our member Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima (APAV) launched the issue #22 of Miscellanea APAV, their biannual magazine that shares scientific articles and reflections on topics related to victims of crime and victim support.

This special edition highlighted 30 historic public awareness campaigns that have marked their work over the years. The magazine is now available [online](#).



### Seminar on Human Trafficking in Chile

As part of the commemoration of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, our member in Chile, Fundación Libera, participated in several spaces for reflection and action.

On 30 July, Carolina Rudnick of Fundación Libera and Ingrid Almendras of Raíces NGO took part in the seminar "Radiografía de la Trata de Personas en Chile"

(X-ray of Human Trafficking in Chile), organised by Fundación Madre Josefa at the Universidad Alberto Hurtado. The event brought together a diverse audience, including representatives of civil society organisations, academics, public officials, staff from migration service offices, and members of migrant organisations. It served as a space for dialogue and analysis on one of the gravest human rights violations.



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## Tackling stigma and Human Trafficking of women migrant workers

On 31 July 2025, our member in Indonesia, Solidaritas Perempuan (SP), and the Indonesian Migrant Workers' Union (SBMI) held a public dialogue on **"Migration Governance Reform to End Trafficking of Women"** at Komnas Perempuan.

The discussion addressed how stigma portraying women as weak and dependent exacerbates discrimination, forces them into irregular migration channels, and increases their vulnerability to violence and trafficking.



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## Podcast Series: 7 days to understand, to understand yourself, to make others understand, and to be understood

In August, the French members of MIST organisation launched their first podcast series, created for all those who wish to become agents of change. The series highlights the reality of human trafficking in France, where, in 2025, French nationals were identified by judicial services as the largest group of victims for the eighth consecutive year.



Through seven episodes, listeners are invited to reflect, learn, and engage with the issue of trafficking. [These](#) new podcast series offer a space for deepening understanding and for fostering dialogue, with the aim of contributing to stronger awareness and collective action.

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## National Advocacy Meeting on Human Trafficking Act Amendment in Nepal

On 29 August 2025, our members in Nepal, Shakti Samuha and AATWIN, held a **National Level Advocacy Meeting** with parliamentarians and government representatives to discuss the amendment of the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 1007, and to strengthen rescue and repatriation mechanisms.

The meeting saw active participation from parliamentarians, government officials, civil society organisations, and survivors, reinforcing the call to pass the 1st Amendment Bill 2025 of the Act.



## Launch of the project “Weaving resilience networks against Human Trafficking”

In September, our member in Colombia, Corporación Espacios de Mujer, launched the project “Weaving resilience networks against Human Trafficking” in Medellin. This training process engages young multipliers from the district, with the goal of helping them understand what human trafficking is, how it is broadly connected to organised crime, and how this knowledge can empower them to become agents of change within their communities.



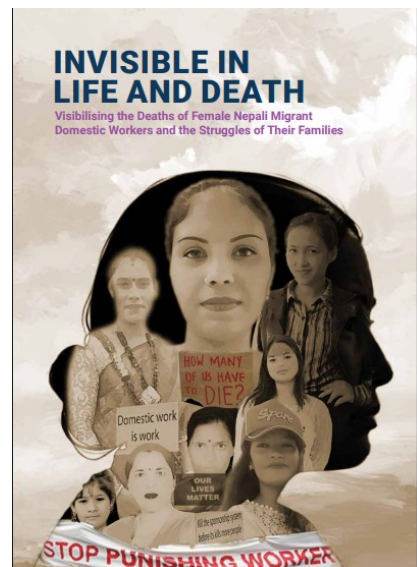
The sessions are taking place at the Maestro Fernando Botero high school, in Comuna 6 of Medellin.

## Migration

### WOREC’s Feminist research: Invisible in Life and Death, The Aftermath of Female Nepali Domestic Workers’ Migration.

In collaboration with Brunel University London, is pleased to share the final report of its pilot feminist research, *Invisible in Life and Death: The Aftermath of Female Nepali Domestic Workers’ Migration*. This study draws on 17 cases from multiple districts, centering the voices of bereaved families of Nepali women who migrated for domestic work and died abroad. We extend our sincere thanks to those who joined the dissemination event on 4 August 2024 and, for those unable to attend, we now provide access to the full report to engage with its urgent findings.

This report calls for comprehensive reform in Nepal’s



migration governance, including lifting domestic work bans, ensuring compensation and social protection, strengthening institutional accountability, and adopting intersectional feminist policies.

You can read the full report [here](#).

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## OKUP calls for climate-responsive Social Protection for migrant households

On 24 July 2025, as climate change intensifies displacement across Bangladesh's coastal belt, our member OKUP convened a national consultation and research launch to ask a critical question: **Can existing Social Security Programs (SSPs) protect climate-affected communities from displacement and long-term livelihood loss?**



Drawing on participatory research with 3,200 households in Koyra, Khulna, the study revealed that migration has become a survival strategy for 76.6% of households, most moving internally after losing homes, land, or livelihoods. The consultation called for urgent reforms to make SSPs climate-responsive and inclusive of internal migrants. Read more about their key recommendations on the social protection programmes [here](#).

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## Community debate on Migration reform DNU 366/2025 in Argentina

On 27 August, our member in Argentina, AMUMRA, held various community debates in Buenos Aires city to discuss the impacts of DNU 366/2025 and the Migration Reform. Migrant and refugee communities, as well as local residents, were invited to participate in the dialogue focusing on key points of the decree and its implications.

The initiative aimed to provide territorial support for neighborhoods and community groups, offering updated information and training on Migration Regularisation. Participants were encouraged to join the conversation and contact AMUMRA to organise similar debate sessions in their neighborhoods or community groups, as per needed.





## National consultation on Migrant Care Workers issues ahead of GFMD 2025

On 22 August 2025, our member in Nepal, Pourakhi Nepal, organised a National Consultation in Kathmandu on “Advancing Migrant Care Worker Issues in the Context of Nepal’s Engagement at GFMD 2025.” The consultation aimed to identify key issues and develop recommendations for Nepal’s delegation, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, and the GFMD Committee ahead of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Colombia this September.



The event brought together government officials, UN agencies, INGOs, trade unions, migration experts, media, and returnee women migrant care workers for a dialogue on advancing safe, dignified, and rights-based migration.

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## Participation in the Global Forum on Migration and Development

From 2 to 4 September, our member in Colombia, Fundación Renacer, participated in the Global Forum on Migration and Development together with women leaders from community networks. They brought attention to sexual exploitation and the trafficking of girls, boys, and adolescents, highlighting these as critical issues within migration dynamics.

See bits of their participation [here](#).

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## SEEAC multicultural event in the framework of their 5 years

Our member in the UK, the Southeast and East Asian Centre CIC (SEEAC) recently hosted *Homegrown: ESEA Cultural Festival* as part of *East and Southeast Asian (ESEA) Heritage Month* at [Pelican House](#), a social centre in East London for worker organising, movement building, and experimental arts and culture - and also home to SEEAC’s office.



The festival celebrated the vibrancy of the ESEA diaspora, featuring local businesses, artists, grassroots organisers, and a rich program of food, music, and cultural performances. Both the festival and SEEAC’s ongoing community work reflect the resilience, creativity, and solidarity that sustain our movements.



## Labour Rights

### Advancing workers' rights in Mondulkiri plantations in Cambodia

On July 10–11 2025, our member in Cambodia, the Legal Support for Women and Children (LSCW), in collaboration with the Mondulkiri Provincial Department of Labor, organised two events aimed at promoting decent working conditions in rubber and banana plantations. The first event was a social dialogue with workers, their representatives, and authorities, providing a platform to discuss key issues affecting workers, while the second event focused on training plantation owners about their responsibilities to respect workers' rights. The discussions during both days covered topics such as social security, contracts, and wages.



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### National Consultation on Decent Work and Care Economy in Nepal

Our member in Kathmandu, AMKAS Nepal, took part in the **National Consultation on Decent Work and the Care Economy**, organized by HUN, GeFONT, and IDWF, with regional participation from trade unions in India, Bangladesh, and Hong Kong.



The event was attended by Honorable MP Rama Koirala Poudyal, Minister Sarad Singh Bhandari (MoLESS) as Chief Guest, Mr. Laxman Basnet (SARTUC), Fish from IDWF, Sonia George, and a gathering of domestic and care workers, fostering dialogue on improving labour rights and working conditions in the care sector.

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### Uneven fields: women workers' experiences of the Seasonal Worker Scheme in the UK

For years, our member in the UK Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX) and other organisations have raised the alarm about the Seasonal Worker Scheme, and the ways in which its design facilitates exploitation. What has gone unaddressed for too long is the way that the

scheme harms women workers, and exposes them to particular risks of exploitation.

Briefing  
August 2025

FOCUS ON  
LABOUR  
EXPLOITATION

FLEX's new briefing, ["Uneven fields: women workers' experiences of the Seasonal Worker Scheme"](#), directly confronts the realities migrant women are facing in the fields. While many of the problems faced by seasonal workers are experienced by both men and women, women are often hit harder by these issues. We encourage you to continue reading the briefing on this issue!



Uneven fields: women workers' experiences of the Seasonal Worker Scheme

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## Policy dialogue on Empowering Women Fisherfolk Communities

On 11 August 2025, our member in Bangladesh, Badabon Sangho, in partnership with The Daily Star, convened a policy dialogue titled **"Empowering Women Fisherfolk Communities in Bangladesh"** at the International Mother Language Institute in Dhaka.



The event brought together key stakeholders to examine the challenges faced by women in the fisheries sector and to advocate for more inclusive policies such as redefining the term "fisherfolk" to officially include women, ensuring equal participation in training programmes, expanding access to social security benefits, and addressing the gendered barriers that limit women's recognition and access to resources.

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## Stakeholders' Consultation on Domestic Workers' Rights in Dhaka

On 30 August, our member in Bangladesh, BNSK, organised a **Stakeholders' Consultation on "Domestic Workers' Protection and Welfare Policy 2015: Gaps and Actions Required"** under the AKOTA initiative. The event featured the presentation of research findings by the Change Initiative on the implementation of the Domestic Workers' Welfare Policy 2015 and the situation of domestic workers in Dhaka and Narayanganj. Participants shared actionable recommendations to address policy gaps and strengthen advocacy efforts to ensure the rights and protection of domestic workers.



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## Worker protections amid climate and political challenges in Thailand

In August, our member in Thailand, [Just Economy and Labour Institute \(JELI\)](#), continued tracking

developments on the draft of the *Independent Workers Promotion and Protection Bill*. This month, rider networks presented a proposed ministerial regulation to

the Minister of Labor to secure protections for riders,

but negotiations concluded without agreement also due to political turbulence following the Prime Minister's dismissal - delaying the bill, leaving its future uncertain.



The month's extreme heat and storms also highlighted the ongoing challenges faced by women workers, whose livelihoods were directly affected by climate pressures.

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## Survivor Reentry Project (SRP) Webinar

Our member in the US, Freedom Network USA, through their Survivor Reentry Project (SRP), hosted a [60-minute webinar](#) that examined the criminalisation that survivors often face during their trafficking experience. The session explored the social and systemic factors shaping the concept of the "ideal" survivor and how these perceptions impact survivors' access to services.

The webinar also provided an overview of criminal record relief options available to survivors with criminal records and concluded with information about FNUSA's Survivor Reentry Project, its approach, and national trends observed.

## Launch of "Behind our work"

Across our Alliance, so much powerful advocacy, campaigning, and community work is happening often behind the scenes, where strategies are shaped and women's leadership grows. As part of strengthening our Alliance and amplifying your inner voices, we are launching the new "Behind the Work" multimedia series to feature these efforts.

This series will spotlight how GAATW members organise, prepare, and collaborate - beyond the usual events or reports. Whether our members have an on-going campaign, relevant venues with authorities, new community programmes, or important advocacy pushes, we want to see the process behind it!

In this first series, we feature our member in the UK, the Worker's Support Centre (WSC).

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## Art project with agricultural workers in rural Scotland

“At WSC we’ve been supporting workers in seasonal agriculture to express their experiences and power through multiple mediums by engaging artists, illustrators, lawyers, and our team. This work is leading to our development of worker’s own priorities for change in the seasonal agricultural sector, and for workers to put their points to policy makers at a meeting with many members of the Scottish Parliament workers will have this Autumn.”

Caroline Robinson from WSC explains that this project has led to works of art being created using tools that are found in agricultural settings, audio and video outputs in which workers express their views and experiences yet retaining anonymity. It has also served for the development of a [pocket sized book](#) in which workers’ can record their time and pay. This booklet has an associated illustration developed together with workers that shows what work activities should be recorded.



## GAATW's news initiatives

### ‘Our Political Contexts’

From GAATW, we’re excited to launch a new digital section in our e-bulletin: **Our Political Contexts**. This digital space aims to highlight the latest political developments in our members’ countries and how they impact women workers, migrants, trafficked persons and communities on the ground.

In this first issue, we have invited our member in Thailand, the Just Economy and



Labour Institute, to shed light on Thailand's recent reform extending paid maternity leave to 120 days which has raised important questions for those in informal and platform work.

We'd invite you all to discover their insights on what this change really means for women workers, especially those who JELI supports, and how these policies are experienced in everyday life.

We encourage all members to continue contributing with this section, which will help us create a living snapshot of political realities across the Alliance, showing both progress and ongoing challenges.

See the full issue: [The Progress on Maternity Leave in Thailand](#)

## THE PROGRESS ON MATERNITY LEAVE IN THAILAND

On 16 July 2025, Thailand's House of Representatives approved an amendment to extend maternity leave to 120 days, introduce paternity leave, and expand coverage to government contract employees, with full pay for the first 60 days and Social Security covering the rest.

The bill now awaits Senate approval amid political uncertainty, while advocacy groups continue pushing for a 180-day leave in line with WHO standards.



### A LONG STRUGGLE FOR MATERNITY RIGHTS



The extended maternity and paternity provisions largely benefit formally employed women under Social Security, leaving millions of informal, freelance, and platform/gig workers without meaningful protections. Platform workers classified as independent contractors, informal workers without employers, and many domestic workers remain excluded from full maternity coverage, despite legal provisions on paper.

As a result, childbirth often forces these women to stop working and lose income, exposing structural gaps in labour law and persisting gender inequalities, where reproductive and caregiving responsibilities continue to be treated as private burdens rather than social rights.



### OUR DEMANDS

- Extend maternity and paternity protections to informal, freelance, and platform/gig workers, ensuring equal access to paid leave and social security benefits.
- Reform labor laws and Social Security provisions to close the gap between formal and informal employment, recognizing all work as deserving of protections.
- Shift public and policy perception to acknowledge the economic and social contributions of informal and platform workers, treating maternity rights as universal human and labor rights, not privileges.

This snapshot is part of GAATW's ongoing effort to document the political realities and responses shaping women workers' lives across regions. Contributions like this help us connect struggles, inform our advocacy, and inspire cross-regional solidarity.

## Call for Papers

### 'Care Work, Intimate Labour, Migration, and Exploitation'

The Anti-Trafficking Review is currently inviting submissions for a special issue on '[Care Work, Intimate Labour, Migration, and Exploitation](#)'. This upcoming issue aims to analyse the living and working conditions of care workers and intimate labourers and the policies and practices that affect them positively or negatively.

We seek to bring together scholarship and practitioner engagement with the ongoing challenges to interrogate these issues and both the failures and opportunities within various national and international frameworks and contexts to advance a safer and more just experience of care work globally.



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women







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