

e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GAATW e-Bulletin

November-December 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from GAATW International Secretariat.

Today, we celebrate Human Rights Day as a commemoration of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. The theme of this year's 60th anniversary is "Dignity and Justice for All." We are pleased that this celebration will highlight the advancement of upholding the human rights of every single person around the globe.

In this issue, we take this opportunity to thank all of you for reading our regular bulletins this year. We would like to thank all our members and friends for your valuable contribution in sharing your latest activities and reports. As always, we appreciate your comments and suggestions to improve the GAATW e-bulletin so we can take it forward in the coming years.

Also, this month we bid farewell to our Asia Programme Officer Aneeqa Ahmad. It has been amazing working with Aneeqa all these two years and we will miss her enthusiasm, perseverance and sense of humor. We wish Aneeqa every success in her future endeavors.

Before we end this year's issue, please be informed that GAATW International Secretariat Office will be closed for the Holiday Season from December 20, 2008 to January 4, 2009. We wish you all a Beautiful Holiday Season and a New Year of Peace and Happiness.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS



Last year the United Nations Secretary General launched a year-long UN system-wide advocacy campaign to mark this important milestone. The campaign aimed to increase knowledge and awareness of human rights among the largest number of rights holders so that they can claim and enjoy their rights. The theme of the campaign, "*Dignity and justice for all of us*," strengthens the vision of the Declaration and its relevance to uphold universal dignity and justice.

In his statement to commemorate the 60 years of Universal Declaration of Human Rights this year, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reflected on the continuing struggle to see the universal human rights included in the Declaration enjoyed by everyone, everywhere. He encourages all to act on our collective responsibility to uphold the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration. The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay, called for greater efforts to implement human rights standards worldwide.

<http://www.un.org/events/humanrights/2008/index.shtml>

On November 25, in commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Human Rights Watch called on governments to punish abusive employers and to prevent violence by reforming labour and immigration policies to ensure protection of migrant and domestic workers. Most countries do not cover domestic workers' protection under their labor laws, leaving domestic workers little remedy against exploitative work conditions. Human Rights Watch highlighted that there is limited access to the justice system.

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/11/24/protect-domestic-workers-violence>

Justice Update

Norway grants residence permit to trafficked persons

The Ministry of Labor and Social Inclusion in Norway has instructed the Directorate of Immigration (UDI) to open its door to victims and witnesses of human trafficking by providing them with residence permits. The new instructions allow permanent work or residence permits in Norway to ensure that victims of human trafficking can testify without fear of retaliation in their country of origin and to catch more ringleaders.

<http://balita.ph/2008/11/18/norway-grants-residence-permit-to-victims-of-human-trafficking/>

Justice for Nirmala Bonat

A Malaysian court sentenced Yim Pek Ha to 18 years in prison after she was found guilty of three counts of voluntarily causing grave abuse to Nirmala Bonat, her Indonesian domestic worker in 2004. The case sparked national outrage that focused attention on the plight of Indonesian migrant domestic workers after Malaysian newspapers published photographs in 2004 of a then 19-year-old Bonat. Indonesian officials and human rights groups have urged Malaysia's government to strengthen laws to protect some 300,000 Indonesian domestic workers. Indonesian diplomats reported that at least 1,500 maids seek help at their offices across Malaysia each year.

news.sky.com/skynews/Home/World-News/

The Indian government will sign a Memorandum of Understanding on manpower movement of its nationals with all GCC states except Saudi Arabia in January. The Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi told the Press that the MoU will improve service conditions of low-income workers. He added that India had set BD250 to BD350 as monthly salary for domestic workers as well as mobile phones, 50 calls a month and other benefits. There is possibility of having one contract per employee. The details will include the salary, mode of payment, job privileges and termination benefits, and the contract must be approved by the government before actual recruitment takes place.

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/darticlen.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2008/November/middleeast_November359.xml§ion=middleeast&col=

REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

ECPAT BRAZIL

The III World Congress against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents took place from 25 to 28 November in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with more than three thousand people from five continents. The Congress was organised by the Brazilian Government, the organisation End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT), the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), and by the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (NGO Group). Simultaneously, there will be the I Brazilian Congress against Sexual Violence of Children and Adolescents, which will gather governmental and non governmental organizations from different parts of Brazil.

GAATW members (Projeto Trama, Sodireitos and IBISS-Co) attended both Congresses as well as Mike Dotridge, also a consultant of GAATW, who was a speaker at the III World Congress and the I Brazilian Congress. Besides, Projeto Trama (also member of the Coordinator Committee of the I Brazilian Congress) launched an interactive campaign at the III World Congress, emphasizing the importance to make pressure, emphasizing a.o. the worldwide "recognizing rights" campaign of GAATW and the necessity for better Access to Justice for trafficked persons.

You can get more information about the III World Congress and I Brazilian Congress at the websites: www.iiicongressomundial.net and www.cbe-visca.org.br

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

11th Association for Women's Right and Development (AWID) Forum

Cape Town (South Africa) 14-17 November, 2008

Siriporn Skrobanek GAATW founder and President of the Foundation for Women (Thailand), and Bandana Pattanaik and Nerea Bilbatua from the IS participated in the AWID Forum. The Forum (organized every 3 years) was a good opportunity to learn more about the debates within and

around the women's rights movement as well as to network with like-minded organisations from all around the world.

The theme of this year's Forum was 'The Power of Movements'. The Forum gathered around 2,200 activists from the Women Rights and other related movements. Some of the issues discussed in the different plenaries and workshops were the challenge of the sustainability of women's rights activists and self-care; the spaces for young feminists (for the first time in the Forum's history, at least twenty per cent of participants were women under the age of thirty); a look inside the feminist organisations and the context the struggle for women's right takes place. Women's from the Africa region were majority, and in solidarity with their South African counterparts on the second day of the Forum, participants from around the world joined in a march against violence against women in South Africa.

La Strada Ukraine and La Strada Belarus co-organised a session on *The women's movement's response to Human Trafficking in the CEE-NIS Region*.

For more information please visit: <http://www.awid.org> or contact nerea@gaatw.org

GAATW Africa Regional Consultation

Nairobi (Kenya) 20-21-22 November, 2008



Co-organised by the IS and FIDA-Kenya this Consultation is the 2nd regional meeting in 2008 after the European Regional Consultation (October 2008). It gathered a total of twenty five women's rights advocates including all GAATW members in the region (Fida-Kenya, GPI and WOCON from Nigeria and KIWOHEDE from Tanzania) as well as representatives of key non-governmental and inter-governmental organisations from South Africa, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone, Asia (Thailand and Nepal) and Europe (UK and Ireland). It aimed at strengthening the GAATW network in Africa, share experiences, learn from each other, identify common issues and develop a common analysis.

Key common challenges identified during the meeting included inadequate research and information about migration and trafficking in Africa, poor mechanisms for victims of trafficking to access justice, and weak interaction between NGOs in Africa as well as between African NGOs and NGOs in the West. Consequently, participants agreed to incorporate migration and trafficking in their work, while GAATW-IS proposed that it would take up responsibility in relation to research, as well as in creating an information network and sharing information. For more information please contact nerea@gaatw.org

Upcoming Events

Workshop: Spain and Brazil, creating networks to assist trafficked persons (España y Brasil: articulando redes para la atención a las víctimas de trata); Madrid (Spain) 10-11 December

2008

The objective of this workshop is to strengthen victim's protection by exchanging information and creating a network between the 2 countries. GAATW members from Brazil and Spain as well as other NGOs and concerned ministries in both countries will participate. For more information please visit:

http://www.ucm.es/info/IUDC/img/articulos/eventos/SEMINARIO_ESPAA-BRASIL.pdf

or contact nerea@gaatw.org

RESOURCES

Reports

New report urges States to protect the human rights of migrants

The report from the Global Migration Group, of which the UN Population Fund ([UNFPA](#)) is a member, calls for stepped-up measures in both countries of origin and countries of destination to ensure that rights are protected and upheld. Jose Miguel Guzman, the chief of UNFPA's population and development branch said there is a need to find new ways of international collaboration to protect the human rights of these individuals. The report calls for data on migrants' age and gender to be made available so that measures put in place to safeguard the human rights of migrants can be effectively monitored and assessed.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=28704&Cr=migrant&Cr1=human+rights>

A report issued by the **United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** offers good practices and lessons learned designed to assist States in enhancing existing legislation and developing new laws to address violence against women. The report -- “**Good practices in legislation on violence against women**” -- provides guidelines and a model framework for legislation on violence against women, including detailed recommendations, commentaries and examples of good practices. The 70-page document also summarizes the prevailing approaches for addressing violence against women in different legal systems.

http://7thspace.com/headlines/297531/united_nations_report_offers_guidelines_for_legislation_on_violence_against_women.html

More Women on the Move - Special Package

On the occasion of the "[16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence Campaign](#)" Radio 1812 is releasing a [package](#) of audio reports dealing with the issue of female migration including an in-depth interview with [Leila Rispens-Noel](#), who works with Oxfam Novib in the Netherlands on migration and development projects.

http://www.radio1812.net/en/story/2008/11/more_women_move

Events

PICUM, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants will hold an **International Conference in Brussels on 22-23rd January 2009 on Undocumented Children in Europe** to launch its publication on this issue. This conference, organized within the framework of the EU project “Fighting discrimination-based violence against undocumented children in Europe”, will provide an opportunity to investigate the specific needs and problems that undocumented children face in Europe when trying to access their basic social rights. The event will enable participants to share experiences and good practices regarding the provision of protection to undocumented children. For more information on the draft program and registration form, visit PICUM’s website at www.picum.org.

"We must work for the full implementation of human rights on the ground in a way that affects and improves the lives of the men, women and children who are all entitled, regardless of their race, sex, religion, nationality, property or birth, to realization of each and every right set forth in the Universal Declaration."

High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay

<http://www.un.org/events/humanrights/2008/index.shtml>

The GAATW e-bulletin is sent out to all member organisations of the Alliance as well as to many of its friends and sister NGOs worldwide.

- The e-bulletin is published every last week of the month. A Spanish version goes out three days after the English version. Sometimes additional follow up information and/or reminders are also sent via email to member organisations.
- Primarily a tool for communication between the International Secretariat and the Alliance members, the e-bulletin aims to cover a broad range of topics although trafficking related issues remain its special focus. We also use this e-bulletin to inform members about upcoming events and provide regular updates about the Secretariat.
- We strongly encourage members and friends to send us their input to the e-bulletin at info@gaatw.org
- If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at info@gaatw.org and we will delete your address from the list.

Please note that we have not inserted the advertisements that may appear on this message. GAATW International Secretariat is not associated in any of these ads over which we have no control.