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January 2019

Dear friends,

Warm greetings from Bangkok!

This year marks GAATW's 25th Anniversary! As our International Coordinator shared in her [end of year message](#), we spent some time last year in conversations with our members and partners, reflecting on the lessons learnt over the past quarter of a century, and deliberating on the future priorities of our Alliance.

Now it's time to put these inspiring conversations into action, as we mark our anniversary year. In 2019 will strengthen the Alliance through inter-regional and cross-sectoral knowledge-sharing and learning by holding two global consultations: on Prevention of Trafficking and Unsafe Migration in April, and a knowledge-sharing forum on Women, Work and Migration in the last quarter of the year. Given the limited funding for this type of convening, we will also organise a number of webinars on topics identified by the GAATW Secretariat and members, such as feminism, movement building, trafficking in conflict, labour, sex work, as well as inter-regional migration. Where possible and needed, we will organise learning trips for members and partners in origin and destination countries.

This year we will also move towards a more pronounced articulation of a labour approach to trafficking. Such an approach seeks to create a shift in the power dynamics between workers, employers and states, and enhance the power of all workers, regardless of status and sector, to enjoy a living wage, decent working conditions and full labour rights, free from exploitation and risks of trafficking. A labour approach would shift the focus away from individual harms to the power disparities between workers and employers and the economic and social conditions that make people at risk of trafficking. We hope to challenge, with new analysis and evidence, the social and economic invisibility of women's work, promote policy recognition of women workers, and support their mobilisation, collective voice, bargaining power and representation in relevant policy processes.

We will continue working with women and girls from tribal communities in Orissa, India before they migrate, or decide to migrate, for work within or outside their state. We will also continue documenting and sharing women's experiences with work and migration through our three Feminist Participatory Action Research projects focusing on the domestic work, garment and entertainment sectors in South, Southeast and West Asia, and the domestic work sector on the East Africa-West Asia migration corridor, and in Thailand. In Latin America, we will work with our members to document migrant women workers' experiences of violence in the world of work and how they face and overcome these.

The findings of our research, consultations and strategic shift towards a labour approach will inform and feed into our advocacy and action. We will hold a parallel event on Women Migrant Workers and Public Services during the Commission on the Status of Women in March. This event will look at the ways in which migration policies and migrant rights organisations can improve migrant women's access to services and will look at ways in which migration and labour policies can seek to recognise, reduce and redistribute women's unpaid care burden in countries of origin and destination. We will also bring our analysis to the International Labour

Conference in June where social partners will negotiate a new Convention and Recommendation on violence and harassment in the world of work. We will contribute, together with the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP-AP) and other allies, to the development of the CEDAW General Recommendation on human trafficking. We will continue our advocacy for the implementation and monitoring of the Global Compact on Migration, and may also get involved in the newly adopted Review Mechanism of the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime. We want to increase our engagement in ASEAN, in particular, monitoring the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons, if we secure funding for it. At the same time, we recognise that international treaties are losing their power and have limited impact on people's lives, so we also plan to put more efforts into supporting our members with national-level advocacy.

We will publish two new issues of our open access, peer reviewed journal *Anti-Trafficking Review*. The April issue, themed 'Sex Work', will highlight, among others, the strength of the organised sex worker movement and the challenges and benefits of building alliances with other movements. The September issue, themed 'Public Perceptions and Responses to Human Trafficking', will focus on the image of human trafficking that awareness campaigns and the media create and the actions they propagate among the general public. We will put more concerted efforts into making this rigorously considered academic material accessible to a broader audience through videos and blog posts based on the published articles. We will also organise more public events to promote the journal.

We are looking forward to sharing this anniversary year with all our members, allies and supporters! If you wish to share it with us too, subscribe to our e-Bulletin, and follow us on social media!

As always we welcome your feedback and contributions to future issues at borislav@gaatw.org.



News from the GAATW International Secretariat

Global Forum on Migration and Development and Global Compact on Migration

In December GAATW attended Migration Week in Marrakech, which saw the GFMD Civil Society Days, the Global Forum on Migration and Development and People's Global Action, and the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact on Migration.

Throughout the week GAATW worked to highlight key points we have made throughout the process through discussions with other CSOs, collaborative advocacy with the Women in Migration Network, and through two side events we organised in collaboration with members OKUP, BOMSA, Justice Centre Hong Kong, the IOM, UNHCR, OHCHR and WIMN. One event was based on the *Anti-Trafficking Review's* latest issue "Irregular Migrants, Refugees or Trafficked Persons?" ([flyer](#)), and the other one - focusing on the Bangladesh-Jordan migration corridor and looking at an initiative to improve migrant workers' rights in the garment industry ([Flyer](#)). With Women in Migration Network we developed and launched the [Women's Rights Manifesto](#), where we are calling on Governments and other stakeholders to ensure that migrant women are at the centre of migration policy. ...

Latin American Knowledge Sharing Forum: Understanding and Addressing Exploitation in the World of Work



On 11-12 October, GAATW and UITA (the Latin American branch from the International Union of Food) organised a two-day regional knowledge-sharing forum in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Forum brought together 30 representatives from anti-trafficking NGOs, migrant rights groups, trade unions, and academia to discuss linkages between human trafficking, forced labour and exploitation,

the global political and economic system, and the state control of human mobility.

Héctor Morillo from IUTA highlighted that trade unions are traditionally masculine spaces. UITA is slowly introducing a gender approach in their work, acknowledging that gender issues are

not only women's issues but issues that affect society in general and work places in particular.

The situation in the region is quite similar to the rest of the world: high rates of unemployment and precarity in the available jobs; a widening gap between poor and rich; rise of right-wing populism; alignment of the media with those in power; repression of human rights activists and trade unions by politicians and corporations; criminalisation and persecution of migrants, etc. In this regard, Natividad Obeso from AMUMRA highlighted that 'there is a governmental effort to divide migrants into "bad" and "good" instead of reinforcing the idea of migration as a human right in order to have a dignified life.' ...

Launch of Issue 11 of *Anti-Trafficking Review* 'Irregular Migrants, Refugees or Trafficked Persons?'

International migration has become a 'mega trend' of our times, with more than 260 million migrants crossing borders in 2017. Some of them move in search of better livelihood opportunities, others flee conflict, environmental degradation or natural disasters, and yet others are deceived or coerced into undertaking exploitative work. At the same time, the labels that the international community has come up with to designate people on the move - such as smuggled migrants, refugees, or trafficked persons - have become increasingly blurred in recent years. Yet the label that a person is given by authorities can mean the difference between assistance and protection, or arrest and deportation. ...

New Feminist Participatory Action Research project: Women's Labour Migration on the Africa-Middle East Corridor

GAATW and the International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF) are undertaking a new research 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 end the abuse and exploitation of workers, including migrant workers, and to enable 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. ...

[Read all news from the GAATW International Secretariat](#)

News from our Member Organisations

Women in the Workplace: Tackling gender-based discrimination through participatory research

Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX), UK, is embarking on a new project to uncover the working conditions of some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of women workers in the UK. The project will seek to understand the structural drivers of abusive business practices associated with extended global supply chains and the 'race to the bottom' dynamic. These factors have increased sub-contracting, zero-hour contracts, agency-based labour recruitment, informal labour and other business practices that make workers replaceable, dispensable and exploitable. The project will also dig deeper to uncover specific drivers of gender-based labour abuse and exploitation through in-depth interviews with workers in highly feminised, marginalised, low-status industrial sectors such as hospitality, cleaning and garment manufacturing. ...

From California to Cambodia: Compensation for victims of human trafficking

In the past few months, three of our members - Human Trafficking Legal Center, USA, La Strada International, the Netherlands, and Liberty Shared, Hong Kong - published analyses and reports on the issue of access to compensation and remedies for victims of human trafficking and exploitation in, respectively, USA, Europe, and Thailand and Cambodia. ...

Chocolate or Chicken Bones: A Photovoice Art Exhibition of im/migrant sex workers

On 8 January SWAN Vancouver opened its exhibition 'Chocolate or Chicken Bones'. This exhibition uses photovoice methodology to



address misinformation and stigma about im/migrant women who work in massage shops and apartments. The project provides im/migrant sex workers an opportunity to self-represent their lived experiences and bring forth a dimension, reality and perspective which policy makers and law enforcement have neglected and dismissed.

In 2018, SWAN invited five im/migrant sex workers that they had worked with to be part of the project. Over the course of four months, they took photos of their lives, got together regularly to discuss them, and gradually put together an exhibit. The project doesn't actually centre on the work part of women's lives but on other aspects, such as how they build homes, how they travel, their hobbies and their families. Together, these photos and stories present their authors as thoughtful, complex, active, three-dimensional human beings, very different from the one-dimensional stereotypes of im/migrant sex

workers that are the basis for so much public discourse around sex work and trafficking. ...

Trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation in the case of women - an invisible phenomenon?

In 2016, KOK, the German NGO network against trafficking in human beings, published a study ([in German](#)) on severe labour exploitation and trafficking of women for labour exploitation in Germany. In 2018 KOK published [an English summary](#) of the study.

Based on a review of news articles about human trafficking, and interviews with service providers, trade unions and a police officer, the study found that in Germany trafficking of women is associated almost exclusively with the sex industry. Women trafficked in other sectors, such as domestic work, factory work or agriculture, remain largely invisible. The main reason, according to the study, is the gender stereotypes and expectations, which lead to the perception that women are victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, and men - for labour exploitation. Socially constructed gender roles and the attribution of gender-specific features to certain jobs mean that people tend to expect men or women in certain industries or fields. This, in turn, hinders the access to justice and services for women trafficked in other sectors.

The study concludes with recommendations for the media, counselling centres, trade unions, and government agencies who all have a role to play in combating gender stereotypes and ensuring that all trafficked persons, in all labour sectors, are identified and receive the support they are entitled to.

Theatre for development



Migrants and victims of trafficking are often not well informed about how to move safely in search of decent work. Commonly cited knowledge gaps include information on employment options, laws and procedures in places of destination, basic financial literacy (including cost benefit analysis of migration), and recruitment options. The rights based approach to migration has not been sufficiently mainstreamed into community based work in Bangladesh. As a result, migrant communities are less able to address issues surrounding migration in an organised and enabling manner. Along with the need to provide

stronger levels of awareness and education to protect and prevent vulnerable groups from the risks and consequences, a rights-based approach is needed to increase the access of trafficking victims to physical, psychological and social rehabilitation; it also needs to engage the whole community to build the capacity of government mechanisms including, anti-trafficking committees, as well as community based organisations, NGOs, human rights defenders, and other relevant actors to promote safe migration. ...

Stories of Human Trafficking Survivors

In September 2018, CoMensha, the Dutch Coordination Centre for Human Trafficking, published the report [Facing Forward, Nine stories](#)



[about being a survivor of human trafficking in a post-trafficking shelter in the Netherlands](#). The report comprises stories of six women and three men, who all have been in a trafficking situation. In the stories, they reflect on how they experience the care and shelter support organised for them. The main message of the report is that shelter and care for trafficked persons should focus both on addressing their trauma, but also on their future, enabling them to better cope with problems from the past and related ongoing challenges.

[Read all news from GAATW members.](#)

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Resources

[Not Stopping Here: Hong Kong as a transit site for human trafficking](#)

Justice Centre Hong Kong

This report explores how and why Hong Kong may be a transit site for human trafficking. It is the first one on the subject that has been carried out. Sectors and activities studied include the domestic work sector, the sex work sector, and the drug trade. Recommendations on policy and law are made in the report. Justice Centre Hong Kong hopes that these early findings will prove to be the start of much needed conversations about how and why people are being moved through the city.

[Issue Paper on The International Legal Definition of Trafficking in Persons](#)

UNODC

In January 2019, UNODC launched a new Issue Paper on The International Legal Definition of Trafficking in Persons, consolidating the learnings from the three earlier technical issue papers and one guidance note regarding specific elements of the legal definition of trafficking in persons. The new paper aims, in particular, to guide consideration and development of practical guiding principles for criminal justice practitioners that emerge from the three definitional concept papers, and the underlying practical experience in over 30 jurisdictions, as well as determine next steps for further research and analysis.

[Severe labour exploitation in EU](#)

EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)

Severe labour exploitation is widespread across the European Union. While workplace inspections can help counter this phenomenon, they need to be strengthened to do so effectively. Based on interviews and focus group discussions with almost 240 exploited workers active in diverse economic sectors, a new report of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency provides important evidence on how unscrupulous employers manipulate and undermine inspections, and on what can be done to counteract such efforts. According to the report, workplace inspections are often lacking or ineffective, enabling unscrupulous employers to exploit their workers. Tightening up inspections to combat abuse and empower workers to report abuse are some of the ways FRA suggests to help end severe labour exploitation. For more information also see the related [factsheet](#).

[H&M: fair living wages were promised, poverty wages are the reality](#)

Clean Clothes Campaign

This research published by the Clean Clothes Campaign in September reveals that many workers making H&M's clothes live below the poverty line, despite H&M's promise of a living wage by 2018, and despite the brand's recent deceptive claims of progress. CCC researchers interviewed 62 workers in factories that make H&M clothes in Bulgaria, Turkey, Cambodia and India and none of them earn anywhere near living wage. Interviewed workers in India and Turkey earn about a third and in Cambodia less than one-half of the estimated living wage. In Bulgaria interviewed workers' salary at H&M's 'gold supplier' is not even 10 per cent of what would be required for workers and their families to have decent lives. The Clean Clothes Campaign demands that H&M fulfill its promise and ensure that its workers are earning living wage. See how you can take action [here](#).

[Work for a Brighter Future: Global Commission on the Future of Work](#)

International Labour Organization

In this new report, the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work calls on governments to commit to a set of measures in order to address the challenges caused by unprecedented

transformational change in the world of work. The commission outlines a vision for a human-centred agenda that is based on investing in people's capabilities, institutions of work and in decent and sustainable work. Among the ten recommendations are: a universal labour guarantee that protects fundamental workers' rights, an adequate living wage, limits on hours of work and safe and healthy workplaces; guaranteed social protection from birth to old age that supports people's needs over the life cycle; a universal entitlement to lifelong learning that enables people to skill, reskill and upskill; managing technological change to boost decent work, including an international governance system for digital labour platforms; greater investments in the care, green and rural economies; a transformative and measurable agenda for gender equality; and reshaping business incentives to encourage long-term investments.

[Smart Guide: Rights-Affirming International Policies Relating to Sex Work](#)

Global Network of Sex Work Projects

In recent years a growing number of international organisations have released policies, guidance and recommendations that promote the rights of sex workers and advocate for the full decriminalisation of sex work. It can be difficult for sex workers and sex worker rights activists to maintain an awareness of the many policies and recommendations that now exist. The purpose of this Smart Guide is to provide an accessible introduction to these rights-affirming international policies and recommendations on sex work, as well as to explore how international human rights law can be used in sex workers' rights activism. The Guide begins by looking at important policy recommendations that have been issued by international, human rights-focused, nongovernmental organisations that promote a rights-affirming approach to sex work. The second section focuses on the UN and details many of the recommendations that have been issued by UN agencies, treaty bodies, the Human Rights Council and Special Procedures concerning the rights of sex workers and the decriminalisation of sex work. The final section provides some brief comments on the use of human rights law to advance sex workers' rights.

[Behind Closed Doors: Forced Labour in the Domestic Work Sector in Singapore](#)

Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics and Liberty Shared

In Asia, Singapore employs the second highest number of documented migrant domestic workers - 246,800 as of December 2017. Yet there are very few protections in place for them. This report is based on the experiences of 800 migrant domestic workers assisted by HOME. The five most common complaints were: overwork, emotional abuse (including verbal insults, intimidation and threats), salary-related claims, illegal deployment, and inadequate provision of food. Other issues reported included a lack or denial of rest days, unreasonable restrictions on communication (including the confiscation of mobile phones), the denial of sick leave and/or medical treatment, and poor living conditions. There were also reports of physical and sexual abuse or harassment. Almost all the domestic workers who seek help have their identity documents (most notably passports) withheld by their employers. Many of these practices are indicators of forced labour.

HOME and Liberty Shared hope that this report will contribute to a deeper understanding of what forced labour looks like in practice and how it manifests itself in the domestic work sector in Singapore. It is hoped to encourage key stakeholders to collaborate towards ensuring timely and much needed support to victims and prevention.

[Latin America in 2019: Stories to watch](#)

Al Jazeera

In the last 12 months, Latin America has seen a series of high-stakes elections, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) deliver its biggest-ever bailout package and Venezuela's economic collapse explode into the most severe migration crisis in the region's history.

As nationalists take the reins of the region's two largest economies and corruption scandals continue to dog politicians from Mexico City to Montevideo, Al Jazeera has put together these ten stories to look out for in 2019...

[ILO Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers](#)

International Labour Organization

In this report, the ILO estimates that 164 million people are migrant workers - a rise of 9 per cent since 2013. The majority of migrant workers - 96 million, or 58 per cent - are men, while 68 million, or 42 per cent are women. Approximately 68 per cent of migrant workers live in high-income countries, 19 per cent in upper middle-income countries, 10 per cent in lower middle-income countries and 3 in low-income countries.

Migrant workers constitute 19 per cent of the workforce of high-income countries, but only 1-2 per cent in lower-income countries. Nearly 61 per cent of migrant workers are found in three subregions: 23 per cent in North America, 24 per cent in Northern, Southern and Western Europe and 14 per cent in the Arab countries.

The report highlights the importance of gathering more comprehensive and harmonised

statistical data on migration at national, regional and global levels. The ILO is planning to produce global estimates on international migrant workers regularly, to better inform decision-making and contribute to the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and SDG targets 8.8 and 10.7.

[The Critical Role of Civil Society in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings](#)

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

This Occasional Paper outlines and analyses the role played by civil society in efforts to address human trafficking. It provides a detailed overview of the role and importance of NGOs in combating trafficking in human beings in the OSCE region as well as of the international legal foundation of their engagement. It reaffirms the critical role played by civil society in combating human trafficking, especially in crisis situations. It also reveals that there is a continuing need to address and alleviate the many challenges faced by anti-trafficking NGOs in their daily work, including advocacy efforts, policy-making engagement, funding and sustainability prospects, service provision roles, and networking and co-operation arrangements. It should be read as a reference document for the more effective involvement of civil society organisations in preventing and fighting human trafficking at the national and local level.

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June 2019

Dear friends,

We hope this finds you well.

The rainy season started in Bangkok and although this is giving us a small respite after the March and April heat, our thermometers do not drop below 30 degrees Celsius.

In the office, we continue working at full throttle, with an ever-stimulating agenda focused on strengthening our core strategies: research and feminist knowledge building; strategic communication and publications; support for social movements; advocacy and political influence; and strengthening of the alliance.

In March, we participated in the Commission on the Status of Women whose theme was Social Protections and Public Services. We published a [position paper](#) on social protections, public services and sustainable infrastructures for migrant workers and trafficked persons and a [related statement](#) on the occasion of International Women's Day. In these briefs, we called on states to increase their investment in public services and social protections as a way to prevent human trafficking and protect the rights of migrant and trafficked women. During CSW, we organised a side event on migrant workers and public services focusing on the garment sector, in cooperation with [Komnas Perempuan](#).

In April we organised a Global Consultation on the prevention of trafficking and unsafe migration. This consultation brought together forty-five representatives of thirty-five organisations working on the promotion of the rights of women, migrants and trafficked persons in twenty-eight countries. Over the course of three days we discussed and reflected on the successes and failures of current initiatives to prevent human trafficking and unsafe migration. On 1 May, International Workers Day, we published a [summary](#) of those discussions in which we reiterated the urgency for governments of countries of origin and destination to strengthen labour rights and protections as a way to prevent trafficking, exploitation and other rights violations in the context of work and migration.

Also in April we published [issue 12 of the Anti-Trafficking Review themed Sex Work](#). This issue explores some of the current achievements and challenges facing the global movement for the rights of sex workers. The articles examine the ways in which organising and collectivising have allowed sex workers to tell their own stories, claim their human, social and labour rights, resist stigma and punitive laws and policies, and provide peer-based support. Along with the new issue, we [released four videos](#) where some of the authors speak about their articles.

In the past few months we also organised several webinars on topics related to human trafficking, feminist strategies against political and religious fundamentalism, and gender-based violence in the world of work. The recordings of these discussions are available on [our YouTube channel](#).

In June, during the International Labour Conference, governments, trade unions and employers will negotiate an agreement proposed by the ILO to end violence and harassment in the world of work. The agreement is expected to be accompanied by a non-binding recommendation that

contains guidelines for establishing public policies to prevent, assist, punish and eradicate violence and harassment in the world of work with the participation of unions and employers. GAATW is preparing a global report on violence and harassment in the world of work based on the research that our members and partners are carrying out in different countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The migrant workers with whom we have spoken report a continuum of violence, that includes verbal and physical abuse, rape and sexual assault, psychological abuse, bullying and intimidation. They also expressed that their working conditions are very poor, with long working hours, insufficient or complete lack of payment, racism and discrimination. All this has a negative impact on the ability of women workers to resist and respond to violence.

GAATW and our allies know that a world free of trafficking and exploitation requires the provision of social protections and public services for nationals and migrants; quality jobs with guarantee of labour rights; and a transformed economy that serves the majority of the population and not just an elite few. For this, we keep working and fighting.

As always we welcome your feedback and contributions to future issues at borislav@gaatw.org.



News from the GAATW International Secretariat

CEDAW General Recommendation on Trafficking in the Context of Global Migration

Since the end of 2018, the CEDAW Committee has been working on a new General Recommendation on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration. GAATW engaged with the draft GR in several ways and in close cooperation with our partners from the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP-AP). In December we attended an expert group meeting on the proposed GR in Geneva. In January we co-hosted, together with IWRAP-AP, a global civil society consultation on trafficking in the context of global migration in Bangkok, for around 40 representatives of women's rights, migrant rights, sex worker rights, and anti-trafficking NGOs. In February we made a [written submission](#) to the CEDAW Committee, and contributed to the submissions of the Sex Worker Inclusive Feminist Alliance, and IWRAP-AP. And in February we took part in a [half-day general discussion](#) on the proposed GR, where we made an [oral intervention](#). The first draft of the GR is now expected to be published at CEDAW's 74th session in October, which will be followed by regional consultations between November 2019 and February 2020... [Read on...](#)

Learning from the experiences of women migrant workers



GAATW-IS and its partners across nine countries of origin (in South Asia and the Horn of Africa) and destination (in West Asia) have been working on a feminist participatory action research project over the last year to document and learn from the lived experiences of women migrant workers. One 9-11 March, a three-day workshop was organised in Kathmandu to discuss the country findings and to reflect on the research process. This was followed by a civil society roundtable on

women migrant workers' access to public services, co-organised by the GAATW-IS and our members in Nepal, coinciding with CSW 63.

The research conducted in the nine countries addresses gender-based violence in the world of work; access to justice; and safe and fair migration. Reflecting on the research process and the emerging findings, partners felt that the knowledge generated at individual country level serves to create new collective knowledge that can be utilised over a longer time frame for the larger discourse on women workers' rights. Strategies may emerge from the community level, from the women themselves which can lead to pragmatic work being done and that as practitioners, we need to reflect on what role the women can take and what is the support NGOs can provide: "NGOs have to know when we have to be *in front, beside, or behind*".

The report of the research is currently being prepared. Some of the partners' findings are being shared via GAATW's current webinar series on "Gender-based violence in the world of

work" throughout the month of June.

Migration from domestic work from Africa to West Asia

In November 2018 we started a new Feminist Participatory Action Research project, together with the International Domestic Workers Federation, to document the experiences of women from six African countries who migrate for domestic work to West Asia (see the [January bulletin](#) for more info). Most of the field work took place in January-March and involved several groups of respondents: potential and returnee migrant domestic workers, their families, recruitment agencies and brokers (formal and informal), trade unions and NGOs supporting migrant domestic workers, and government officials. In March the project team met to discuss the progress of the field research, reflect on the research process, and build the national researchers' capacity in data analysis and report-writing... [Read on...](#)

Launch of Issue 12 of the *Anti-Trafficking Review* 'Sex Work'

This [Special Issue of the Anti-Trafficking Review](#) examines some of the current achievements - and challenges - of the global sex worker rights movement.

The first five articles explore the power of collectivisation among sex workers. They show that, whether in Canada, Latin America, Philippines or South Africa, sex workers around the world are organising to tell their own stories, including through creative and artistic means, claim their human, social, and labour rights, resist stigma and punitive laws and policies, and provide mutual and peer-based support. The next two articles examine sex work through a labour perspective, looking at the working conditions in the sex and entertainment sector in Thailand; and at how anti-trafficking raids undermine labour organising in Durbar - India's iconic red light district. The final three thematic articles focus on the introduction of recent laws and policies that directly affect sex workers in the United States and France. One describes the process of developing the 'Prioritizing Safety for Sex Workers Policy' in San Francisco, which allows sex workers to report violent crimes against them without fear of arrest and prosecution. Another analyses the debates leading to the introduction of the sex purchase ban in France in 2016, linking them to anxieties about public order, national security and border control. Finally, one article picks apart the term 'sex trafficking' as used in American legal discourse and FOSTA as a form of epistemic violence against sex workers and urges academics and activists to stop using the term... [Read on...](#)

Reconference



More than 500 activists, artists and allies from more than 50 countries participated in the CREA [Reconference](#) to address the most challenging socio-political issues and their intersections with feminism, art and technology.

GAATW was invited to speak at Recference and share our approach to human trafficking from the perspective of sex work as work. We stressed that the founders of GAATW, many of whom were migrant women, forged alliances with the movement for the rights of sex

workers, a movement that was composed of women who came together to speak for themselves and make their demands heard. As feminists, our founders thought it was natural to support the struggle of this group of oppressed women without questioning the way in which they defined their lives. If sex workers said that "sex work is work", then this is what it was for GAATW. It is also important to remember that the Alliance has always recognised migrant and trafficked women as courageous and enterprising women who set out to improve their lives and those of their families... [Read on...](#)

News from our Member Organisations

EUR 280,000 reward in compensation to trafficked women in Austria

LEFÖ - Intervention Centre for Trafficked Women and Girls has been providing psychosocial and legal assistance to a large number of women from Latin America, who were sexually exploited in Austria. On 9 April 2019 the court convicted the perpetrators and rewarded 16 victims a total amount of EUR 280,000 in compensation for material and non-material damages.

This criminal proceeding shows that the vulnerability to human trafficking is dynamic and context-specific. The abuse of a position of vulnerability has to be looked at as a linkage of factors, including not only class or formal education, but also gender, age and residency status. Many victims were middle-class women with education and degrees and all shared the wish for a safer life. This wish was exploited by the perpetrators. In this case, the understanding of working conditions entailed not only the material conditions, e.g. working hours, but also the abuse of power and psychological pressure. The judge emphasised that violations of working conditions, no matter which sector, are evidence of exploitation.

The original compensation claim was for EUR 710,000.

Migration is a Right, Work is a Right



In Buenos Aires, AMUMRA held the First Migrant Fair under the theme "Migration is a Right, Work is a Right" to recognise the cultural, economic and educational contributions of migrant women in Argentina and, at the same time, promote migration as a human right.

Twenty-five migrant women participated in the fair, both from other countries and from different regions of Argentina, promoting their work ventures. The fair was organised in three different spaces: a gastronomic and artisanal one; another one of visual art with activities like photography and murals on the rights of

migrants in Argentina; and a third dedicated to the artistic musical expression with a fashion show and a musical closing by Freda Montaña, Ecuadorian migrant singer-songwriter, who presented the anthem of the migrant woman. Officials from the Bolivian Consulate in Buenos Aires attended the fair.

The event was held on 27 April at the Recoleta Cultural Center with the support of Fondo de Mujeres del Sur. In addition, the Government of the City of Buenos Aires and many companies joined as sponsors of the initiative.

[Read all news from GAATW members.](#)

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Resources

[Human Trafficking - From a criminal justice to social justice approach](#)

Borislav Gerasimov

In this speech, delivered at the conference "Disrupting Traffick?" in New Delhi in May, our colleague Borislav demonstrates that the currently dominant criminal justice approach to human trafficking has failed to punish traffickers, or secure justice for victims. Instead, it has led to a number of human rights violations of trafficked persons, such as forced rescue and rehabilitation, retraumatisation during criminal proceedings, and assistance made conditional on cooperation with authorities. He argues that a different approach to trafficking is necessary, one that would address the root causes of trafficking, such as lack of decent jobs and social protections, gender discrimination, and inhumane labour migration regimes.

[The Risks of Exploitation in Temporary Migration Programmes: A FLEX response to the 2018 Immigration White Paper](#)

Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX)

The 2018 UK Immigration White Paper described the Government's proposals for post-Brexit labour migration, including three temporary migration programmes. This report looks in-depth at such programmes and how they can exacerbate or relate to risks of labour abuse and exploitation, including human trafficking. Drawing on examples from around the world and UK history, it highlights the risks in such schemes and describes in detail the three proposed programmes. It provides strong recommendations to Government on how to design, implement and monitor such programmes to prevent abuse and exploitation.

[What's a Nice Girl Like You Doing in a Job Like This? Comparing sex work with other jobs traditionally done by women](#)

English Collective of Prostitutes

Sex work is often characterised as inherently exploitative. In this research, ECP compares pay and conditions between sex work and other jobs disproportionately done by women. In doing so, they uncover many similarities and some crucial differences and throw light on the oft asked question: "Why do women become sex workers?" By looking at sex work in the context of other "women's work" ECP hopes to break through the mystification and break down the divisions between sex workers and other women and other workers. Doing so would enable exploitation to be judged and addressed similarly across the range of jobs done by women.

[Shadow Report Guidelines on Women's Right to Work and Women's Rights at Work](#)

International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific

This guide is intended to assist NGOs in drafting their shadow reports on women's rights to and at work. It refers to the CEDAW, ICESCR and ILO conventions and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. What is fresh and bold about this comprehensive guide is that it addresses specifically the rights of women working in factories and on plantations, and as domestic workers, homebased workers, rural workers and migrant workers. It also underscores the multiple forms of discrimination experienced by women in vulnerable and marginalized situations, among them women with disabilities, in violation of their rights to and at work. The guide's approach, therefore, is to reach and protect the most vulnerable women workers by confronting the deeply embedded social, economic and cultural structures that enable inequality and discrimination.

[All about power](#)

Srilatha Batliwala

All About Power: Understanding Social Power and Power Structures is an essential primer for activists who want to explore how power impacts their work in order to design strategies from a more comprehensive, shared definition and analysis of power as it operates in society. It recognises that concepts like power are abstract and that we each understand power in our own way. At the same time, it is critical for social change activists to expand and deepen our analysis of how power operates in diverse spaces and with many faces, regardless of our specific areas of work, constituencies or geographies. The publication structures the approach to understanding power through five core questions - providing a framework for approaching the complex concept, defining key sources of power, and analysing how it operates, in order to effectively challenge the power structures which perpetuate injustices, inequalities and marginalisation.

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October 2019

Dear friends,

Greetings from Bangkok!

In the past few months we at the small GAATW Secretariat were busy as usual. We completed **four different pieces of research on the experiences of migrant women** with violence, harassment and exploitation in the workplace. Geographically, they covered Southeast Asia (internal and intra-regional migration as well as to East and West Asia), South Asia (internal and to West Asia), Africa (to West Asia) and Latin America (intra-regional). The sectors of work explored were domestic work and garment, and, to a lesser extent, entertainment and hospitality.

Across these locations and highly feminised and exploitative sectors, migrant women are subjected to poverty wages and poor working conditions, as well as physical, psychological and sexual violence that intersects with and is exacerbated by discrimination on the basis of race and nationality. Bangladeshi garment workers in Jordan told us that their employers would say "Bangladeshis are cheap! If I send back one, I can get back ten!" A domestic worker in Colombia recalled: "The lady would always say '*negra* [black], come here', '*negra* do this'... that was very annoying for me because I am black, but I know when I am called *negra* affectionately and when not. I am Maria and that's what I like to be called". Kenyan domestic workers in West Asia said they were given separate utensils for their meals and allowed to eat only after the rest of the family had eaten.

It also became clear that violence shapes women's lives not only at the workplace, but also before migration (indeed, many women migrate to escape family violence) and upon return. The violence and exploitation are perpetrated by individual (mostly, but not only, male) employers, brokers or family members, or by actors of the State (some Bangladeshi women said that embassy staff beat or insulted them when they complained about their employment). However, they are enabled and sustained by patriarchal, sexist and xenophobic social attitudes, unjust labour migration regimes that seek to control women's labour, and neoliberal economic policies that disempower workers and empower employers and corporations.

Clearly, while individual perpetrators of violence must be punished, we need to direct our energy at addressing structural violence by working towards living wages, rights at work, and the reduction, redistribution and valuing of women's unpaid work. The availability of decent work and social protections at home can ensure that migration is a meaningful choice, and where that choice is made, that migrant women's rights are protected. (Read more about the findings in the ten-page publication [Demanding Justice: Women Migrant Workers Fighting Gender-Based Violence](#)).

A small step in this direction was taken in June, when we and our comrades celebrated the adoption of ILO [Convention 190](#) and [Recommendation 206](#) on the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work. Although the final version fell short of what we and our allies had initially hoped for regarding the inclusion of [structural violence](#), it is a victory to be celebrated. We [called on states](#) to ratify the Convention and, as much as time and capacity permit, we'll be working with our members and partners towards this goal in the coming

months and years. We also organised five webinars on gender-based violence in the world of work to discuss how it can be addressed and what it looks like in different sectors and in different parts of the world. In the coming months, we will be working closely with [Public Services International](#) in the Latin America region to coordinate and support national campaigns for the ratification of Convention 190.

An instrument that aims to prevent violence and harassment in the world of work, and provide remedies for those who experience it, might be more relevant to the majority of women (migrant) workers than the anti-trafficking framework. The women interviewed for our researches may or may not have been *technically* trafficked - we didn't ask because it was not the aim of our research to focus on the narrow and restrictive definition of trafficking or to explore hierarchies of suffering. To our knowledge, most of them were not identified/labelled as trafficked. And this may have been to their advantage: as we know all too well, a lengthy, unwanted detention in a shelter, and a return to the country of origin, is sometimes all that the label "trafficked" can offer migrant women.

Looking holistically at trafficking as an issue at the intersections of gender, labour and migration demands that we expand our horizons, deepen our analyses, and forge new partnerships. To this end, **we organised two inter-movement dialogues**: one in Amman, with representatives of trade unions and NGOs working on women's rights, migration, labour and anti-racism from South Asia and MENA (see more under News from the GAATW-IS); and one in India, with representatives of trade unions, and migrant rights, women's rights, worker rights and Dalit and Adivasi rights groups (see a short piece about this meeting [here](#)). Both we and our partners find these exchanges insightful and important and this work will continue.

We also need to understand how environmental factors affect migration and how the **climate crisis** is affecting people's livelihoods and forcing them out of their homes. The climate crisis saw an escalation in the past few months: July was the hottest month ever on record. In Europe the summer was unusually hot, with temperatures pushing up to mid-40s in a number of northern countries. Much of India experienced drought and people were left [without water](#) (or forced to buy it from private business operators!) due to the late arrival of the monsoon; many people were forced to migrate to cities in search of work after their livelihoods were destroyed. Rain shortage was severely felt in Southeast Asia too - the Mekong river, which more than 60 million people depend on for their food and livelihoods, was at [its lowest level in 100 years](#) due to a combination of climate change and [rapacious capitalism](#). These factors were also [blamed](#) for the incineration of the Amazon, which is endangering not only the flora, fauna and human beings residing in the region, but humanity itself.

The climate crisis demands action towards systemic change and we were delighted to see some positive developments. Young people [took to the streets in unprecedented numbers](#), calling on their governments to respond to the climate emergency. They have joined the fight of environmentalists, women's organisations, indigenous peoples, and trade unions. Even business leaders are realising that income inequality is bad for humanity and are trying to [redefine capitalism](#) (although we won't be over-ecstatic yet!). At the local level, women's collectives have developed models of self-sufficiency [to reject disastrous corporate monoculture](#). We must all support these efforts of resistance, as well as re-examine how we as civil society organisations do our work and how we are connected to grassroots social justice movements. We must call into question whether advocacy within multilateral institutions and mainstream 'development' spaces really creates change on the scale necessary to avoid climate breakdown and increasing societal inequalities, and redirect our energies where they are most likely to have an impact.

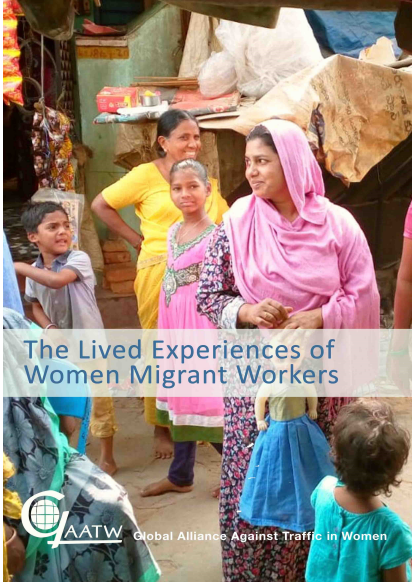
As always we welcome your feedback and contributions to future issues at borislav@gaatw.org.



News from the GAATW International Secretariat

Two new publications on the experiences of women migrant workers

In mid-2019, GAATW published the results of two pieces of research that aimed to document the experiences of women migrant workers. ["Reclaiming Migrant Women's Narratives: A Feminist Participatory Action Research project on 'Safe and Fair' Migration in Asia"](#), covering nine



The Lived Experiences of Women Migrant Workers



countries in West, South and Southeast Asia, documents migrant women's own perspectives of "safe and fair" migration. A recurring theme across the nine countries, and the three studied sectors - domestic, garment and entertainment work - is that "safe and fair" migration cannot happen in a silo; the factors that produce gender segregated labour markets and industries dependent on flexible, underpaid and overworked migrant labour require a systemic change. This change can happen at the grassroots level, through self-organised groups of women (migrant) workers. The increasing reliance on migrants in certain labour sectors risks further dividing societies and fostering xenophobia, racism and anti-migrant sentiments and causing governments to place more restrictions on migration. The safety and fairness of migration risk being even more constrained under such pressures.

"[Learning from the Lived Experiences of Women Migrant Workers](#)" is based on research in nine countries of origin and destination in West and South Asia and Africa, with a

total of 214 women migrant workers. This research looked at the entire migration trajectory - the migration process (under the heading of "safe and fair migration"), the work experience (under the heading of "violence in the world of work"), and after return (under the heading of "access to justice"). [Read on...](#)

Inter-regional and inter-sectoral learning

In July GAATW held a collaborative meeting with the Arab Network for Migrant Rights in Amman, Jordan, in what we hope will be a continued deepening of our relationship with the network and our partners in West Asia.

Thirty activists, CSO representatives and trade unions from Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Bahrain, India, Bangladesh and Nepal met over three days to share knowledge and explore opportunities for collaboration and support on the protection of the rights of migrant workers between the two regions.

Looking into current social justice movements in South and West Asia, a number of common themes emerged: In South Asia, there is a re-emergence of protectionist policies towards women migrants as a response to narratives of female victimhood in the media. In West Asia, there is a multi-layered fight for women's rights - both for local women, who are not equal under the law, and also for migrant women workers. Racism against black and brown migrant workers in the Arab region was noted by a number of speakers, though it was said that public awareness on racism, at least in Lebanon has increased. Many noted serious challenges in access to healthcare for migrant workers... [Read on...](#)

New issue of Anti-Trafficking Review: Public Perceptions and Responses to Human Trafficking



The [new issue of Anti-Trafficking Review](#) examines the current state of public awareness of human trafficking: how and by whom it is produced and manipulated, whom it is targeting, and whether it leads, or can lead, to any meaningful anti-trafficking action. The six thematic articles and one book review focus on different actors (governments, NGOs, media and corporations) and different mediums (newspaper articles, campaigns, outreach and apps) that claim to inform the public about trafficking and related exploitation and their potential solutions. However, the authors' analyses show that, overall, this information remains incomplete and, often, misleading regarding the nature of trafficking, its root causes and its prevention. Despite their diversity, most awareness-raising messages fail to highlight these root causes and to call for structural reforms to the socio-economic and political systems that drive human trafficking and exploitation.

Migrant women against violence in the world of work: A research in Latin America

In July, GAATW-IS and our members from Peru, Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, Brazil, and

Argentina held a three-day meeting to review the information collected during the research Migrant Women against Violence in the World of Work and set common guidelines for its analysis.

The research is rooted in the importance of listening to the voices of women migrant workers. It explores their experiences of gender-based violence in the world of work in sectors such as hospitality, domestic work, sex work, and garment factories and will be published in the coming month.

Among the challenges in conducting the research, members highlighted the difficulty of meeting and bringing together women migrant workers. The main reason was the women's job insecurity and the lack of appropriate working conditions and schedules. In order to make the process easier, our colleagues had to be very flexible not only when agreeing on the time for meetings but also on the places... [Read on...](#)

News from our Member Organisations

Exhibition: Nit in Transit - Cecile in Exile - Dora in Diaspora



In September, Ban Ying celebrated its 30th anniversary. Founded in 1989, the organisation runs two main services: a counselling centre for migrant women and a safe house for women victims of violence, exploitation and trafficking, with or without a legal status. The women assisted by Ban Ying come from more than 70 countries but the organisation places special focus on women from Thailand and the Philippines who were their initial service users thirty years ago (ban ying means "women's house" in Thai).

To mark this anniversary, Ban Ying organised the exhibition Nit in Transit - Cecile in Exile - Dora in Diaspora, which was shown in the Haus der Demokratie und Menschenrechte in Berlin throughout September. The artwork was provided by two of Ban Ying's linguistic and cultural mediators - Krisanta Caguioa-Mönnich from the Philippines and Bussaraporn Thongchai from Thailand - who, in their daily work, are in close contact with the clients of the organisation.

Against the background of their own migration stories, the two artists interpret and transform the ways in which the organisation's clients interact with their migration experiences in paintings and collages. The clients were partly involved in the creative process. The migration stories of Nit, Cecile and Dora stand for the many routes, experiences and lives that flow together in Ban Ying, which the artists hold in their works and process - and their own artistic approaches. [Read on...](#)

Detaining Victims: Human Trafficking and the UK Immigration System

In July FLEX published a new report [Detaining Victims: Human Trafficking and the UK Immigration System](#). The report, based on interviews with members of the Labour Exploitation Advisory Group (LEAG), literature review, and Freedom of Information requests, describes the issues experienced by victims of human trafficking while in immigration detention in the UK. It explores the main barriers to identification of victims prior to and while in detention, as well as the impact of detention on National Referral Mechanism (NRM) decision-making and on victims' physical and mental well-being. It sets out recommendations on how to make improvements in all four of these areas.

LEAG members have identified at least 143 detained victims of trafficking, including ones who have been detained after receiving positive reasonable grounds decisions under the NRM. This demonstrates that the UK is in breach of various international responsibilities, including the responsibility to support victims in their physical, psychological and social recovery. LEAG is deeply concerned that victims of human trafficking are being treated first as immigration offenders and secondly as victims, which is leading to long-term and severe consequences to their health and the outcomes of their victim status under the NRM... [Read on...](#)

Recognition, respect and valuation of women's work: A foundation of prosperous Nepal

The Government of Nepal has adopted a socialist economic model, committed to abide by Sustainable Development Goals, introduced social security policy and has amended the Labor

Act 2074 (2017) to formalise informal work. These are commendable steps. However, there is no clarity on **how women's care work can be recognised and valued**, which means that women who are working at home or involved in care work cannot be covered by the social security scheme.

With this in mind, in August, the Nepali National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders (NAWHRD) in collaboration with WOREC, WOFOWON, Mahila Ekta Samaj, NDWA, Tarangini Foundation, and Pourakhi organised a national workshop **Recognition, respect and valuation of women's work: A foundation of prosperous Nepal**. The aim of the workshop was to bring a change in the perceptions towards the work done by women and to establish women's work as decent work. It involved 90 representatives from civil society organisations, trade unions, ILO Nepal and women workers from different sectors such as domestic work, entertainment and tourism.

Dr Renu Adhikari, chair of NAWHRD and former Board member of GAATW stated that all work done by women, including domestic and care work, has economic value and needs to be considered as work because one could hire a person to perform it. The definition of work should be broadened as "Any activity that human being performs to sustain their life"; however, that is not happening. Patriarchy has created different structures whereby women's work is restricted and devalued. These same structures have control over women's work, body and mobility. Thus it is important for women to come together and challenge patriarchal structures of power and have their work recognised and valued... [Read on...](#)

Campaign #Nevremezazene (Bad weather for women) in Serbia



ASTRA - Anti-Trafficking Action, the Autonomous Women's Center and Women in Black, in cooperation with Feminist Cultural Center BeFem, launched a [campaign](#) to promote the CEDAW Concluding Observations for Serbia. The aim of this campaign is to point out the inadequate approach of the state toward women's rights, and particularly toward the CEDAW Committee's concluding observations concerning the elimination of all forms of discrimination of women and ensuring their enjoyment of rights. In

the campaign, a series of informative videos and visuals present common stereotypes about women, violence against women, human trafficking, education, women's health and the national gender equality mechanism.

Another campaign launched by ASTRA - "Labour exploitation is real" - aims to improve the protection of Serbian youth going for temporary work abroad, suppress illegal work and promote the responsibility of employment intermediaries for the truthfulness of the advertised working conditions and the implementation of supervision in the recruitment process. The campaign is based on an [analysis](#) of the conditions enabling labour exploitation of young people. Other issues the recommendations touch upon are a reduction of abuse in youth co-operatives, changes in the way of performing temporary and occasional jobs, as well as the changes in criminal legislation.

[Read all news from GAATW members.](#)

www.gaatw.org

Resources

[Against the Grain: Fighting Corporate Agriculture through Women's Solidarity](#)

Leah Sullivan

In this blog, Leah Sullivan from GAATW describes a recent visit to the village of Pastapur in India, where Dalit and Adivasi woman have transformed their lives and farming practices with the support of the [Deccan Development Society](#). In particular, women are challenging the stereotypes of farmers and increasingly owning the land under their own names, and not their husbands'. Women are forming collectives to discuss common problems, make decisions about farming and finance, share seeds, information about farming methods, ask for and offer help with weeding and other tasks. Importantly, they are engaging in sustainable farming practices and resisting the destructive monoculture imposed by agricultural giants like Monsanto. Leah shows that there is a similarity in the challenges that rural agricultural communities face, and those faced by the women workers who migrate for work in the garment, domestic and sex work sectors - that of a marginalised group under the pressures of patriarchal, corporate greed

and a State in retreat.

[What we talk about when we talk about Menschenhandel \(in German\)](#)

Livia Valensise

"Trafficking in human beings is a serious offense against a person's self-determination. No one is *for* human trafficking - everyone is *against* human trafficking. However, the practical consequences that should follow from this statement are far less clear. And often, as a feminist NGO, you find yourself in questionable company.." In this piece for Missy Magazine, Livia Valensise from Ban Ying reflects on two discomforts of anti-trafficking work for a feminist NGO: an anti-migration position exemplified by former Italian Interior Minister Salvini, and the anti-sex work position by some Christian evangelical organisations and self-proclaimed feminist organisations. Livia also outlines Ban Ying's main principles as a feminist anti-trafficking NGO, such as advocating for safe migration pathways, respecting the choices of migrant women, and seeing women's vulnerability in a broader socio-economic and political context.

[Stricter Prosecution and Convictions Alone May Not Curb Human Trafficking in India, Says Expert](#)

Rakhi Bose, News18

This article, based on an interview with GAATW's Communications and Advocacy Officer Borislav Gerasimov, argues that India must do more to ensure decent work and social protections, as well as safe migration opportunities for its citizens in order to prevent trafficking, rather than only enact stricter laws and harsher punishments for traffickers. It also highlights the negative impact of anti-trafficking raids on the lives of sex workers and how sex workers can often be charged with trafficking.

[This foundation is challenging Thailand's prostitution laws](#)

Choltanutkun Tun-atiruj, BK Magazine

The recent shunting of Pattaya's highest-ranking police officers is forcing Thailand to confront its look-the-other-way attitude to prostitution. BK Magazine Online talks to Thanta Laowilawanyakul (Ping Pong), the coordinator of Empower Foundation, a sex worker rights NGO founded in 1985, about why Thailand needs to drop the stigma around sex work and decriminalise the industry. "Sex work should be legal in the same way as sewing clothes, cutting hair or cooking noodles is. There are laws against rape, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, child abuse, and labor protection laws that can be used to protect children, adults and society", says Thanta...

[Migrants and their Vulnerability to Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery and Forced Labour](#)

International Organization for Migration and Minderoo Foundation

This new study examines the connection between migration and modern slavery, and focuses on which migrants are most vulnerable, and in what circumstances, to modern slavery. The report explores various sites of vulnerability where migrants are particularly susceptible to human trafficking, forced labour and modern slavery. These include private dwellings, border crossings, irregular migration routes and conflict zones. The report illustrates that migrants are most vulnerable to exploitation in situations where the authority of the State and society are unable to protect them. It also analyses the characteristics of victims that are thought to contribute to their vulnerability. In addition, the study explains some characteristics of offenders, including worldviews that allow them to rationalise the exploitation of others. Lastly, the study looks at examples of enabling environments or contexts, such as restrictive immigration policies, that engender or exacerbate vulnerability.

[Rights, rescues and resistance in the global movement for sex workers' rights - introducing the series](#)

Annelee Lepp and Borislav Gerasimov

In this article, GAATW Board Member and staff member reflect on some of the successes - and challenges - of the global sex worker rights movement over the past two decades. These include the strengthening of the movement and the increasing support for decriminalisation of sex work by scholars and international organisations, but also the growth of repressive policy regimes, such as the 'Swedish model', which they show has all the hallmarks of 'post-truth politics'. The authors draw their analysis from the April issue of the *Anti-Trafficking Review* themed 'Sex Work'.

[Fig Leaf for Fashion. How social auditing protects brands and fails workers](#)

Clean Clothes Campaign

This report offers an extensive analysis of the corporate controlled audit industry, connecting the dots between the most well-known business-driven social compliance initiatives, such as Social Accountability International, WRAP, the FLA, and amfori BSCI, and the largest corporate-controlled auditing firms, including Bureau Veritas, TÜV Rheinland, UL, RINA, and

ELEVATE, as well as the brand interests that they serve. Evidence presented throughout the report clearly shows how the social audit industry has failed spectacularly in its proffered mission of protecting workers' safety and improving working conditions. Instead, it has protected the image and reputation of brands and their business models, while standing in the way of more effective models that include mandatory transparency and binding commitments to remediation.

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