

# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

## GAATW E-bulletin

26 January 2007

Dear Members and Friends,

Warm greetings from the GAATW International Secretariat (GAATW-IS) and our best wishes for a positive, energetic and colourful new year!

This is our first e-Bulletin issue this year and we would like to take the opportunity to share with you our plans and projects for 2007.

As you know, we ended 2006 with a staff retreat in Pattaya, which was truly a rewarding experience. Many of the staff was new in 2006 and this was an opportunity to strengthen the team as well as to plan for 2007. After the New Year's holiday the team started with optimism and strength of mind. We are looking forward to carrying out the numerous projects planned in support of and with the support of the Alliance and we sincerely hope that this year will be as fruitful and positive as 2006 has been!

Time has passed swiftly as we are now almost at the end of the GAATW 2005-2007 Programme. Many of the activities at the GAATW-IS this year will be dedicated to the preparation for the International Member's Congress, and we are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in October 2007!!

Current news, events, resources and updates from the GAATW-IS will be sent to you in our next e-Bulletin. We are always happy to receive your comments and suggestions!

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

### **FROM THE SECRETARIAT**

#### **GAATW in 2006**

Overall 2006 was a very positive year for the GAATW-IS. We accomplished most of the planned activities and even went beyond. We completed two global thematic Consultations (Access to Justice and Prevention) and one regional Consultation in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), thus effecting the consultations planned by GAATW-IS for 2005-2007. These consultations sought to draw out the human rights impacts of anti-trafficking initiatives from the perspective of practitioners. The findings will support a further research project into the anti-trafficking framework and their impacts in specific countries (the Multi Country Research Project).

The Alliance has strengthened its partnerships with members and friends in the European

and LAC regions and has made new contacts in the South / Southeast Asian region. It has furthermore reactivated the communication with members in Africa and North America. But GAATW was not only active at regional level: An important step for the IS's international activities was receiving the ECOSOC status. This allowed GAATW to participate in the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in New York and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. GAATW also played a leading role in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime in Vienna, where together with La Strada International and Antislavery International it held a panel discussion on the human rights approach to victim protection.

The *Alliance News* and *e-Bulletin* received a new layout and their distribution strategy were refined to optimize their purpose of disseminating thematic information. Members and other partners both from Europe and the LAC region have also provided articles, interviews and translations for it.

### **Highlights for 2007**

In 2007, GAATW-IS will essentially have nine months of programme work before the **International Members' Congress (IMC) in early October**. These nine months will consolidate the work carried in the last two years, and set the groundwork for the next three-year plan for 2008-2010. Programmatically GAATW-IS will deepen the engagement with the themes that were priorities in the 2005-2007 action plan: **Advocacy, Access to Justice, Realizing Rights**, as well as on **Regional coordination, Communication and Administration**.

#### Advocacy

Eleanor, Aneeqa and Nina will be working on the advocacy strategies at the IS. The aim of 2007 is to strengthen the profile of GAATW at international and regional venues, for which important stepping-stones have been laid in the past years. Furthermore the team will:

- Establish a long-term advocacy strategy in collaboration with a working group;
- Research the trafficking/migration nexus;
- Create and implement a plan for advocacy around the Multi Country Research Project (which will be presented at the IMC);
- Monitor different regional and international bodies and treaties related to human trafficking;
- Consider ways to work with GAATW members to lobby national governments on anti-trafficking policies.

#### Access to Justice

Nerea and Eleanor will be working on the Access to Justice programme, which aims at improving legal frameworks, policies, practices and venues for trafficked persons to access the justice system. In the year 2007 the team will grow, welcoming a new Programme Officer for research and communication. The team will be:

- Launching the Access to Justice Website, which will support members and other interested persons and organisations in improving access to justice by providing a forum for simple, accessible and relevant information exchange;
- Working on the publication of the July 2007 *Alliance News* issue focusing on compensation avenues for trafficked victims;
- Coming up with monthly Access to Justice *e-Bulletins*;
- Holding three National Consultations in Nigeria, Nepal and Thailand;
- Carrying out a pilot research in Indonesia.

#### Realizing Rights

Bandana has been working intensively on this action research project that started in late 2006 with voluntary support from our sub-regional working group members and Julie. Julie will join us as a Programme Officer in March and focus on this project. The research will consolidate GAATW's engagement with self-organised groups and analyze the strengths and challenges in using self-organisation as a strategy for empowerment. It will also look at the complexities and politics around much used words such as participation and

empowerment. The project implemented in conjunction with member groups offers constructive practical activities and outcomes, such as:

- Facilitation of the socio economic empowerment and political participation of several GAATW member self-organised and community-based groups;
- Linking up 18 of them within a mutually beneficial relationship;
- The publication of a report on the results of the project by October 2007 that will be shared with interested groups.

#### Regional coordination

The regional coordination of activities among GAATW member organisations will pursue its strategies as developed during 2006. Nerea coordinates the LAC region and with Nina's support the European region. Strategies for regional coordination of members' activities are being developed for Asia by Aneeqa and for Africa by Michelle and Eleanor. Activities include:

- The coordination of information exchange on key topics;
- The drafting and sharing of papers to improve knowledge on regional key topics;
- The consolidation of the network by implementing pilot activities at regional level;
- The preparation for regional panels at the IMC;
- Translating key documents and reports to improve information dissemination and inclusion.

#### Communication Unit

Michelle and Alfie are the head and heart of the Communication Unit and will be joined soon by Vijaya, our new Communications Manager. Together they will dedicate their time and energy to:

- Managing information within the GAATW-IS, both for incoming and outgoing information;
- Developing communication strategies (publications, online resources, etc.);
- Strengthening the archival visual documentation system;
- Supporting GAATW members and friends;
- Organising the IMC with support from the team.

#### Administration and Finance

In mid-November 2006 we said goodbye to Shyamali, our Finance officer, who finished her 2-year contract with GAATW-IS. Xenia, who has worked with ICCO as Junior Programme Officer, will join the team as Finance and Administration Officer. She will work with Naetima, Bandana and Apivart.

#### ***"Victims deserved to be treated with dignity. They're not criminals,"***

Human-rights activist Reverend Peter Nguyen Van Hung referring to the fact that most victims are treated like criminals and with prejudice, as there is no law that clearly defines human trafficking in Taiwan.

Source: [Taipeitimes.com](http://Taipeitimes.com)

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- The e-bulletin is published once a 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 [gaatw@gaatw.org](mailto:gaatw@gaatw.org)
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# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

## GAATW e-Bulletin

February 27, 2007

*Dear Members and Friends,*

Greetings from the GAATW International Secretariat. As February draws to a close, we are already in the thick of activity. But more about that a while later.

This issue of the e-bulletin includes news of initiatives taken by the governments of Malaysia and Bahrain with regard to migrant workers. We especially note with concern the collaborative endeavour of the Malaysian and Indonesian governments to overhaul their labour agreement on domestic workers. The Malaysian government plans to put in place new laws restricting migrants to their workplace. Human rights groups have decried this as a repressive measure - a gross violation of the right to freedom of movement. GAATW expresses its solidarity with the Human Rights Watch and other groups condemning the Malaysian government's proposed bill.

The government of Bahrain has announced the enactment of a new anti-trafficking legislation. The draft is ready to be passed on to parliament for discussions. In a climate that is becoming increasingly suspicious of migrants, legislative measures often work against the right of human beings to migrate. It must be recognised by governments that while trafficking is the denial of human rights, migration and safe migration is also the right of human beings and hence must be protected by law.

It would not be amiss to mention here incidents that whip up frenzy and paranoia and which then the media takes up for widespread coverage. The reference is to the story of the 40,000 'sex-slaves' who were to be smuggled into Germany to service the 2006 World Cup football fans. While it may be that somebody's prurient imagination ran away with them, such irresponsible reporting also makes a mockery of the situation of trafficked people, depriving the issue of its seriousness. From our resources section, readers can access both the German Delegation report to the Council of the European Union, and the IOM report.

The Annual Board Meeting, held from February 17-20, was a bracing experience for the IS staff. The members of the board had substantive discussions with the various teams working on research, advocacy and dissemination related projects. There were also discussions on intensifying our network and advocacy by working closely with our partners in different regions.

We hope that this issue of the e-bulletin brings you plenty to read and mull over.

*Warmly,*

*The GAATW International Secretariat*

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Indonesia, Malaysia: Overhaul Labour Agreement on Domestic Workers.** Approximately 2.5 million migrants work in Malaysia, and the majority are Indonesians working in plantations, construction and domestic service. Gaps in labour laws and punitive immigration policies have left many migrants at risk of abuse and labor exploitation by employers and recruitment agencies.

To read the report, **Help Wanted: Abuses against Female Migrant Domestic Workers in Indonesia and Malaysia**, please visit: <http://hrw.org/reports/2004/indonesia0704/>.

### Legislative Update

Bahrain's Foreign Ministry assistant undersecretary Shaikh Abdul Aziz, who is also the Chairman of the Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking, stated that Bahrain's labour and criminal court systems will be developed to better deal with all forms of illegal trafficking. He also emphasized that the passing of a new anti-trafficking legislation will be a major step in combating human trafficking in Bahrain. The Inter-Ministerial Task Force has now completed the draft and is expected to be passed to parliament for discussions during its current session.

[http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/arc\\_Articles.asp?Article=170417&Sn=BNEW&IssueID=29336](http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/arc_Articles.asp?Article=170417&Sn=BNEW&IssueID=29336)

Prime Minister Tony Blair has announced that Britain will soon become a signatory to the European Convention on Trafficking, which allows for accommodation and support for trafficked victims. Under the European Convention, victims of trafficking are allowed a minimum of 30 days during which they can receive medical support, accommodation and counselling. Trafficking is seen as a violation of the human rights of victims, who cannot be removed until they have been properly identified and offered assistance and protection.

<http://www.blackbritain.co.uk/news/details.aspx?i=2364&c=uk&h=Govt+to+sign+European+Convention+on+Trafficking+allowing+victims+the+right+to+stay+in+UK>

## REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATE

GAATW, along with the Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC), a human rights NGO working in Nepal, and Centre for Feminist Legal Research (CFLR), organised a national consultation on **Social Exclusion and its Impact on Health, Food Security, Trafficking and Migration**. The consultation that took place in Kathmandu, from 24-25 February 2007, focussed on the health, food security, trafficking and migration issues of the socially excluded and marginalised groups in Nepal. One of the major objectives of this consultation is to pressurise the government to develop a clear plan for the social inclusion of the excluded groups.

La Strada International (LSI), the European Network against Trafficking in Human Beings, recently launched its re-designed and updated LSI website. The site is rich with information on key issues and trends in the international debate on trafficking, especially with regard to the East European region. An interesting feature to watch out for is the policy monitor. An online documentation centre is still under construction. For more information, visit [www.lastradainternational.org](http://www.lastradainternational.org).

The UNODC project in Colombia on anti-trafficking received the Best UN Project in the World award. GAATW congratulates **Espacios de Mujer**, our member organisation in Colombia, for its contribution in making this project successful. The project deployed unconventional techniques in its fight against human trafficking. The essence of various policies, agreements, treaties and codes was publicised through *telenovelas* (soap operas), events, and posters of high impact. Espacios de Mujer is optimistic that this example of

good practice can be replicated in many more countries. For more information, please email: [info@gaatw.org](mailto:info@gaatw.org).

*Have you released a new report? Have you organised an important event? Does your campaign need support? We want to hear about it and so do other members and friends. If you need support, ideas, resources or information from other members on campaigns or activities you are running, the e-Bulletin can help. Send us the brief message you may like to send out to other members through the E-bulletin. If it is urgent, we could consider sending the message out through our members' mailing list.*

### **NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY UPDATES**

The advocacy team of GAATW International Secretariat participated in the following meetings and consultations:

#### **Migrant Workers in Thailand -- Strategic Plan Meeting Chiang Mai, 7-8 January 2007**

The *Action Network for Migrants* (ANM), a network of NGOs based in Thailand working with migrant workers from Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia, called for a strategic plan meeting in early January. ANM has been working on raising awareness among documented and undocumented migrant workers in Thailand and advocating for the protection of migrants' rights. In 2007, their focus will be on: deepening links between trade unions and migrant groups, pressing for changes in the migrant worker registration process and promoting a better image of migrant workers in Thailand. The *Canadian South East Asia Regional on HIV/AIDS Program* (CSEARHAP) joined the meeting to share information about their program to improve health services for migrant workers. The meeting was a good opportunity to link up with migrant organisations and to learn about the situation of migrant workers in Thailand.

#### **Consultation on Gender, Migration and Law / Human Rights (with focus on Bangladesh, India and Nepal) New Delhi, 18-20 January 2007**

The *Centre for Feminist Legal Research* (CFLR) organised this consultation to evaluate legal and policy approaches to female migration and analyse their impact on women's mobility. The discussions gave insights into the cultural and gendered assumptions behind restrictive laws and policies. Recommendations were also formulated for policy shifts to facilitate female migration. This interesting and informative consultation gave the GAATW-IS an opportunity to learn about current issues related to female migration and migrants' rights in South Asia. The advocacy team of GAATW expressed an interest in coordinating the necessary advocacy follow-ups in this direction.

#### **Regional Consultation on UN Human Rights Council Bangkok, 2-3 February 2007**

The Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia) meeting aimed at assessing the progress of the Human Rights Council (HRC) during its first nine months of activity and to update participants about reforms around the Special Procedures mechanism (Special Rapporteurs and Working Groups) and the UN Treaty Bodies. Representatives of national and regional NGOs from around Asia attended the meeting and shared views on how the reforms taking place would allow addressing human rights situations in Asian countries. At the conclusion of the meeting, a Working Group on Human Rights was formed to continue information sharing. The meeting proved to be a learning opportunity for the GAATW-IS about advocacy within this forum and ways to better engage national NGOs and members in the HRC discussions.

#### **Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy -- General Forum Bangkok, 5-6 February 2007**

Following immediately after the HRC Consultation was the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Forum of the Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy (SAPA), also held in Bangkok. SAPA, formed in February 2006, is an open platform for consultation, coordination and cooperation among

NGOs, civil society organisations and social movements in Asia that engage in advocacy at the intergovernmental level. At the 2007 General Forum, over 100 individuals and NGO representatives had dynamic and wide-ranging discussions as well as sharing of experiences. On the first day, four panellists presented a daunting list of challenges in Asia, ranging from an emerging nuclear threat to global warming, to increasing economic inequality and internal conflicts. On the second day, specific working groups met to plan activities for 2007. The overwhelming message was that civil society must be strengthened and alliances forged to combat the challenges to human dignity faced on all fronts in the Asian region. More information on SAPA can be found at: [www.asiasapa.org](http://www.asiasapa.org).

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding networking and advocacy, please write to: [eleanor@gaatw.org](mailto:eleanor@gaatw.org) or [aneeqa@gaatw.org](mailto:aneeqa@gaatw.org).

As you know, the GAATW-IS will be participating in the SAARC summit being held from March 23-25 this year. We invite member organisations to share their ideas and suggestions with us. It would help us plan better and also raise pertinent issues in the summit.

### FROM THE SECRETARIAT

On February 17-19, the GAATW International Secretariat held its Annual Board Meeting at the Windsor Suites Hotel, Bangkok. Board members from Poland, Switzerland, Sudan, Cambodia and Thailand attended the three-day meeting, together with the International Secretariat staff. The board members were given a briefing by the International Coordinator on the current structure of the International Secretariat and of GAATW activities for 2007. A conceptual clarity session on prostitution was also conducted by the board. The board members present reiterated their commitment to advise and guide the IS staff, who, in turn, were extremely grateful for this reassurance.

The GAATW-IS warmly welcomes Vijaya Vanamala who has joined the Communications Unit and will be working closely with other team members to keep the alliance updated about news and information from different regions.

### RESOURCES

#### Call for Proposals

Here's something that might interest our members/partners based in Thailand. The [Sexual Health And Rights Project \(SHARP\)](#) invites proposals from organisations working with migrants, sex workers, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons on sexual health and rights issues, especially in relation to HIV/AIDS. Groups working in Thailand can seek funding from SHARP. The deadline for submitting the proposal is March 16, 2007. Please address all your queries to Sue Simon, Project Director, at the following address [ssimon@sorosny.org](mailto:ssimon@sorosny.org).

#### Events

The South Asian Bar Association of Washington, D.C. and the South Asian Law Students Association at Georgetown University will be conducting its **2007 Civil & Human Rights Symposium: Human Trafficking of South Asians for Sexual and Labor Exploitation: A Legal and Political Perspective** on Wednesday, 28 February 2007, 7:00 pm - 9:00 p.m. Georgetown University Law Center, McDonough Hall, Room 206, 600 New Jersey Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20001. For more information and speaker bios, please visit: <http://www.sabadc.org/>.

**Save the Children** -- Sweden and the European Network of Masters on Children's Rights will organise a **European conference on Children in Migration** on *20-21 March 2007 in Warsaw, Poland*. The conference aims to highlight the migration issues of children in

Europe. It will also discuss asylum seeking and refugee children, children forced to migrate or voluntarily migrating for work, children being abandoned when their parents migrate, as well as children being trafficked for various exploitative purposes.

<http://www.rb.se/NR/rdonlyres/9062DD00-A5AA-48DD-969C-D962D526661C/0/MigrationConferenceinMarch2007.doc>

The Universidad Autonoma de Sinaloa, Universidad de Guadalajara and the U.S. General Consul in the city of Guadalajara, Mexico, is organising an international congress on **Global Migrations -- Populations in Movement, Families, and Migrant Communities**, from *22-24 March 2007, Mazatlán, Sinaloa, Mexico*. The purpose of this congress is to create a space where the global processes and the rapid change of current events encourage all researchers to study the economic, political, and cultural changes of the population in movement from the level of the person, the family, the community and the Nation-State. <http://interpol.uasnet.mx/migracionesglobales/en/>

The fifty-first session of the **Commission on the Status of Women** will take place from 26 February to 9 March 2007 at the UN Headquarters, New York. In accordance with its multi-year programme of work for 2007-2009, the Commission will consider as its **priority theme the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child**.

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/51sess.htm>

#### Reports

The **ILO Mekong Project** and **Mahidol University's Institute for Population and Social Research** have published the results of a year-long research project that has found serious abuses of young migrants occurring on fishing boats, seafood processing plants, on farms, in factories and especially in the homes of Thai employers. More than half of the foreign migrant domestic workers surveyed were prohibited from leaving their workplaces, and one-in-five migrant in their teens was confined to the fishing boats, virtual slaves to the whims of their Thai employers. The two-volume bi-lingual report, **The Mekong Challenge -- Underpaid Overworked and Overlooked: The realities of young migrant workers in Thailand**, investigates the recruitment and working conditions in four economic sectors: fishing and fish processing, light manufacturing, agriculture, and domestic work. This is a new ILO report that Elaine Pearson co-authored on trafficking, forced labour and exploitation of young migrants in various labour sectors in Thailand. The full report can be downloaded from:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/child/trafficking/newpublication-showcase.htm>

The **Experience Report on Human Trafficking for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation and Forced Prostitution in Connection with the 2006 Football Cup in Germany** (19.01.2007) of the EU Council draws the conclusion that the number of 40,000 women, who allegedly were going to be trafficked and forced into prostitution during the 2006 World Cup, was an estimate that never did materialise. The IOM came to similar conclusions in its report **Trafficking in Human Beings and the 2006 World Cup in Germany**. GAATW had been monitoring the media coverage in Europe during this time, indeed concerned about the fact that unrealistic and unfounded estimates were not being critically questioned, leaving the audience with the erroneous impression that trafficking is always for the purpose of prostitution. In the process, other forms and sites of trafficking, such as forced labour in private households, restaurants, agriculture and construction sites, are ignored.

Council of the European Union:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/07/st05/st05006-re01.en07.pdf>

IOM Report:

<http://www.sida.se/shared/jsp/download.jsp?f=World+Cup+Study+Final+Report.pdf&a=25626>

New ILO Mekong Project supported report highlights the plight of migrant child workers in Mae Sot, Thailand: A bilingual (Thai-English) report on the findings of a survey of more than 300 Burmese children working in factories on the Thai side of the border reveals a situation of serious labour exploitation. More than 80% of the children (all below 18) were working day and night (11 to 12 hours per day -- 7 days a week) often at wages far below the minimum required by law.

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/child/trafficking/index.htm>

The UNESCAP report and slide presentation of the regional seminar on **Strengthening the Capacity of National Mechanisms for Gender Equality to Shape Migration Policies and Protect Migrant Women** are available on their GAD website.

<http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/index.asp>

The report **Human Trafficking in the Russian Federation: Inventory Analysis of the Current Situation and Analysis** by E. V. Tiurukanova and the Institute for Urban Economics for the UN/IOM Working Group on Trafficking on Human Beings is already available for downloading. This report presents an overview of the current situation and responses to trafficking in human beings in the Russian Federation up to December 2005.

<http://www.childcentre.info/projects/traffickin/dbaFile12949.pdf>

#### Books

The new OHCHR publication, **Working with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: A Handbook for NGOs**, is now available on OHCHR website. This new OHCHR publication aims to provide NGOs all over the world with a comprehensive and user-friendly guide to the work of OHCHR, including key information on human rights mechanisms, entry points for NGOs and contact details with a view to assisting NGOs in identifying areas of possible cooperation and partnership with OHCHR. It is being released to facilitate greater participation of NGOs as essential partners in the United Nations human rights system as called for in the High Commissioner's Plan of Action of 2005. The handbook, which is up to date as of June 2006, is for now available electronically on:

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/about/ngopartnerships.htm>.

The UNHCHR has published a training manual for the judiciary, which also includes a chapter (15) on victims of crime. See also chapters 10 and 11 for the rights of children and women.

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/about/publications/training.htm>

The training materials available at StopVAW.org is also useful for an introduction, even if they don't specifically focus on judges as target group.

[http://www.stopvaw.org/Trafficking\\_Training\\_Modules.html](http://www.stopvaw.org/Trafficking_Training_Modules.html)

*“Working together, seizing opportunities presented by the Summit Outcome and the reforms underway, we can turn into a formidable force for gender equality and empowerment of women.”*

RACHEL N. MAYANJA, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General  
on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women  
[Commission on the Status of Women \(Fiftieth Session\)](#)

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7 March 2007

Dear Members and Friends,

As we celebrate the 2007 International Women's Day on March 8, we also commemorate women's struggles for justice, social change and empowerment. We acknowledge the progress and the milestones achieved. It is especially significant to note how women in different parts of the world have joined hands and formed alliances to give themselves the opportunity for self-determination and to live a life of dignity and self-worth. It has not been easy for women to be the initiators of change. Women's groups have had to face censure, disparagement and denigration, sometimes even from groups working with the discriminated and the marginalized. We salute these women of grit, who, despite the odds, find the courage to go on. They have made their voices heard and compelled others to recognize their agency in effecting change. We welcome the advances in the debate on issues pertaining to empowerment that women's self-organised groups have initiated. Many of the self-organised groups of affected women have shown greater strength to continue their struggles and raise their voices to a broader audience, while at the same time contending, grappling and learning to deal with issues that are inevitable in coordinating and synchronising as an organised group or a collective. GAATW works as a partner organisation with many such groups and we take this opportunity to acknowledge how crucial their work has been in pressing for social justice.

The Kolkata-based Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC), a large group of self-organised sex workers, is a case in point. Theirs has been a long and ongoing struggle to have the right to pleasure recognised as a fundamental right. They co-organised the All India Conference of Entertainment Workers in Kolkata, India, from February 25 to March 3, 2007, along with the Binodini Shramik Union (an arm of the DMSC) and Amra Padatik (a sex workers rights organisation of the children of sex workers). The "Festival of Pleasure" sought to re-conceptualise sex workers as entertainment workers and the right to pleasure as a fundamental right.

We congratulate Shakti Samuha for holding their first conference in Kathmandu. A culmination of their efforts to forge an identity of their own, the conference marks their progress from a heavily stigmatized and marginalized self-organised group of survivors of trafficking to a substantive force in national and international anti-trafficking initiatives. We also celebrate the efforts of the Navatara Kishori Sanjal, a Kathmandu-based network of adolescent girls that works with adolescent girls in nine squatter settlements to raise awareness about trafficking in women and children, HIV and violence against women. Facilitated by Shakti Samuha, this network started with 15 young women in 2005 and has since doubled to 30 members. Shakti Samuha has continued to nurture and support the Navatara network by developing their leadership capacity, confidence and awareness. We cheer them on in their spirited and confident endeavours.

The National Domestic Workers' Movement (NDWM), India, sees the International Women's Day as "an opportunity to look back to a tradition that represents at least nine decades of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development; however, their

struggle still continues." All individuals and organizations that believe in equal opportunities and the right to self-determination will be proud of this struggle for a just and peaceful world.

Below we have listed some of the important events for the IWD 2007.

In Solidarity,

The GAATW International Secretariat

#### IWD 2007 ACTIVITIES

##### **Migrant Assistance Project (MAP)**

WHAT: 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Exchange Get-Together 2007 (Women in Transit)

WHEN: March 5-9, 2007

WHERE: Chiang Mai, Thailand

##### **Shakti Samuha**

WHAT: 1st National Conference of Trafficking Survivors in Nepal (On the occasion of the 97th International Women Workers' Day)

WHEN: 7 March, 11-3PM

WHERE: Rashtriya Sabha Griha, Kathmandu, Nepal

For more information, contact Shakti Samuha at [shakti@samuha.wlink.com.np](mailto:shakti@samuha.wlink.com.np)

##### **Bombay House Workers Solidarity - National Domestic Workers' Movement (NDWM)**

WHAT: International Women's Day and World Domestic Workers' Day Celebrations

WHEN: 8 March, 12NN-5PM

WHERE: Azad Maidan, India

##### **UN Bangkok - The International Women's Day Task Force**

WHAT: International Women's Day Celebration with the theme "Ending Impunity for Violence Against Women"

WHEN: 8 March 2007

WHERE: United Nations Conference Centre, Conference Room 4, UN Building, Bangkok, Thailand

For more information, go to

<http://www.unescap.org/esid/gad/Events/WomensDay2007/index.asp>

##### **Global Women's Strike**

WHAT: Conference on Rape, Race and Prostitution (Campaigning for Justice in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century)

WHEN: Saturday 10 March, 10-5PM

WHERE: Trinity United Reformed Church, Buck Street, London NW1

For more information: *Global Women's Strike*

Tel: 020 7482 2496 Fax: 020 7209 4761

[womenstrike8m@server101.com](mailto:womenstrike8m@server101.com) [www.globalwomenstrike.net](http://www.globalwomenstrike.net)

# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

## GAATW e-Bulletin

31 March 2007

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from the GAATW-IS. March has been a period of intense activity for us which we hope is reflected in the contents of the e-bulletin. We are delighted to share with you updates from member organisations in various regions as well as from the Secretariat. We also bring to your attention some issues of regional and global relevance.

The global highlight is the Sri Lankan government's approval of a proposal that would ban mothers of children under-5 emigrating for work and regulate mothers with older children to seek authorisation prior to emigration. If implemented, this will prove to be a highly repressive state measure against women's rights. But even as a proposal it exposes the government's insensitivity towards what is happening to people in a country ravaged by armed conflict. Instead of taking strong national and international measures to bring peace and stability to the country, the policy makers seem to want to take a regressive step by proposing to stop women from leaving their home country. Measures to stop distress-migration should be in the frame of affirmative action to better address the push factors of migration. If the Sri Lankan government is genuinely concerned about the future of the young, it should ensure the safety and security of everyone within the country and offer feasible and realistic alternatives to assist and empower mothers who work abroad.

Realising Rights, our collaborative project implemented in conjunction with the self-organised and community-based member groups, is progressing well. A national consultation in Nepal on the theme of Access to Justice has just been completed. We would like to draw your attention to the **Advocacy Update** sent as an attachment with this issue. There's news from the SAARC People's Forum, ASEAN and the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council. The Advocacy team will be pleased to receive your views and comments on the topics discussed in the update.

We urge our members, friends and partners to continue sending us their contributions, for that is what keeps our motivation levels high.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

## **GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS**

**Sri Lanka: Drop Ban on Mothers Emigrating for Work.** On March 7, Sri Lanka's ministerial cabinet approved a proposal by the Minister for Child Development and Women's Empowerment that would ban women with children under 5 years of age from emigrating for work. The regulation would also require mothers with children aged 5 or older to obtain approval from a government committee after submitting proof that they can provide appropriate caretakers for their children. Human Rights Watch called on the Sri Lankan government to withdraw the regulation, which has not yet been implemented. "This policy blatantly discriminates against women and threatens the well-being of their children," said La Shawn R. Jefferson, director of the Women's Rights Division at Human Rights Watch.

Source: <http://peacejournalism.com/ReadArticle.asp?ArticleID=17583>

**Recent report shows the amount of money sent home by Latin American migrant workers to their families has reached more than \$62bn.** This figure now exceeds the combined total of all direct foreign investment and foreign aid to Latin America. The biggest share of money, \$23bn, was sent back to Mexico, mostly from workers living in the United States remitting small sums each month.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/6465297.stm>

### Legislative Update

**French High Court Rules Against Creation of Illegal Migrants Database** In a decision published on 13 March, the Conseil d'Etat, the French highest administrative court, cancelled the ministerial order by which the Interior Ministry created the ELOI file, a database aimed at facilitating the expulsion of illegal migrants...

<http://www.legislationline.org/news.php?tid=1&jid=1>

**House gives final passage to human trafficking ban.** A Bill to ban human trafficking in Kentucky won final legislative passage in the House yesterday, a victory for groups that say cases of forced labor or exploitation have begun to surface in the state. The Bill passed the House unanimously and goes to Gov. Ernie Fletcher, whose office said he would review it before deciding whether to sign it. The Bill would make it a felony offense to force anyone into labor, domestic work or the sex trade. Advocates said they don't have specific numbers of such cases in Kentucky. But they say they have been getting anecdotal reports through women's shelters, legal aid lawyers, charitable organizations and other agencies around the state.

<http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070310/NEWS0101/703100428/1008/NEWS01>

## **REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES**

**La Strada International** released a statement on the International Women's Day that it will launch an international campaign focusing on the links between trafficking and women's rights on March 8, 2008. Questions pertaining to gender equality, the social position of women, the right to migrate and the right to protection will be addressed in this campaign, especially in the context of Central and East European countries.

<http://www.lastradainternational.org/>

*Right to Pleasure as a Fundamental Right - Symposium at the All India Conference of Entertainment Workers, Kolkata, India  
February 25 - March 3, 2007*

The Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC), a self-organised group of sex workers and a GAATW member, co-hosted the All India Conference of Entertainment Workers along with Binodini Shramik Union (an arm of the DMSC) and Amra Padatik (an organisation of the children of sex workers). The Festival of Pleasure sought to reconceptualise and recognise sex workers as entertainment workers and the right to pleasure as a fundamental right. A diversity of speakers and participants from the sex worker and entertainment worker communities (including artists, academics, government officials and human rights activists) spoke on the complexities of reconceptualising sex work as entertainment.

Julie Ham, Programme Officer for Realising Rights, GAATW's project with self-organised groups, joined a panel on addressing trafficking through the engagement of sex workers and asked the audience of sex workers and entertainment workers how they thought anti-trafficking initiatives could protect their rights and what they thought respectful and ethical reintegration processes should entail. Participating sex workers responded that anti-trafficking initiatives had no right to stop women sex workers who wished to continue in their profession, that trafficking must not be conflated with sex work, and that reintegration could not exist 'only on paper' but had to genuinely seek re-integration by attending to individual women's priorities, needs and wishes. For the DMSC's self-regulatory boards, this includes assisting women who wish to return to their village or addressing their social and legal needs and issues of social stigmatisation and discrimination.

Demanding respect and recognition for the services provided by the sex workers and the contribution they make to social and economic development was a core demand of the conference, as was recognising the importance and effectiveness of community-centred interventions.

<http://www.durbar.org/new/ec-2007.html>.

### *Self-organised trafficked survivors' group held its 1st conference of trafficked survivors in Kathmandu, Nepal, on March 7, 2007*

Shakti Samuha, a member of GAATW, held its 1st conference for trafficked survivors from a rights-based perspective. Over 100 survivors of trafficking and at least 500 other participants from NGOs, INGOs, government officials and the general public attended the meeting. Shakti Samuha held a series of closed door consultations with women survivors to discuss their demands and to formulate recommendations for the government to act upon. This conference culminates 10 years of Shakti Samuha's efforts and demonstrates their progress from a heavily stigmatised and marginalised self-organised group of survivors to a substantive force in national and international anti-trafficking initiatives.

Fifteen women started the organisation in 1997. After frequent harassment, disbelief and discouragement from government officials and other NGOs, Shakti Samuha registered with the Kathmandu District Office in 2000. Their activities have included networking, advocacy, and providing support to survivors. They have conducted research in 5 areas of Nepal over 2 years to better understand the reintegration process for survivors and have drafted guidelines for rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration. These guidelines have been used by the Nepal government to prepare a government draft on anti-trafficking efforts.

Anti-trafficking planning and policies cannot be developed without centring the survivors' perspective and the human rights of trafficked survivors. While Shakti Samuha observes that it's still difficult for some to accept survivors' voices as a valid perspective in policy and planning efforts, it is now widely recognised and respected as an expert on anti-trafficking efforts by the Nepal government, the UN, NGOs and policymakers.

<http://www.shaktisamuha.org/about/introduction.htm>

Meeting of the GAATW-Brazil member organizations (16-17 March 2007, Guarulhos)

Asbrad, CHAME, Projeto Trama, Ibiss-Co, Sodireitos and SMM held a two-day meeting to discuss their common national activities, especially with regard to the Brazilian National Plan to Confront Human Trafficking, to be drafted in the upcoming months. GAATW-Brazil is proactively lobbying the government to take a human rights approach in the preparation of this National Plan. A representative from the Migrant Pastoral Service (an organization working directly with migrants linked to the Catholic Church) was invited to the meeting in order for the organizations to discuss the linkages between trafficking and internal migration in the Brazilian context.

#### **Second Tribunal of Migrant and Refugee Women in Argentina (27 March 2007, Buenos Aires)**

This Tribunal was organized by AMUMRA, a GAATW member organization in Argentina, to raise awareness on different situations that jeopardize the rights of this collective (especially violence against migrants' rights), as well as to denounce violence that women suffer at home and at work. The Tribunal, consisting of national and international legal experts, will also determine the extent of responsibility attributable to countries of origin, transit and destination.

On the **European Anti-Trafficking Day, March 25**, Proyecto Esperanza and 13 other national anti-trafficking organisations urged the Spanish Government to ratify the Council of Europe Convention. This national network of organisations called the *Red española contra la trata de personas* is pressing the Government to adopt a human rights based approach when deciding upon anti-trafficking policies and not to limit human trafficking to sexual exploitation, thus excluding those who are trafficked into other sectors of the informal economy from getting assistance and protection. The Council of Europe *Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings* is a human rights instrument which sets out a minimum of provisions for the protection of victims of the crime of trafficking and is supported by European NGOs.

Have you released a new report? Have you organised an important event? Does your campaign need support? We want to hear about it and so do other members and friends. If you need support, ideas, resources or information from other members on campaigns or activities you are running, the e-bulletin can help. Send us the brief message you may like to send out to other members through the e-bulletin. If it is urgent, we could consider sending the message out through our members' mailing list.

#### **NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY UPDATES**

The **Migrant Action Programme (MAP) held its 6th annual Women Exchange Get Together (March 5-9, 2007) in Chiang Mai, Thailand.** The Women Exchange was established in 1999 as an informal meeting space for Burmese women migrants and refugees living in Thailand. Women Exchange groups now exist in refugee camps and towns all along the Thai-Burmese border as a way for women to share experiences and provide support to each other. At the annual WE Get Together, representatives from each WE group travel to Chiang Mai for five days of information, training, fun and exchange. Formal sessions are combined with plenty of fun and cultural events and this time with salsa and art classes! The theme of the 6th Get Together was **Women in Transit**. Eleanor from the GAATW-IS gave a presentation on **Justice in Transit - Access to Justice for Migrant Women**. Eleanor and Alfie held four workshops on the practical aspects of accessing justice mechanisms. For many of the women, this was their first time out of the camp or province in which they had spent their lives, due to the restrictions on the movement of undocumented migrants in Thailand. It was inspiring to see the courage and enthusiasm of the women and the way they bonded with each other during their short stay. The WE Get Together culminated in the women marching through the streets of Chiang Mai on International Women's Day.

The attached first issue of the **2007 Advocacy Update** shares a brief report on the People's SAARC Forum, important developments in the ASEAN process and the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the

UN Human Rights Council. You can also access the current and previous issues of the Advocacy Update on our website at [www.gaatw.org](http://www.gaatw.org).

### FROM THE SECRETARIAT

#### **Updates on Realising Rights**

This collaborative project carried out in conjunction with several of our self-organised member groups focuses on a number of capacity-building activities. Three planning workshops and one review meeting were held in March within the framework of this project.

- The first workshop, a 4-day orientation meeting on adolescent girls' health rights was held with 18 members of the Navatara network in Nepal.

For several years now GAATW's member Shakti Samuha has been working with young girls in 9 squatter settlements of Kathmandu. Through various supportive and nurturing activities, Shakti Samuha has been able to train young girls to take leadership initiatives in their own communities. GAATW-IS was privileged to spend a few days in the company of Navatara girls and learn about their thoughts on various social issues and to hear about their dreams, aspirations and concerns. An intensive health awareness training with the group is scheduled for early July.

- The second workshop, also on health rights, brought together 12 representatives of the Bangladesh Sex Workers Network. Among them were members of Durjoy and Ulka, who had participated in GAATW's earlier activities. The 3-day workshop provided a safe space for the women to talk about their health concerns and what they could do to address some of the problems. A self-help training on health for the group is scheduled for late July.
- Pragati, GAATW's member organisation in Orissa, India, has currently intensified its action against internal trafficking of tribal girls for domestic work. In conjunction with the National Domestic Workers Forum in New Delhi, Pragati is trying to assist the girls and their families to claim payment from the agents and to access the justice system. Pragati is also providing psycho-social care as well as income generation skills to 20 young women who have returned to the villages following traumatic experiences in Delhi. As Indian law does not recognise internal trafficking, nor trafficking for purposes other than commercial sexual exploitation, the women seek legal remedy using other legislation. GAATW-IS participated in the women's day celebration of Pragati and had a review meeting with the young women who have just started a mobile food unit.
- A one-day meeting was also held with the support workers from various shelter homes in Orissa and 10 trafficked women. The sharing session was planned by GAATW's member organisation Institute for Social Development, which is planning to start a training programme with the women. The meeting highlighted the difficulties shelter homes face.

#### **National Consultation on Access to Justice in Nepal (19-22 March)**

This consultation was co-organised by the International Secretariat with GAATW's Nepalese Member Organizations WOREC and AATWIN. It brought together around 25 survivors of trafficking whose cases have now been brought to court, their family and community members, as well as a public prosecutor, police, lawyers, NGOs providing legal assistance and officials of several relevant ministries. This national consultation is part of GAATW's Access to Justice programme. Its findings will inform the programme with specific and concrete evidences that will also be used for GAATW advocacy both at national and international levels.

#### **Peer Review Meeting on GAATW's Multi-country Research on the Human Rights Impact of Anti-trafficking Initiatives (25-28 March)**

As many of you know, GAATW is currently engaged in a research project that aims to

analyse the human rights impact of anti-trafficking initiatives in various parts of the world. The team of researchers came together for a review meeting to comment on each other's work. The research report is scheduled for release in mid-September.

### **New colleagues at the IS**

The GAATW-IS warmly welcomes three new colleagues to the team. Julie Ham, Programme Officer for Realising Rights and Davjaye 'Amraa' Amarjargal, Research Officer for the Access to Justice (AtJ) Programme joined the International Secretariat in the beginning of March. Xenia Commandeur will join us as the Finance and Administrative Officer from April.

## RESOURCES

**Human trafficking in Mongolia: Risks, Vulnerability, and Trauma:** The survey was undertaken in order to influence national level policy that will further combat human trafficking within Mongolia, to strengthen mechanism to prevent cross-border trafficking, and make policy recommendation that will interdict and prevent trafficking within and from Mongolia. (Published December 2006)

[http://www.asiafoundation.org/pdf/MG\\_traffreport\\_eng.pdf](http://www.asiafoundation.org/pdf/MG_traffreport_eng.pdf)

**The Silent Revolution (Documentary Film):** This is the story of people held in slavery in the stone quarries of northern India, who risk everything to take back their lives.

<http://freetheslaves.net/store/the-silent-revolution>

**Women Trafficking** was recently screened on March 13 at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris as part of the week-long celebrations on the occasion of International Women's Day. The film is a 25-minute documentary that investigates the social and cultural contexts of women trafficking in Southeast Europe. It draws attention to the factors that contribute to trafficking - specially lack of education of young girls, violence against women, poverty, and pervasive gender inequality. This somber documentary is an invitation to understand the trafficking of women as a global problem. The documentary was finalized in April 2006 and was produced by the Eurovision News Exchange Project (ERNO).

For information, contact:

Tarja Turtia, UNESCO, Division of Freedom of Expression, Democracy and Peace,  
[t.turtia@unesco.org](mailto:t.turtia@unesco.org)

<http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php->

[URL\\_ID=24271&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=24271&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

### Events

**Action against Trafficking in Human Beings: Measures to Protect and Promote the Rights of Victims, Berlin, 19-20 April 2007:** The seventh information and awareness raising seminar...will bring together Council of Europe keynote speakers and national officials with expertise in human rights and with expertise in criminal and prosecution matters, as well as representatives of relevant national NGOs, from a number of Council of Europe member states yet to be determined.

[http://www.coe.int/t/dq2/trafficking/campaign/Docs/SeminarsConf/List\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dq2/trafficking/campaign/Docs/SeminarsConf/List_en.asp)

The Sixth Session of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 23 to 27 April 2007. The first meeting of the session will be convened on Monday, 23 April at 10 a.m. The provisional agenda includes the meeting of state parties and the consideration of reports submitted by state parties under article 73 of the Convention. <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/cmws06.htm>

### Website

**Global City Migration Maps Show the Distribution of Immigrants in Global Metropolitan Areas.** Migration Policy Institute has recently announced the debut of the Global City

Migration Map Tool, which provides an easy-to-understand visual of immigrants' urban destinations around the world. The project is the result of collaboration between the MPI Data Hub and the Globalization, Urbanization and Migration (GUM) project at George Washington University. <http://www.migrationinformation.org/datahub/gcmm.cfm#map2>

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**"We have come a long way but more remains to be done to overcome the lasting effects of this crime against humanity. We witness here today, we can right the ship of compassion, overcome the storms of discrimination, prejudice, intolerance and indifference, and sail into a bright future promoting and protecting human rights and human dignity for all."**

[St. Kitts/Nevis' Prime Minister Denzil L. Douglas addresses the Special General Assembly of the United Nations on the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, 27 March 2007](#)

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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](mailto:info@gaatw.org)
- If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at [info@gaatw.org](mailto: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 of.

# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GAATW e-Bulletin

April 2007

Dear Members and Friends,

Earlier this month some of you may have received the inaugural issue of our Access to Justice e-bulletin! The special-focus bulletin aims to create a platform for organisations and practitioners involved in offering legal assistance to trafficked persons. The need for an initiative that would “centre the rights of the trafficked persons in the justice process” was clearly spelt out during GAATW’s 2006 Access to Justice Programme consultation and is in line with GAATW’s own mandate of proactively endorsing a human rights based approach in all anti-trafficking initiatives. Visualised as an interactive and analytical tool for the exchange of ideas and information, this monthly bulletin will also record initiatives taken world-wide that have either empowered or have negatively impacted on trafficked persons’ struggle for justice.

This month’s advocacy update (see attached file) features the launch of the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery by the UNODC and the new developments in the UNHRC.

There’s plenty to read and reflect on in the global highlights section. In what appears to have policy implications, John Howard, the Australian Prime Minister, locked horns with AIDS workers and human rights groups when he suggested tightening migration procedures to prevent people with HIV from migrating to Australia. In the resources section, do read Srilatha Batliwala’s pointed critique made during the CSW high-level thematic debate on Women in Decision Making.

We at the GAATW-IS reach out to the family and friends of those who died in the Virginia Tech shooting. We hope they are able to find individual and collective strength to cope with the loss of loved ones. Tragedies like these compel us to think about why such things happen. Are these totally meaningless acts or do these have implications for school cultures, questions of integration, inclusion and participation?

But on a life-affirming note: April is the month of ‘sanuk’ or fun in Thailand. *Songkran*, the Thai New Year commences on April 13 every year and festivities go on for almost a week. This water festival also heralds the onset of the monsoon season in Thailand. We greet all our Thai members and friends a happy new year!

Warmly,  
The GAATW International Secretariat

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

At a two-day conference held in Johannesburg, the **Southern African Network against Trafficking and Abuse of Children (SANTAC)** urged the governments in the Southern

African Development Community (SADC) region to implement their international obligations under the United Nations and African Union charters on the rights of children, and under the Palermo Protocol. "Trafficking in persons is modern-day slavery. It is a money-making operation through the use, abuse and exploitation of the child for gain and reward of others," said Patrick Solomons, the Chairperson of SANTAC.  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200703290751.html>

According to a new government study in South Africa almost 800,000 children older than 10 are working as labourers, either in or outside the home. The statistics have been released as the national government prepares to revise its Child Labour Programme of Action, a policy first adopted in 2003. Findings showed that 92,800 child labourers were doing work that violated labour laws.

[http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set\\_id=1&click\\_id=594&art\\_id=vn20070417002355464C730392](http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=594&art_id=vn20070417002355464C730392)

Australian Prime Minister John Howard said in a radio interview that people with the AIDS virus should not be allowed to migrate to Australia, and that the government was investigating whether it could tighten existing restrictions. The comments triggered anger among AIDS workers, who accused Howard of xenophobia and of blaming sufferers for their illness. Howard was asked about the issue during a visit to Melbourne, where the state health minister said that 70 of the 334 new HIV infection cases reported in Victoria in 2006 were among immigrants who had arrived in the country with the virus.

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/asiapcf/04/13/aidsaustralia.ap/index.html>

#### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ireland signs EU human trafficking convention. Ireland has recently signed the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. The signing will result in more formalised structures to safeguard the human rights of victims as well as formulating a legislative framework to prosecute the organised criminal gangs involved. The Convention contains provisions for the prevention and the prosecution of trafficking.

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/breaking/story.asp?j=216208264&p=zy6zx897x&n=216209024>

#### **REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES**

**Draft presentations of final reports on the impact of public policy:** Thailand's National Human Rights Commission, UNIFEM, Research and Campaign for Women Network, Peace Foundation and Foundation for Women (FFW) are jointly working on a research project studying the impact of public policies on women in Thailand. The policies relate to free trade agreement, war on drugs, health security, village fund, elimination of poverty, elimination of trafficking, and violence against people in the South.

Patchanee Kumnak from GAATW-IS attended the session (April 20, 2007) by Usa Lerdsrisantad, the coordinator of FFW, who presented her draft report on the impact of the elimination of trafficking policy. Among other findings, Usa's analysis also highlighted that there was no integrated or a coordinated plan of action that related agencies could use in order to better implement the policy on trafficking. Capacity-building training programmes were superficially executed. Victims of trafficking are also unable to benefit from the 500-million-baht fund set up by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

Dr. Annalee Lepp, Chair and Associate Professor in the Women's Studies Department at the University of Victoria and a GAATW-Canada representative, will speak on "Women, Labour and Global Migration" under the Global Migration and Human Trafficking Speaker Series. The presentation will look at globalisation as one of the major factors driving transnational labour migration and trafficking in women. It will also consider the impact of cross-border movement on people's lives in Canada and elsewhere. The

short film, *Uprooted: Refugees of the Global Economy* (by the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, 2001) will also be screened. It documents the stories of people uprooted by globalization in three diverse countries.

The event will take place on May 15 at the Vancouver Public Library Central Branch in Canada. For more information, contact Jenny Moss at (+1) 604-709-6662.

In Pakistan, members of Child Right Clubs (CRC) have been organising awareness raising activities among communities about the importance of education. Since their inception in December 2006, the clubs have conducted trainings and enrolled nearly 32 children in schools set up by the government and the **Pakistan Rural Workers Social Welfare Organization (PRWSWO)**, a GAATW member. The aim of these clubs is to provide playgrounds as well as educational facilities to children deprived of education and those who were repatriated after doing camel race work.

Project Office e-mail: [prwswoyk@mul.paknet.com.pk](mailto:prwswoyk@mul.paknet.com.pk)

Head Office e-mail: [farhat2@mul.paknet.com.pk](mailto:farhat2@mul.paknet.com.pk) & [prwswoibwp@hotmail.com](mailto:prwswoibwp@hotmail.com)

Have you released a new report? Have you organised an important event? Does your campaign need support? We want to hear about it and so do other members and friends. If you need support, ideas, resources or information from other members on campaigns or activities you are running, the e-bulletin can help. Send us the brief message you may like to send out to other members through the e-bulletin. If it is urgent, we could consider sending the message out through our members' mailing list.

#### NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY UPDATES

Advocacy Update (See attached file.)

You can also access the current and previous issues of the Advocacy Update on our website at [www.gaatw.org](http://www.gaatw.org).

#### FROM THE SECRETARIAT

##### **Health Research Report**

We are pleased to share with you the GAATW health research report entitled **Women, Mobility and Reproductive Health**, which is now available on our website at [www.gaatw.org](http://www.gaatw.org). The report provides an assessment of the health conditions and mobility patterns among women migrant workers in Thailand. This documents the findings of the research project in Thailand carried out by GAATW in 2002-2004. An abridged Thai version of the report can be accessed at the GAATW International Secretariat. For more information, write to us at [info@gaatw.org](mailto:info@gaatw.org).

##### **Access to Justice E-Bulletin**

We are pleased to announce the release of the first issue of the GAATW Access to Justice e-bulletin. The first issue can be downloaded at [www.gaatw.org](http://www.gaatw.org). To subscribe to the ATJ bulletin, send an email to [info@gaatw.org](mailto:info@gaatw.org).

##### **Realising Rights Programme**

As part of GAATW's Realising Rights programme that aims to understand and document the distinct challenges that women's groups encounter in their attempt to self-organise, Julie Ham and Bandana Pattanaik conducted individual and group interviews (April 1-2, 2007) with members of SEPOM, a self-organised group of survivors of trafficking based in Chiang Rai, Thailand. The core members spoke about organisational goals, how SEPOM empowers women, their decision-making processes, and the lessons they've learnt through their organising work.

GAATW programme officer Julie Ham also conducted a group interview and individual interviews (April 9-10, 2007) with the staff at Sanayar-Thi-Pan's Women Centre at Mae Sot

for the Realising Rights project. The women discussed their experiences, goals and activities. Their challenges were mainly external, such as the need for resources, skill development, funding, human resources and the challenges in working with a mobile community. They also discussed in detail their experiences with traditional medicine and their role in the Mae Sot service community.

Eleanor Taylor-Nicholson from the GAATW-IS attended the Expert Group Meeting on "Regional Strategies for Implementing the Recommendations from the Secretary-General's In-depth Study on All Forms of Violence against Women" held on April 26-27, 2007 at the UNCC, Bangkok. The meeting aimed to recommend appropriate strategies and policies for preventing violence against women, focusing on socio-cultural root causes, and strengthening the law enforcement system. The outcome of the meeting will provide the national machineries of members and associate members of UNESCAP and its partners with recommended strategies and priority actions for eliminating violence against women in a region-specific context.

#### **New colleague at the IS**

The GAATW-IS warmly welcomes our new colleague Patchanee 'Lek' Kumnak who started her internship this month. Her main tasks will be to strengthen GAATW's contacts with Thai organisations and translate parts of the website and the e-bulletin into Thai.

## **RESOURCES**

### **BOOKS**

The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) has released a publication titled *Undocumented Migrants Have Rights! An Overview of the International Human Rights Framework*. The guide provides an overview of the human rights which do in fact apply to undocumented migrants in international human rights law. The first part of the publication presents instruments within the international human rights framework and clarifies why and how these instruments uphold the human rights of undocumented migrants. The second part enumerates the human rights that apply to undocumented migrants within the international and European conventions and relative articles therein. The publication can be accessed on PICUM's website in pdf format ([www.picum.org](http://www.picum.org)) or may be ordered from the secretariat at [michele.levoy@picum.org](mailto:michele.levoy@picum.org)

On April 20, 2007, the South East Asian Committee for Advocacy (SEACA), based in the Philippines, launched a book titled *Breaking Through: Political Space for Advocacy in Southeast Asia*. The book explores the disparities among Southeast Asian countries in terms of their political and economic systems and levels of development - all of which have a direct bearing on civil society's capacity to engage with governments for advocacy. Although the research that culminated in this book set forth to understand the spaces and the contexts in which civil society advocates, it also turns its gaze on the people who engage in these initiatives.

The contributors of this book are members of the academia and researchers from Thailand, Cambodia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. *Breaking Through* is edited by Joel Paredes, Marissa de Guzman and Eltheodon Rillorta. For more information, please contact: [mdeguzman@seaca.net](mailto:mdeguzman@seaca.net)

### **Websites**

Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) has launched a Sustainable Development Programme with a new focus on climate change that links global policy to national action. WEDO is pressing for a gender perspective in climate change policies and programmes in developing countries, as it believes that sustainable development is only possible in the context of gender equality. Of interest to our readers

would also be WEDO Board Chair Srilatha Batliwala's speech on **gender equality and women's empowerment**. Visit [WEDO's website](#) for more information.

The ILO Myanmar website was recently launched in Yangon to increase awareness of the ILO's work on forced labour in Myanmar. The unveiling of the website is in conjunction with the Supplementary Understanding reached on February 15, 2007 between the ILO and the Government of Myanmar. A Burmese language version is currently being developed. <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/yangon/>

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*“Work with us, not for us; don't tell us what to do to change our lives but share your knowledge and skills so we can figure out how to do it; help us eradicate the poverty of our ideas and dreams, show us new ways of understanding the world. Help us be heard by those who don't listen to us. And when we find the path we wish to tread, first, walk in front of us, then, walk beside us; and finally, when we are truly strong, walk behind us.”*

[Srilatha Batliwala, Board Chair, Women's Environment and Development Organization \(WEDO\) quoting Sundaramma, a poor villager in South India.](#)

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- 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](mailto:info@gaatw.org)
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# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

## GAATW e-Bulletin

25 May 2007

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from the GAATW-IS! We have some inspiring and thought-provoking readings to offer in the global highlights section. As May is heralded by May Day celebrations around the globe, we bring you news on labour issues. Workers' movements pose serious challenges to the overwhelming sway of globalisation that can move and displace both labour and production. Some major concerns in the way globalisation, labour movements and migrant rights intersect in present-day contexts are raised in the three listings in the global highlights. Walden Bello's piece in the Resources section is in tandem with some of these concerns and is an analysis of the World Social Forum as offering a counterpoint, an alternative space or other more sustainable and equitable ways of being. We also bring you news of the upcoming enactment of the Anti-Trafficking In Persons Bill by the Malaysian Government. While the Bill is being hailed as a major step in bringing traffickers to justice, stakeholders point out that it is enforcement and implementation that is crucial. We urge legislators and policy makers to centre the perspectives of trafficked persons and to look beyond temporary solutions that only try to appease trafficked persons through convictions of perpetrators. Effective protection, assistance and means for compensation should also be accessible to them.

We also bring to your attention the distressing news about the sharp increase in violence against women in Iraq under US occupation. The URLs to the three-part series by Bill Van Auken and an interview with Yanar Mohamed are featured in the Resources section.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Labour Day Messages

Workers World Party salutes all immigrant workers in a powerful message that commemorates workers' struggles around the globe.

[http://www.axisoflogic.com/artman/publish/article\\_24461.shtml](http://www.axisoflogic.com/artman/publish/article_24461.shtml)

The Center for Labor Renewal (CLR) has recently released a position paper on migration based on rights, dignity and respect for all workers in the context of global markets. CLR urges the labour force around the world to organise and consolidate its strength in order that governments and corporations can be compelled to seek worker-centred solutions to labour and immigrant workers' issues.

<http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=19&ItemID=12780>

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### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Malaysian government is preparing to enact its first Anti-Trafficking Bill that features stringent measures against traffickers. Tenaganita Malaysia, along with other rights activists, states that while the new law will provide a better ground to fight human trafficking, the effectiveness will be dependent highly upon its actual enforcement.

[http://tenaganita.disagrees.net/info/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=58&Itemid=1](http://tenaganita.disagrees.net/info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=58&Itemid=1)

International Trade Union Confederation's recently released [Macao report](#) states that Macao, a Special Administrative Region of China, must show more respect towards workers' rights by adopting a bill that has been under preparation for many years and is meant to amend labour legislation in compliance with workers being able to exercise their rights without fear of reprisals.

[http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?article1103&var\\_recherche=Trafficking%20in%20Persons%20%E2%80%94%20The%20Eastern%20Africa%20Situation%E2%80%99](http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?article1103&var_recherche=Trafficking%20in%20Persons%20%E2%80%94%20The%20Eastern%20Africa%20Situation%E2%80%99)

## REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

On 13-14 May, WOREC Nepal organised the formation of two new Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRD) networks in Morang and Sunsari districts. The WHRD networks will review achievements of the women's movement, problems faced by WHRDs and status of the implementation of action plan and commitment made by the government and political parties this year. [worec.whrd@gmail.com](mailto:worec.whrd@gmail.com)

The La Strada International (LSI) NGO Platform and Assembly will be held from 15-19 October 2007 in Macedonia. More information will be published on the [LSI website](#) in June 2007.

The first inter-ministerial working group (GTI) on the Brazilian National Anti-Trafficking Action Plan (PNETP) was held on 10-11 May 2007. Luciana Campello and Frans Nederstigt of Projeto Trama were invited as technical consultants by the Ministry of Justice and the UNODC. Representing the six Brazilian GAATW members were SMM and IBISS-Co. [projeto trama@projeto trama.org.br](mailto:projeto trama@projeto trama.org.br)

Thousands of sex workers from different parts of West Bengal participated in the May Day torch rally from the Sonagachi red light area to the north of Kolkata to demand for social rights and the status of a regular worker. Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC) organises this kind of activity every year to highlight women's empowerment in the unorganised sector. <http://www.dnaindia.com/report.asp?NewsID=1094088>

Animus Association, a women's rights organisation representing La Strada in Bulgaria, is concerned about the possible negative effects of the National Tourism Board's plan to

regulate prostitution. Animus plans to provide necessary information to develop a policy that corresponds to the requirements of the state and addresses the needs and rights of sex workers. [www.animusassociation.org](http://www.animusassociation.org)

On May 3, the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings celebrated its second anniversary. Around 150 NGOs in ten European countries took part in a campaign initiated by GAATW. A statement was released to their governments and parliaments demanding ratification of the Convention without delay. [La Strada International \(LSI\)](#), as a member of GAATW, joined this initiative and coordinated the campaign among the La Strada network.

Asosiasi Tenaga Kerja Indonesia di Hong Kong (ATKI-HK) has released a primer in response to the issues around illegal salary deductions affecting particularly Indonesian migrant domestic workers (IDWs) based in Hong Kong SAR. The salary deductions are commonly misrepresented as a simple case of underpayment. The primer critiques the failure of the Indonesian government to oversee its labour export programme to protect its citizens abroad. To access the primer, go to [http://www.gaatw.net/publications/ATKI\\_primer\\_english.pdf](http://www.gaatw.net/publications/ATKI_primer_english.pdf). For more information, contact ATKI-HK at [atkihk\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:atkihk_2000@yahoo.com).

Ban Ying has published a handbook on safe migration under the title *Migrating to Germany? Be safe!* You can order a copy by contacting [info@ban-ying.de](mailto:info@ban-ying.de).

Have you released a new report? Have you organised an important event? Does your campaign need support? We want to hear about it and so do other members and friends. If you need support, ideas, resources or information from other members on campaigns or activities you are running, the e-bulletin can help. Send us the brief message you may like to send out to other members through the e-bulletin. If it is urgent, we could consider sending the message out through our members' mailing list.

#### **NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY UPDATES**

See attached Advocacy Update, May issue. You can also access the information on our website at [www.gaatw.org](http://www.gaatw.org).

#### **FROM THE SECRETARIAT**

##### **Networking Visit to GAATW Members in Nigeria and NGO Coalitions**



In the second week of May, Michelle Taguinod and Eleanor Taylor-Nicholson travelled to Nigeria to visit GAATW members and meet others involved in combating trafficking. They met with the Women's Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON) in Lagos, Girls' Power Initiative (GPI) in Benin City, and Global Rights in Abuja to observe the nature of their anti-trafficking work and understand better the challenges they face. A highlight of the trip was attending a trafficking awareness raising event in the rural areas in Edo State, organised by a coalition of NGOs and government representatives and supported by BlinN, a Dutch NGO and GAATW member. The visit was a great opportunity for GAATW to intensify its relationship with members in West Africa and to hear ideas for future collaborative activities.

##### **Consultation Workshop on Access to Justice for Trafficked Persons in Nigeria**

From 15-17 May 2007, the Access to Justice Team held a two-and-a-half day consultation workshop in Abuja on Access to Justice in Nigeria. The Consultation was co-organised with UNIFEM Nigeria, and the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP). The aim of the meeting was for participants to share experiences and identify the obstacles that survivors of trafficking face in accessing justice, and also to make recommendations for all actors with the goal of increasing protection of the human rights of trafficked persons during the justice process. A report of the Consultation will follow and will be available on the website.



Aneeqa and Lek from GAATW-IS joined the May Day Rally held in Bangkok in coordination with the Action Network for Migrants (ANM). ANM called for a repeal of two provincial decrees recently issued in Phuket and Ranong, stating that these decrees intend to control migrant workers by imposing curfews and restricting assembly of more than five people.

Eleanor attended as an observer the Expert Group Meeting (Bangkok, 26-27 April 2007) on Regional Strategies for Implementing the Recommendations from the Secretary-General's In-depth Study on All Forms of Violence Against Women with special focus on Harmful Traditional Cultural Practices. The meeting was hosted by the UNESCAP Gender and Development Section. Inadequate resources, lack of comprehensive and integrated approach, intersection of multiple forms of discrimination and lack of evaluation were identified as some of the challenges for ending VAW. The meeting came up with draft guidelines for approval and future implementation.

## RESOURCES

### Events

Belgium will host the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) to be held in Brussels on 9-12 July 2007. The event will feature three round tables on: human capital development and labour mobility; remittances and other diaspora resources; and enhancing institutional and policy coherence and promoting partnerships.  
<http://www.gfmd-fmmd.org/en/programme/agenda-en>

### Publications/Featured Articles

**The US war and occupation of Iraq—the murder of a society** by [Bill Van Auken, WSWS](#). A three-part series that examines recent reports of destruction, death and oppression brought about by the US occupation in Iraq. <http://uruknet.info/?p=m33041&s1=h1> See also Interview with Yanar Mohamed, WHRnet, February 2006.  
[www.whrnet.org/docs/interview-yanar-0603.html](http://www.whrnet.org/docs/interview-yanar-0603.html)

CARAM Asia, with its local partner Solidaritas Perempuan, launched a Campaign Toolkit on the Rights of Domestic Workers at the Migrant Domestic Workers Meeting in Jakarta on May 2-3, 2007. The toolkit is a follow-up to the Colombo meeting on the rights of domestic workers in 2002.  
[http://caramasia.gn.apc.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=537&Itemid=343](http://caramasia.gn.apc.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=537&Itemid=343)

A new stage in the evolution of the global justice movement was reached with the inauguration of the World Social Forum (WSF) in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in January 2001...Read Walden Bello's article at <http://www.focusweb.org/the-forum-at-the-crossroads.html?Itemid=1>

## Film

**Taking the Pledge**, a 13-minute video featuring sex workers from Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Mali, Thailand and a few other countries, has been produced by the Network of Sex Work Projects. The film highlights problems created by the 'anti-prostitution pledge' that countries must take to receive USAID and PEPFAR funds. The film is available in English, and in Khmer, Thai, French, Portuguese and Bengali, with English subtitles.

<http://sexworkerspresent.blip.tv>.

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**This gap between legislation and implementation needs to be watched by civil society, and specifically unions need to be the guardians of labour rights.**

Speech at launch of TAWU (Trainers and Allied Workers Union) March 17, 2007  
by Prof. Charlotte Mbali, National Secretary of NTESU  
<http://www.ntesu.org.za/html/TAWU%20launch%20speech.htm>

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# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

## GAATW e-Bulletin

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from the GAATW-IS! There have been mixed reactions by governments, NGOs and the media to the US Department's Trafficking in Persons Report for 2007. Most people have taken a neutral stance, merely mentioning that the report is out. Others are pleased that their organisation or their leader has got appreciation for the work they do. The Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the Sultanate of Oman have collectively agreed that the 2007 US Human Trafficking Report is inconsistent and claimed that several measures have been taken in recent years to protect the rights of their citizens and of residents. Other countries and NGOs in Asia and Europe have jointly criticised the report's data and questioned the methodology of the report. The Malaysian press has registered shock and surprise because the country has been placed in Tier 3 despite the Malaysian government's determined move to have a legislation on anti-trafficking that has the overall approval of several NGOs. Although the report's methodology and rationale have been consistently criticized by many groups since it started coming out, the TIP report is also increasingly becoming a reference document of sorts especially for people who do not work on the issue and may not have an in-depth knowledge on it.

The recent attacks and threats against the staff of the Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC), a GAATW member organisation in Nepal, has been a cause of worry and concern for individuals and organisations that work to uphold the human rights of victims of crime. The attacks started after WOREC documented two cases of rape and provided assistance to the victims to pursue their case against the perpetrators. GAATW strongly condemns such acts of injustice and we urge the concerned government agencies in Nepal to take immediate action and necessary steps to protect the fundamental human rights and safety of service providers and the two assisted women.

We are also pleased to inform you that the GAATW website is back online with a new template design and content format, as we attempt to bring you the most relevant and updated information on human trafficking. The site maintenance is still in progress and we request you to bear with us in the coming weeks.

Finally, in this issue of the Advocacy Update, we bring you news about the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council and the GAATW side-event that centred state accountability for the protection of the human rights of trafficked persons. As the HRC moves to the final stage of its institution-building process, GAATW looks closely at state accountability in the context of the human rights standards and requirements stipulated by the HRC.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Forced Labour Scandal Agitates China:** Stories of forced labour at the brick kilns in Shanxi Province have spread across China. Hundreds of kidnapped children, and many adults as well, have been forced to work under atrocious conditions, scantily clothed, unpaid and often just fed water and steamed buns. Hundreds of parents have appealed to local authorities to help find their children and clear up the kilns. A labour law professor at Shanghai Normal University rationalised that forced labour and child labour in China are illegal but some local governments don't care much.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/16/world/asia/16china.html?\\_r=1&th&emc=th&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/16/world/asia/16china.html?_r=1&th&emc=th&oref=slogin)

**Gulf Officials React to US Human Trafficking Report.** Gulf officials from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the Sultanate of Oman have collectively concurred that the 2007 US Human Trafficking Report is inconsistent. The Gulf countries emphasised that several measures have been taken in recent years to protect the rights of their citizens and those of the residents, and that their countries are always open to human rights and judicial organisations.

<http://aawsat.com/english/news.asp?section=1&id=9295>

### Legislative Update

**Canada's New Government Strengthens Protection for Victims of Human Trafficking:**

Canada's Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration announced new measures to assist victims of human trafficking brought into Canada from other countries. The new initiatives will allow victims of human trafficking to extend the length of their temporary resident permit (TRP) up to 180 days instead of 120. Victims of human trafficking will continue to benefit from health-care, including medical treatment and counselling services, from the Interim Federal Health Program. For more information, please contact:

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Minister's Office, Mike Fraser, Director of Communications, 613-954-1064 or

Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Marina Wilson, Spokesperson,

Media Relations, Communications Branch, 613-952-1650

<http://www.marketwirecanada.com/2.0/release.do?id=743924>

**Bahrain's Draft Law on Human Trafficking Referred to Parliament:** The Cabinet of Bahrain's Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa has promised to weed out human trafficking as it recently approved and referred to Parliament a draft law to crackdown on human trafficking in view of the Kingdom's commitment to safeguard human rights and dignity.

<http://english.bna.bh/newsadmin/printable.php?ID=59579>

**Bahamas Government to Introduce Human Trafficking Bill**

The government is expected to present to Parliament a bill that would make human trafficking against the law in the Bahamas in view of the 2007 US TIP Report that called for the Bahamas government to enact laws to prohibit all forms of trafficking in persons, particularly forced labour of adults, and expand training for officials to identify and investigate probable trafficking situations. The US Charge d'Affaires noted that countries like Jamaica and Guyana from the Caribbean region have just passed anti-trafficking legislation.

<http://www.jonesbahamas.com/print.php?a=13065>

## REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

The Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) will be launching a campaign against torture on June 24 in Hong Kong. One of GAATW's member organisations, Asosiasi Tenaga Kerja Indonesia - Hong Kong or the Association of Indonesian Migrant Workers (ATKI) is participating in the event. ATKI is an organisation of Indonesian domestic workers that works for the welfare of Indonesian migrant workers in Hong Kong. ATKI will also be

participating as an active member of the Asian Migrants Coordinating Body (AMCB), the largest grassroots alliance of Asian migrants' organisations in the territory, comprising Sri Lankan, Indonesian, Nepali, Thai and Filipino migrants. The launch will take place in Victoria Park, a hub for the congregation.

Criola's meeting, "Afro Brazilian women facing Violence", happened on June 2nd in Rio de Janeiro. The **self-organised groups got together to talk about violence and racial discrimination**. The women discussed ways to ensure their rights and the respect for difference. The themes were centered on violence against women, afro-religions, health, environment, racial problems at work, and politics actions. Besides these important discussions, they showed a little of their culture, their religion, their food, and their art. An interesting part of the event was the way they express their religion, by singing to their gods in African languages. It's a way to keep their culture alive.

**Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC)**, a sex workers' organisation in India, will hold a workshop on June 20-24, 2007 on "Solidarity for Rights and Equality". The workshop will focus on the rights of ethnic and entertainment communities - the Shabar, Bunjia, Nachnis, and Bhumij. Durbar's model of sex workers' empowerment is now being utilised by other stigmatised and marginalised groups as a means to collective empowerment and social change. At this workshop, Durbar will share its knowledge and experiences in struggling for human rights, occupational recognition and social respect with other groups. For more information, visit <http://www.durbar.org/new/Solidarity.html>.

**FORUM-ASIA Demands Staff Security for Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC) in Nepal**. The recent attacks against the staff of WOREC working in the Siraha district in Nepal started after it took on cases of two victims of rape: Nipur Devi Yadav and Santoshi Kumari Mahato. The staff of WOREC documented these cases, assisted the victims, and took steps to register the cases with the police.

[http://www.forum-asia.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=367&Itemid=32](http://www.forum-asia.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=367&Itemid=32)

Have you released a new report? Have you organised an important event? Does your campaign need support? We want to hear about it and so do other members and friends. If you need support, ideas, resources or information from other members on campaigns or activities you are running, the e-bulletin can help. Send us the brief message you may like to send out to other members through the e-bulletin. If it is urgent, we could consider sending the message out through our members' mailing list.

## **NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY UPDATES**

See attached Advocacy Update, June issue. You can also access the information on our website at [www.gaatw.org](http://www.gaatw.org).

## **FROM THE SECRETARIAT**

Patchanee Kumnak, Amarjargal Davjayev and Nina Pessina from the GAATW-IS attended the **presentation of the Trafficking in Persons Report 2007** by Ambassador Mark P. Lagon, at the UNIAP meeting in the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok on June 26, 2007. Ambassador Lagon presented the report on Thailand and answered the questions of the audience regarding the national situation. Thailand was the first overseas sojourn for newly nominated Ambassador Lagon, who had the occasion to consult with several agencies and NGOs and visit different sites. Thai officials expressed their distress about the succinct and reductive content of the report and did not feel that it did justice to the efforts undertaken by the Thai Government to combat trafficking. Ambassador Lagon praised the undertakings of Thailand, in comparison to the neighbouring countries, while adding that from the State Department's point of view more should be done especially to

address trafficking for labour exploitation in the fish production industry.

Aneeqa Ahmad and Alfie Gordo from the GAATW-IS attended the **Asian Consultation Process for the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) 2007**, held on 15-16 June 2007 in Manila, Philippines. The meeting aimed to bring together Asian delegates attending the GFMD, and organisations and network groups working on issues of migration and development in Asia in order to strategise for a joint effort to highlight issues and major recommendations relating to the GFMD, scheduled to be held in Belgium on 9-11 July 2007. GAATW-IS is one of the 200 civil society groups selected to participate in the Civil Society Day during the GFMD.

An outcome document from working group discussions will be released soon.

## RESOURCES

### Reports

**US TIP Report 2007:** The US State Department, as mandated by the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, released on 12 June its Trafficking in Persons Report for 2007. <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/index.htm>

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has recently released a 110-page report on the **Exploitation and Abuse of Girl Domestic Workers in Guinea**. The report highlights the plight of tens of thousands of young girls, as young as 8 years old, who work up to 18 hours as domestic workers, often without pay. Those that do receive irregular payment are paid less than US\$5 a month. They often suffer physical violence, abuse, sexual harassment and rape by their employers. Domestic work is the largest category of work for children worldwide, and this is true of Guinea as well. The full report can be downloaded from: <http://hrw.org/reports/2007/guinea0607/guinea0607webwcover.pdf>.

### **Building the Capacity of Roma Communities to Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings**

This report is based on the presentations and discussion from a roundtable (Tirana, 18-20 September 2006) on "Making Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings Effective: Building Regional and Local Capacity of Roma Communities", organised by the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues and the Anti-Trafficking Programme of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), in co-operation with the OSCE Presence in Albania. [http://www.osce.org/publications/odihr/2007/06/25035\\_892\\_en.pdf](http://www.osce.org/publications/odihr/2007/06/25035_892_en.pdf)

### Paper

**The Economics of Migration (Trade Union Congress)** A recently released study by the British Trade Union Congress (TUC) revealed that Britain's economy is benefiting from the advent of migrant workers to the United Kingdom contrary to claims that immigrants are a drain on the welfare state. The TUC study also illustrated that migrant workers are paying more in taxes than the value of services they receive. Treasury figures proved that migrant workers are responsible for around 10 percent of economic growth, and some sectors would collapse if they were removed overnight. The report also noted that not much is being done to protect vulnerable workers, whether migrant or indigenous, from exploitation. The full report can be downloaded from: <http://www.tuc.org.uk/extras/migration.pdf>.

**Using Drama for Interprofessional Co-operation in Europe** A report on a training project that uses drama as a way of enhancing cross-border co-operation and co-operation between different actors involved in anti-trafficking work, such as policemen, judges, social workers and representatives from four different countries that have very different legal and social foundations.

[http://www.osce.org/publications/odihr/2007/06/25045\\_893\\_en.pdf](http://www.osce.org/publications/odihr/2007/06/25045_893_en.pdf)

### Film

Slave Girls of India and Global Fund for Women teamed up with Oxygen Media to draw the world's attention to girls who are forced into child labour. Journalist Lisa Ling probed the lives of young girls sold into domestic servitude and sexual slavery. In *Slave for Girls*, girls forced into labour will share their stories. The film premieres on the Oxygen Network, 24 June, Sunday, 10PM/9C. The preview can be accessed on the Oxygen website: <http://www.oxygen.com/icare/default.aspx>.

To find out if the Oxygen network is available through your cable or satellite provider: <http://www.oxygen.com/icare/default.aspx>; or contact the Global Fund for Women to get a DVD of the film: [liv@globalfundforwomen.org](mailto:liv@globalfundforwomen.org).

## Events

### MPI Preview Briefing on the Global Forum on Migration and Development

The Migration Policy Institute is inviting everyone to join a conference call to discuss what might be expected during the Global Forum. The call will begin with two brief presentations and then open to questions. The presenters are: Kathleen Newland, Director of MPI's Migrants, Migration, and Development and Refugee Protection Programs and Gregory A. Maniatis, MPI Senior Fellow and Special Advisor to Peter Sutherland, the UN Special Representative on Migration. Due to limited time, participants are encouraged to send questions in advance by email to Lisa Dixon at [events@migrationpolicy.org](mailto:events@migrationpolicy.org). If you plan to join the call, please RSVP by visiting this link:

<http://contact.migrationpolicy.org/site/Calendar?view=Detail&id=3241&JServSessionIdr010=vpvs00rvh2.app13b#RSVP>

### Global Forum on Migration and Development, Brussels, Belgium

The Belgian government will host the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development to take place on July 9-11 in Brussels. The King Baudoin Foundation will organise the first day of the Global Forum, which will be devoted to civil society. The July 9 Civil Society Forum on Migration and Development will bring together a broad range of stakeholders to discuss the Migration and Development nexus and provide input to governmental discussions on July 10 and 11. For more information, visit the GFMD website:

<http://www.gfmd-fmmd.org/en/node/92>.

<http://www.migrationdevelopment.org/index.php?id=76>

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***We need to put victims' protection at the centre of all measures. The criminal justice framework needs the human rights based approach to function effectively.***

Jyoti Sanghera, Adviser on Trafficking, OHCHR, during the  
GAATW Side Event on "State Accountability for Protection of the Rights of Trafficked Persons"  
at the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council

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- The e-bulletin is published every last week of the month and has an advocacy update as an attachment. 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](mailto:info@gaatw.org).
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# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

## GAATW e-Bulletin

July 26, 2007

Dear Members and Friends,

Warm wishes from the GAATW International Secretariat (IS). As GAATW prepares to move into the next three-year phase, we are also critically evaluating our own work through internal and external reviews. Following an internal review and reflection we are currently working with an external reviewer who might have contacted some of you for your suggestions and advice to us.

The planning process for 2008-10 has begun and on-line consultations and where feasible face to face meetings with members and partners are on-going. The recommendations made by GAATW members and partners at the three global thematic consultations held during 2005-6 as well as on other occasions and the findings of our research on the human rights impact of anti-trafficking initiatives will form the core of GAATW's future plan of action.

As many of you may already know GAATW is currently engaged in a research that reviews the experience of eight specific countries and attempts to analyze what the impact of anti-trafficking measures have been for a variety of people living and working there, or migrating into or out of them. The eight countries are: Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Brazil, India, Nigeria, Thailand, the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States (US). The report looks specifically at what the impact has been on people's human rights. Have significant numbers of people been able to exercise their human rights more fully as a result of the initiatives that have been taken (and the money spent)? Or have anti-trafficking initiatives had a marked negative impact on many individuals' human rights? Over the years several colleagues have raised concerns over the negative impact of anti-trafficking initiatives on certain groups of migrant workers and this study is a significant first step in the field to analyze the situation in a number of countries and suggest ways forward. The GAATW study will be released by late September, 2007 and its implications will be discussed with members, partners and other colleagues at a **Members Congress** scheduled to be held on 5-8 November in Bangkok.

The Congress which will be a culmination of our planning process is planned as a two-part event; the first two days of discussion and networking part are open to members and non-members while the last two days are a members only planning session. A detailed agenda will be ready by September so do stay in touch with Michelle <michelle@gaatw.org> in the IS if you are interested to join us.

This month's bulletin comes to you with news from many parts of the world including Brazil, Congo, Vietnam, Egypt, Nepal, and the UK. In the resource section, among others, we feature a report on the trafficking situation in 15 provinces in Indonesia. The attached issue of the advocacy update features a report by Suzanne Hoff on the recently concluded Global Forum for Migration and Development. The report looks critically at some of the emergent discourse on migration and development and how these trends can impact on the trafficking debate.

We hope that you will find this month's issue enriching and we always look forward to your ideas and comments.

Warmly,  
GAATW-IS

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Slave labourers rescued in Brazil.** Brazilian anti-slavery teams have discovered more than 1,100 forced labourers at a sugarcane plantation 250 km from the mouth of the Amazon River near the town of Ulianopolis. It is one of the biggest raids in Brazil, a country beleaguered by the dilemma of slave labour. Human rights and labour organisations believe that between 25,000 to 40,000 people could be working in conditions parallel to slavery in Brazil. Notwithstanding the government's effort to eradicate slavery by 2006, thousands of Brazilians continue to be trafficked from the impecunious parts of Brazil enticed to Amazonia in search of a better life.

<http://www.antislavery.org/homepage/news/latestnews.htm>  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/6266712.stm>

**Congo: Recent efforts to end child trafficking.** The Congolese government, the Justice and Peace Diocesan Commission (CJP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have signed an agreement to exert all efforts to curb child trafficking in Congo. As a starting point, the three parties will integrate 20 children and will evaluate which strategy works to emancipate children who are victims of human trafficking. A UNICEF and Congolese report has pointed out that child trafficking occurs not only in Congo, but also in neighboring countries. Pointe-Noire, the economic capital situated on the Atlantic shore, is the central point for children brought in from Benin, Mali, Guinea Conakry, Senegal, Togo, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The report can be found online at: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=73335>.

**UK: Child trafficking - DCSF to issue guidance --** The Department for Child Schools and Family (DCSF) is to issue guidance explaining how to identify victims of child trafficking, what actions to take to help them and how to provide long-term support. The guidance is aimed at a range of professionals that come into contact with young people who are vulnerable to trafficking, from immigration officials to social workers and community groups.

[http://www.sussexhub.org.uk/do/ecco.py/view\\_item?listid=2&listcatid=1002&listitemid=13747](http://www.sussexhub.org.uk/do/ecco.py/view_item?listid=2&listcatid=1002&listitemid=13747)

### Legislative Update

**Vietnam: New policy on foreign marriages to curb human trafficking.** The Hanoi Justice Department handed out regulations on marriages with foreign nationals in its attempt to fight human trafficking. The regulations were dispensed to more than 300 justice and pertinent officials in communes and districts of the city as part of the National Programme on Crime Prevention. In addition to the new regulations, authorised agencies will probe current marriages suspected of being a cover for sexual abuse or human trafficking.

<http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/showarticle.php?num=04SOC190707>

### **Egyptian Government creates National Committee to fight human trafficking**

The Council of Ministers in Egypt passed on July 11, 2007, a draft presidential decision to create a National Coordinating Committee to Combat and Prevent Trafficking in Persons. The submitted decision entails the preparation of an annual report to the Council of Ministers that would institute a reporting system in an effort to make audible and integrate the voices of both governmental and non-governmental organisations.

The League of Arab States, in collaboration with The Projection Project at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, has agreed to conduct a conference on October 28, 2007, to examine the status of anti-trafficking legislation in Arab countries in view of the model law to fight human trafficking that the Arab League has recently approved. To view the commentary of Dr. Mohamed Mattar visit:

[http://www.ginsc.net/members/news\\_details\\_en.php?id=4155&sub=trafficking&stat=active](http://www.ginsc.net/members/news_details_en.php?id=4155&sub=trafficking&stat=active)  
<http://www.kuna.net.kw/newsagenciespublicsite/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=1761914&Language=en>

**Nepal: Human Trafficking (Control) Bill passed.** The Parliament has unanimously passed the Human Trafficking (Control) Bill 2064 BS. The Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare, Khadga Bahadur Bishwokarma said that the bill was prepared in consultation with the Nepali women and children who were affected by the problems of human smuggling as well as with other stakeholders in the field.

<http://www.gorkhapatra.org.np/content.php?nid=23309>

## REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

The Coordinating Committee of the GAATW-Latin American and the Caribbean Network against Traffic in Persons (REDLAC) met in Medellin, Colombia, from 17 to 19 July. The REDLAC is the Regional Chapter of GAATW in Latin America and the Caribbean and comprises 16 organisations. The Coordinating Committee itself is formed by three GAATW member organisations in Brazil, Dominican Republic and Colombia. Jacqueline Leite, who will represent the region in the GAATW Board, Fanny Polania (a GAATW founding member) and Nerea from the International Secretariat, also attended the meeting.

The Coordinating Committee evaluated the action plan agreed upon by the regional member organisations during the LAC Regional Consultation that took place in the Dominican Republic in April 2006. Planning for the GAATW International Members Congress and the GAATW Programme for the 2008-10 cycle was also undertaken.



Participants also visited GAATW member organisation Espacios de Mujer, which provides assistance to women working in prostitution and victims of trafficking, met with journalists and other civil society organisations in the city of Medellin.

**La Strada International (LSI) Documentation Centre** -- LSI has recently introduced a new searchable database holding a variety of background documents, legislation and opinion pieces on trafficking in human beings and related human rights issues. LSI is also developing a comprehensive collection of La Strada publications. All record entries contain details on the document (title, author, date and type of document) as well as a short summary. Visit the LSI website for more information:

<http://www.lastradainternational.org/?main=documentation>

### **Kishori Samuha Training in Nepal**

GAATW, in conjunction with Shakti Samuha, a member organisation in Nepal, facilitated a ten-day health rights training (July 2-12, 2007) for the Kathmandu-based Navatara Kishori Sanjal, a network of nine adolescent girls' groups. The training aimed at providing information and awareness about the body, nutrition, general and reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS.

Over these ten days, the participants, apart from gaining knowledge about health rights and the body, produced health-related material in the form of newsletters and pamphlets that they will use to disseminate information in their respective communities. In addition, the participants also composed songs on health issues and health rights.

## NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY UPDATES

See attached Advocacy Update.

## FROM THE SECRETARIAT

### GAATW-IS Internal and External Review

On 6 and 10 July 2007, the GAATW International Secretariat staff took some time off to do an internal evaluation of their own work over the last two and half years. The results showed that the Secretariat has been able to address many of the challenges confronting GAATW since 2003 but the coming months are crucial because during this period the strategic planning will be done in consultation with member organisations. It was heartening to note that the staff in the IS are constructively critical of their own work and that of their colleagues and supportive towards each other.



Asha D'Souza, an external reviewer also began her assignment with GAATW this month. During her 4 days stay she interviewed all staff, facilitated a group discussion and also held meetings with some of GAATW board and

working group members. The review report will be ready by mid-August.

### New Colleague at the IS

The GAATW-IS warmly welcomes our new colleague Sarah Quillinan from the University of Melbourne who started her internship this month. Sarah will be with us until mid-October 2007.

## RESOURCES

### Research

**Foreign Brides Research: Psychosocial Profile and Perspectives of Foreign Brides** (May 2007) by the Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM) and supported by the Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst, documents the demographic and psycho-social profile and perspectives of foreign brides in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and Korea, as these are areas with concentration of foreign brides in Asia. The study also looks into the existing formations of foreign brides and how these formations can support and protect the rights and well-being of foreign brides.

[http://www.apmigrants.org/research/Foreign\\_Brides\\_Research-Phychosocial\\_Profile.pdf](http://www.apmigrants.org/research/Foreign_Brides_Research-Phychosocial_Profile.pdf)

### Reports

**When They Were Sold: Trafficking of Women and Girls in 15 Provinces of Indonesia**, by the International Catholic Migration (ICMC) in Indonesia and the American Solidarity Center (Solidarity Center), provides a detailed analysis of the current human trafficking situations in 15 provinces of Indonesia. The new report, covering the period 2004-06, serves as a companion volume to the 2003 report "Trafficking of Women and Children in Indonesia" edited by Ruth Rosenberg. It is expected that this report will present better efficacy methods to organisations and individuals who wish to roll out anti-trafficking initiatives in any of the 15 provinces. It also covers migrant workers, debt bondage, government enforcement efforts, and other key emerging issues.

<http://solidarity.timberlakepublishing.com/content.asp?contentid=638>

**Prostitution - which stance to take?** -- The Council of Europe, the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, Rapporteur Mr Leo Platvoet, Netherlands, the Group of the Unified European Left have together produced a report titled "Prostitution -- which

stance to take?". This report advocates an explicit policy on voluntary adult prostitution for members of Council of Europe, discouraging double standards and policies which force prostitutes underground or into the arms of pimps. It cautions against criminalising and penalising prostitutes, which only makes them more vulnerable. The report recommends developing programmes to assist prostitutes to leave the profession if they wish to do so. Underlying structural problems on prevention of people being "forced" into prostitution by circumstances are also highlighted.

[http://www.lastradainternational.org/lsidocs/313%20CoE%20on%20prostitution%20\(res%201352\).pdf](http://www.lastradainternational.org/lsidocs/313%20CoE%20on%20prostitution%20(res%201352).pdf)

#### Paper

##### **Directions for National and International Data Collection on Forced Labour (ILO)**

This paper provides some ideas and directions as to how the existing gaps in our understanding of the quantitative dimensions of forced labour could be reduced.

The paper discusses three areas in which future work is most urgently needed. The first is the improvement of country-level data collection on identified cases of forced labour and human trafficking. Such administrative databases would allow for a better follow-up of all reported cases, including for law enforcement and assistance programmes to the victims. The second is the need to develop better national estimates of forced labour through surveys or other statistical methods. Finally the paper also proposes that the ILO should continue to maintain its global database and develop a number of indicators by which to measure global progress towards the ultimate objective of eradicating modern forced labour.

[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_081986.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_081986.pdf)

##### **Human Trafficking and Forced Labour. What Perspectives to Challenge Exploitation?**

This policy brief by the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) draws attention to positions being developed by politicians and policy makers across Europe for whom trafficking in human beings is more or less synonymous with irregular migration and the positions of unauthorised migrants.

[http://www.lastradainternational.org/lsidocs/281%20Human%20Trafficking%20and%20Forced%20Labour%20\(PICUM\).pdf](http://www.lastradainternational.org/lsidocs/281%20Human%20Trafficking%20and%20Forced%20Labour%20(PICUM).pdf)

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**"We can work to strengthen the positive impact of migration on the development of migrants' home countries. We can encourage destination countries to promote the success of migrants, both in their original and their adopted homes" Ban said.**

**UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during the opening of the first Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) in Brussels in July 10, 2007.**

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# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GAATW e-Bulletin

August 2007

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from GAATW International Secretariat.

In this issue, we would like to share some state initiatives to counter human trafficking through adoption of anti-trafficking laws. While efforts to stop trafficking through legal measures is necessary, we must not measure success in combating trafficking by citing the number of court sentences for the traffickers and the number of prosecutions per state. As many of you know, most of the cases have not brought 'justice' to the trafficked persons and that is where we need to focus on more.

This issue also has updates by GAATW members from the LAC Region and in Thailand about their recent anti-trafficking activities and exchange visits. GAATW-IS is pleased to share our brief reports of our recent networking with members and partners in Malaysia and Indonesia, the Self-Help and Health Rights Training in Bangladesh, the participation in the WITNESS Video Advocacy Institute. As always we bring you details of some resources that you may find useful in your work and/or research. We end this bulletin with a quotation from Olaudar Quaino to commemorate the International Day of International Slave Trade and its Abolition.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

The United Nations (UN) has lobbied South Africa to pass a law against human trafficking within and across its borders. At a media briefing in Pretoria, UNODC's Representative for South Africa, Jonathan Lucas, mentioned that SA has been identified as a country of destination for trafficking victims and also serves as a transit point. He added that increased attention to the trafficking problem would enable effective preventive initiatives such as raising awareness among potential victims and improving

law enforcement methods.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) in New Delhi, India will draft an integrated plan of action to prevent and combat trafficking in women and children that will call for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries to come together to deal with the issue. This was announced at the end of a two-day national consultation on human trafficking. The plan of action would suggest developing procedures, mechanisms and protocols for repatriation with the neighbouring countries, and sensitization of the law enforcement agencies and the judiciary.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/08/05/stories/2007080554761200.htm>

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking convened its third meeting at the Presidential Court in Abu Dhabi on July 22 to further the country's commitment to combating the crime in all its forms. The meeting focused on a review of new regulatory and coordination procedures, improvement of data availability, pending cases and prevention measures. To promote awareness on human trafficking, the committee discussed a plan for implementing series of workshops and other ways of disseminating information.

<http://www.ameinfo.com/127401.html>

#### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Outgoing US Ambassador for Qatar, Chase Untermeyer said Qatar government is considering a new sponsorship law, which would allow employees to change jobs. This initiative was undertaken following the US Trafficking In Persons report released in June 2007, placing Qatar in Tier 3. The government is also looking into extending the protection of the labour laws to domestic workers.

<http://www.gulf->

[times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu\\_no=2&item\\_no=167321&version=1&template\\_id=57&parent\\_id=56](http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=167321&version=1&template_id=57&parent_id=56)

The Mozambican government has approved a new law which will make human trafficking a crime punishable with long prison sentences. IPS reported that over 1,000 Mozambicans, including children, are trafficked to South Africa every year where they are forced into prostitution or to provide free or cheap labour. The Mozambican Bill will be adopted during the next sitting of parliament in September this year.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200708010491.html>

#### **REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES**

Projeto Trama (Brazil) has recently launched a campaign that calls for the ratification to the UN International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The campaign, called Trafficking in Persons is a Foul Play; was launched by distribution of 30,000 postcards during the recently celebrated Pan-American games in Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia. The postcard informs the public on the need of having possibilities for safe and legal migration in order to prevent

trafficking and asks them to support the campaign by sending the postcard to the National Council of Migration. The postcard can also be sent electronically. For more information, please visit: <http://www.projetotrama.org.br>, or send an email to: [projetotrama@projetotrama.org.br](mailto:projetotrama@projetotrama.org.br)

**SODIREITOS**, a GAATW member organization in Belem (Brazil), will host a two days seminar during the 30th and 31st August to share information and experiences among anti-trafficking organisation in the Amazonian region on issues such as prevention of trafficking, assistance to trafficked persons, research on trafficking in the Amazonian region and networking experiences. The workshop will also serve for the GAATW-Brazil member organisations to meet and discuss about the Brazilian National anti-Trafficking Plan.

For more information, please contact Marzel Hazeu at: [celzeu@gmail.com](mailto:celzeu@gmail.com)

**II North-East Social Forum (Brazil)** -- Mulher Marginalizada (SMM) and CHAME (both member organisations of GAATW) co-organized a two-day workshop on trafficking in human beings for commercial sexual exploitation in the region during the II North-East Social Forum (Forum Social Nordestino) that took place in the city of Salvador de Bahia from the 2nd to the 5th of August. The workshop aimed at strengthening coordination, and sharing of information among the NGOs and social movements combating trafficking in human beings for commercial sexual exploitation in the region. The cities of the North-East of Brazil are known as popular destinations for sexual tourism, which opens a gate for trafficking in human and girls mainly to Europe. The workshop was attended by members of NGOs, Social movements and academics. For more information please contact Priscila Siqueira at: [smm@smm.org.br](mailto:smm@smm.org.br)

**Dominican Republic** -- COIN (a GAATW member in the Dominican Republic), with the support of IOFA (International Organization for Adolescents), is currently implementing a project called: "Communitarian response to trafficking - RCT- Republica Dominicana". This is an anti-trafficking prevention programme aimed at developing a collaborative response to trafficking from grass-root organisations, together with governmental organisations. Similar programmes have been already implemented in the city of New York and in Tanzania, and Latvia before. The project is being implemented in three small cities in the Dominican Republic. Another GAATW member, MODEMU, also takes part in the project. For more information please contact Francisca Ferreira at: [franciscaferreira88@hotmail.com](mailto:franciscaferreira88@hotmail.com)

**SEPOM (Self-Empowerment Program for Migrant Women)**, an organisation of returnee migrant women in northern Thailand recently met with another GAATW member, Sanayar-Thi-Pan Women's Centre, a women's health centre run by migrant women in Mae Sot, on the Thailand-Burma border. As an organisation of migrant women, SEPOM strives to empower its workers in tandem with providing services for other migrant women. They met with Sanayar-Thi-Pan Women's Centre to share experiences and to gain some insights on how migrant women can develop programmes and services to further the goals of other migrant women and how leadership among migrant women can be developed. This

visit is one of several member-to-member learning exchanges GAATW has facilitated among self-organised groups of women.

*Have you released a new report? Have you organised an important event? Does your campaign need support? We want to hear about it and so do other members and friends. If you need support, ideas, resources or information from other members on campaigns or activities you are running, the e-bulletin can help. Send us the brief message you may like to send out to other members through the e-bulletin. If it is urgent, we could consider sending the message out through our members' mailing list.*

### **NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY UPDATES**

See attached Advocacy Update>

You can also access the current and previous issues of the Advocacy Update on our website at [www.gaatw.org](http://www.gaatw.org).

### **FROM THE SECRETARIAT**

#### **Networking/Solidarity Trip to Indonesia and Malaysia**

During the first half of August Eleanor from the Advocacy team made a networking/solidarity trip to meet old friends, members and new contacts in Malaysia and Indonesia. On the Malaysian leg of the journey, Eleanor was joined by Usa Lerdsrisantad, a member of GAATW board. Usa and Eleanor spent three days in Kuala Lumpur, and met with Tenaganita, the Bar Council Legal Aid office, the National Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam), the Malaysian Trade Unions Council (MTUC), CARAM Asia and others. The trip updated the IS's knowledge of the situation for women migrant workers in Malaysia and how the Malaysian government and NGOs are seeking to combat trafficking.

For the Indonesia visit, Nerea from the Access to Justice Team of the IS joined Eleanor. Nerea and Eleanor visited GAATW's members and partners in Jakarta and Central Java. Two of the groups, a sex-workers support group in Bandung and a group of returned women migrant workers in the village of Wedoro, were formed following GAATW-IS-supported Feminist Participatory Action Research Projects in these communities. The research was undertaken by LRC-KJHAM, an NGO based in Semarang, Central Java. Staff of this NGO continues to give ongoing support and input to the groups, including setting up a theatre group and giving trainings on counseling, paralegal skills and the content of relevant laws. It was lovely to see that both groups have continued to meet six years after the research was completed, and have created forums in which women's voices, so often marginalized, are heard and shared, both with each other and with the broader community.

*\*A big warm thank you to Dewi Nova for helping to arrange the Indonesia trip and accompanying the GAATW-IS team to Central Java with her bright spirit and endless patience.*

#### **Self-help and Health Rights Training in Bangladesh**

As a part of our Realising Rights programme, GAATW facilitated a ten-day self-help and health rights training in Savar, Bangladesh (July 26 - Aug 4) for the members of the Sex Workers Network of Bangladesh (SWNOB), GAATW's member in Bangladesh. There were 26 participants from different districts of the country. Unlike the health trainings that most of the participants have previously participated in, this training did not focus on HIV/AIDS and STDs only. The training aimed to provide awareness about the body, general and reproductive health, nutrition, and home remedies for common ailments. It was also aimed to initiate a change in attitude by creating awareness regarding prevention of illnesses, and looking beyond just doctors and allopathic remedies.

### Video Advocacy Institute 2007



Nina Pessina and Alfie Gordo from the GAATW-IS attended a two-week Video Advocacy Institute (VAI) organised by [WITNESS](#) in cooperation with Concordia University's Communication Studies Program and Documentary Centre in Montreal, Canada on July 15-27, 2007. Thirty participants who are working on different human rights issues from around the globe were selected for the first VAI. The aim of the program is to increase the capacity of human rights advocates to use video and online technologies in targeted campaigns and in advocacy efforts to change policies and practices. The VAI experience provided in-depth advocacy training, hands-on technical training and the opportunity to develop a video advocacy plan that will be implemented by each of participants as they go back equipped with knowledge, inspiration and tools for filming.

### RESOURCES

#### Research

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) launched the report titled *The Long Road Home: Analysis of Regional and National Processes for the return and reintegration of Victims of Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region*. This study presents the up-to-date information of regional and national return and reintegration mechanism for victims of trafficking in Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam by systematically reviewing how victims of trafficking identified in the GMS are assisted in the destination country, returned to their original country and supported in reintegrating into their society. For further information, please contact Chris Clom at IOM Bangkok, email: [clom@iom.int](mailto:clom@iom.int) Tel. +66-819-275215.

Trafficking for the purposes of labour exploitation: a literature review - Immigration Research and Statistics Service (IRSS), UK. This literature review highlights that there is not much accurate evidence pertaining to the trafficking of both adults and children to the UK for the purposes of labour exploitation. This review has featured the potential benefit of tackling human trafficking, both as an issue of borders and law enforcement, but also employment, exploitation and human rights. To download the online report: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/rdsolr1007.pdf>

## Report

The U.S. Response to Human Trafficking: An Unbalanced Approach (The Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, May 2007). The report covers the United State's efforts to protect trafficked persons found in the United States. This is the last of a four part series in which previous reports in the series focused on Nepal, Columbia, and the United Kingdom. This report also draw attention to the law enforcement approach currently in practice in the United States and recommends a shift to a rights based, protection centered approach. For more information, contact Liana del Papa, Detention and Asylum Program Specialist, Womens Commission for Refugee Women and Children, email [lianad@womenscommission.org](mailto:lianad@womenscommission.org)

To download the report: [http://www.womenscommission.org/pdf/us\\_trfkg.pdf](http://www.womenscommission.org/pdf/us_trfkg.pdf)

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*"Indeed, such were the horrors of my views and fears at the moment, that, if ten thousand worlds had been my own, I would have freely parted with them all to have exchanged my condition with that of the meanest slave in my own country. When I looked round the ship too, and saw a large furnace of copper boiling, and a multitude of black people of every description chained together, every one of their countenances expressing dejection and sorrow, I no longer doubted of my fate; and, quite overpowered with horror and anguish, I fell motionless on the deck and fainted."*

**Olaudar Equaino**, a slave who worked to buy his own freedom captured the horrifying scenes when he was taken on board a slave ship for the first time.

Taken from the article of Emmanuel K. Dogbevi, April 2007  
<http://www.myjoyonline.com/features/200708/7683.asp>

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# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

## GAATW e-Bulletin

October 2007

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from the GAATW International Secretariat.

In this month's e-bulletin we would like to share with you news on global anti-trafficking efforts to fight human trafficking and calls for action on better protection and assistance measures to trafficked persons. In the Regional/Member updates, we have news on newly opened centers to support migrant workers and women returnees, progress of the National Anti-Trafficking Plan in Brazil, as well as news about sex-workers rights campaign.

We are also happy to share with you news about the successful international launches of the GAATW report titled *Collateral Damage: The Impact of Anti-trafficking Measures on Human Rights around the World*. We at the GAATW-IS hope that you will be able to access the report and respond to the findings and recommendations highlighted in the report.

The GAATW International Members Congress is just a week away! We are looking forward to an enriching time with colleagues from many parts of the world. In the next issue we will bring you a feature on the IMC.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

### GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Council of Europe: Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings enters into force.** On 24 October Cyprus became the 10<sup>th</sup> country to ratify the CoE Convention, thus the Convention will enter into force from January 1, 2008. The CoE Convention is the first international legally binding instrument which affirms that trafficking in human beings constitutes a violation of human rights and is an offence to the dignity and integrity of the human being. It is the only international standard that provides all trafficked people with guaranteed minimum standards of protection, including at least 30 days to stay in the country and to receive among others emergency medical assistance, safe housing, and legal advice. GAATW and its member organisations have lobbied for this Convention to enter into force. On May 3 of this year, GAATW orchestrated a common action, in which 150 NGOs across Europe urged their governments to ratify the convention.

[http://www.coe.int/t/DG2/TRAFFICKING/campaign/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/DG2/TRAFFICKING/campaign/default_en.asp)

**EU: The European Commission launched the first EU Anti-Trafficking Day** on 18 October and organised an event in Brussels entitled 'Human Beings: Time for Action'. On this occasion, Mike Dottridge on behalf of the Expert Group on Trafficking in Human Beings of the European Commission, presented the new manual for assessing governments' measures to protect trafficked persons and prevent human trafficking '*Measuring Responses to Trafficking in Human Beings in the European Union: an Assessment Manual*'.

[http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/news/events/anti\\_trafficking\\_day\\_07/indicators\\_manual.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/news/events/anti_trafficking_day_07/indicators_manual.pdf). For more information also read this month's issue of the Advocacy Update in the attachment.

**UN: Global initiative to fight human trafficking required** -- India is emerging as a leading human trafficking destination in South Asia with children and young women being lured with promises of a good job, a good married life or stardom in entertainment industry but are forced into sex work, forced labour or organ trading, a United Nations report has revealed. The UN official pointed out that 90 per cent of the trafficking takes place inside the country with people from states of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and northeastern region being taken to Delhi and Mumbai where they are subjected to various forms of exploitation. Human security challenges, poverty and high migration are the reasons leading to lower strata of society becoming most vulnerable to this crime.  
[http://www.navhindtimes.com/articles.php?Story\\_ID=100519](http://www.navhindtimes.com/articles.php?Story_ID=100519)

Legislative update:

**Armenia: The Parliament Passes Act on Human Trafficking** -- The National Assembly of Armenia passed the Anti-Human Trafficking on Air Act this month requiring notification to all air passengers about the threatening high number of women and children being transported from/through Armenia by traffickers for sexual exploitation purposes without the passengers' knowledge or consent. The notification process will include distribution of brochures in three languages (Armenian, Russian and English) to all passengers describing the issue of human trafficking.  
<http://www.huliq.com/38002/armenian-parliament-passes-act-on-human-trafficking>

**Thailand: New law on trafficking** -- A new proposed law aims to address all forms of human trafficking and provides greater protection and compensation to the victims. The bill, when passed, will be Thailand's first comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation. It will outlaw all forms of trafficking and also provide protection to male victims of trafficking. The bill was drafted in response to calls made by the United Nations and other international organisations for help to suppress human trafficking.  
<http://www.newnation.vg/forums/showthread.php?t=111453>

## REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

**Argentina:** AMUMRA has opened a new centre for migrant and refugee women in Buenos Aires. The *Centro Integral contra la Violencia para Mujeres* (Integral Center Against Violence for Women) aims at being a safe space in which migrants and refugee women can receive information about their legal rights in Argentina, counselling, training and social assistance. The team of professional workers in the centre will be supported by a group of volunteers formed by migrant and refugee women to ensure that the assistance they provide is based on the real experiences of the target group and therefore, meet their needs. For more information, please contact: [mujeresunidas@yahoo.es](mailto:mujeresunidas@yahoo.es)

**Brazil:** The Inter-ministerial Working Group in charge of elaborating the National Anti-Trafficking Plan presented its final report to the President of the Republic on 6 September. The National Anti-Trafficking Plan (which outlines its main objectives, actions, activities and goals, as well as deadlines and responsibilities for its implementation) is the culmination of a process that started in 2000, when Brazil ratified the Palermo Protocol, and that continued in October 2006 after the National Anti-Trafficking Policy was approved. The National Plan will be in force for two years after its approval. The Working Group included two GAATW members (SMM and IBISS-CO) that participated on behalf of GAATW-Brazil. The main demand made by the civil society organisations that participated in the elaboration of the National Anti-Trafficking Plan was to ensure that there are the necessary conditions for them to monitor its implementation. More information at: [www.smm.org.br](http://www.smm.org.br). Also, IBISS-CO organised on 20-21 September a workshop on assistance to trafficked persons, which was part of this event.

**Launch of the Brazil Chapter in the book *Collateral Damage*** - On 3 October, during the UNODC GIFT in Brasilia, Projeto Trama launched the report on Brazil that features in the GAATW publication titled *Collateral Damage: The Impact of Anti-Trafficking Measures on Human Rights around the World*. It was a good opportunity to present the Brazil report to a number of governmental and non governmental actors from different regions, states and ministries. There was very interesting discussion concerning some of the comments and recommendations in the report, particularly on the legal framework and the importance to have government commitment (budget) to combat human trafficking. The information was also shared with the media. The Brazil chapter is now available in Portuguese. For more information, contact [projeto trama@projeto trama.org.br](mailto:projeto trama@projeto trama.org.br).

**Thailand:** Foundation for Women (FFW) recently opened the Yor Ying Information Center in Bangkok. Yor Ying is a place where women can meet, learn new skills and discover new opportunities, as well as share experiences and provide mutual support. The Centre welcomes Thai women returnees and offers advice on safe migration to Thai women who are considering going abroad for work. For more information, contact FFW at [ffw@womenthai.org](mailto:ffw@womenthai.org).



**Austria:** From March 8 (International Women's Day) to June 2, 2007 (International Sex Workers Day), the first country-wide campaign for sex workers' rights was launched in Austria. The organisers, who titled the campaign "Sex Workers Lust For... Their Rights", were invited to more than 25 events, performances and presentations, which dealt in many different and partly provocative ways with the issue of sex-work. The campaign, initiated by LEFÖ, was supported by several NGOs as well as individuals. It called for the implementation of the rights that sex workers are entitled to: human, labour and migrants' rights according to international conventions and agreements. [www.lustaufrechte.at](http://www.lustaufrechte.at)

## NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY

See attached Advocacy Update

## UPDATES FROM THE SECRETARIAT

**UN.GIFT ASEAN Regional Workshop on criminal justice responses to trafficking in persons (Bangkok 2-4 October 2007)** - State delegations from Australia, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar (Burma), New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Tonga and Vietnam met as part of the UN.GIFT process to prepare recommendations in the frame of the criminal justice system to be brought to the UN.GIFT meeting in Vienna (February 2008). The workshop was divided in morning sessions during which experts would present different topics in relation to investigation, prosecution, mutual legal assistance and extradition as well as regional cooperation and donor's role, and afternoon working groups in which delegates would agree on recommendations under each topic. NGOs, IGOs and UN agencies had an observer status and met in a separate working group to make recommendations that were subsequently passed on to the State delegates.

You can get more information by contacting the GAATW Access to Justice Team at [gaatw@gaatw.org](mailto:gaatw@gaatw.org).

**Launch of *Collateral Damage*, GAATW's new report on the impact of anti-trafficking measures on human rights**

**Bangkok:** The international launch of the new GAATW report was held on September 27, 2007, at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand (FCCT). Keynote speakers of the launch were Mike Dottridge, Editor of the report, Jackie Pollock, chapter author for Thailand and Director of MAP Foundation, and Varunee Wongchaikham, Coordinator for the

Direct Assistance Programme of SEPOM (Self-Empowerment Programme for Migrant Women). Bandana Pattanaik, GAATW International Coordinator welcomed the guests and moderated the event. Guests comprised media people, representatives of Bangkok-based UN agencies and intergovernmental organisations, representatives of NGOs working on issues of human trafficking, labour exploitation, migrants' rights, representative of diplomatic missions of countries featured in the report, as well as officials of the Thai government.

**Australia:** The Australia launch, headed by Eleanor Taylor-Nicholson from the GAATW-IS and Elaine Pearson, the author of the Australia Chapter, was held in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne from October 1-5, 2007. The launch was in collaboration with Anti-Slavery Project-Sydney, Project Respect-Melbourne, Castan Centre and World Vision. The event was well attended by the media, community groups, academics and individuals who are working on the issue of trafficking. The aim is to raise public awareness and to disseminate the report to concerned groups.

The GAATW International Secretariat thanks all the guests for their interest. To those who bought a copy of the report we are grateful and remind that all proceeds for the publication go for direct assistance of trafficked persons. If you would like to order copies of the report, write an email to [gaatw@gaatw.org](mailto:gaatw@gaatw.org) or visit our web page [www.gaatw.org](http://www.gaatw.org).

#### **LSI NGO Platform on Trafficking in Human Beings: Responding to Root Causes and Creating Equal Opportunities**

Nerea from the IS participated in the La Strada International annual NGO Platform celebrated on September 15 and 16 in Skopje (Macedonia). The Platform gathered around 25 European anti-trafficking NGOS (including four other GAATW members in Europe) as well as the 9 La Strada offices and its Secretariat and Advisory Council. The different workshops organized during the Platform covered topics such as Advocacy and Lobby, Prevention, Social Inclusion, Transnational NGO referral, Asylum for trafficked persons and domestic violence and trafficking. GAATW made presentations on the workshops on Trial Monitoring and Compensation and Networking in Europe.

The event was a great opportunity for the IS to learn more about the European anti-trafficking scenario, to meet with GAATW members in Europe and to network with other European NGOs and networks. The discussions held and learnings will be valuable inputs for the GAATW 2008-10 Plan of Action. A statement produced by LSI and signed by the participants and other NGOs was read during the EU anti-trafficking day (see advocacy update for more information)

## **RESOURCES**

### Report

**Study highlights sex trafficking in Ireland --** The findings of a research study have indicated a human trafficking problem in Ireland. The study carried out at NUI Galway claims several women were trafficked into Ireland for the purposes of sexual exploitation between 2000 and 2006. The research was carried over a two-year period and involved a survey of agencies and organisations working in areas of prostitution, violence against women and migration in Ireland. The government has consistently rejected the suggestion that there is a significant problem of human trafficking. However, this report claims that 76 women were trafficked into the sex trade in Ireland from Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and South America during a six-year period. The criminalisation of the victim of a serious crime has been strongly criticised in the report. Its authors have called for trafficked women's needs to be prioritised in the government's Human Trafficking Bill, which was proposed in October. <http://www.rte.ie/news/2007/1018/trafficking.html>

### Publication

A new publication by SMM (*Serviço a Mulher Marginalizada*), a GAATW member in Brazil, will be launched on a workshop on the 30<sup>th</sup> October. The publication is called: "**Trafficking**

in **Persons, a Political Approach**". You can get more information by communicating with: [smm@smm.org.br](mailto:smm@smm.org.br)

#### Movie

The film *Trade* that premiered in Berlin on 9 October has been described by its star Kevin Kline as "gut-wrenching, alarming and disturbing", because it is a story of human beings trafficked into sex slavery. Kline plays the role of a Texan police officer sent to track down the abductions of a 13-year-old Mexican girl and an Eastern European woman. He soon discovers the network and methods used to sell young women and boys into the sex market. [http://movies.monstersandcritics.com/features/article\\_1364277.php/Trades\\_portrayal\\_of\\_sex\\_slavery\\_shadows\\_UN\\_fight](http://movies.monstersandcritics.com/features/article_1364277.php/Trades_portrayal_of_sex_slavery_shadows_UN_fight)

**"We know what is possible when women are recognised as agents of change."**

Joanne Sandler, UNIFEM's acting executive director  
during the commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty  
<http://www.mediaforfreedom.com/ReadArticle.asp?ArticleID=5093>

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# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

## GAATW e-Bulletin

25 November 2007

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from the GAATW International Secretariat (GAATW-IS). We hope this finds you well. November and December are busy months for most colleagues both at work and home. We do hope that while winding up your work for the year, you are also able to enjoy the winter and plan for much deserved holidays.

Preparing for the International Members Congress (IMC) which was held in Bangkok on 5-8 November 2007 had taken up much of our time over the last two months. Now that the IMC is over, we are focusing mostly on follow-up work and completion of a few remaining tasks for 2007.

All of us at GAATW-IS would like to thank the members and friends who were able to be in Bangkok for the IMC. Our special word of gratitude goes to the members of the organising committee and the facilitators and presenters of various sessions who worked closely with the IS and guided us through the process. We were delighted to have all of you with us and learnt much during the four days. We hope that the discussions were also useful for your own work. And hopefully in spite of the busy schedule you were able to go out a little to see Bangkok and do some shopping!

Many members and friends could not make it to the meeting and some had to cancel their trip at the last minute due to unavailability of visa. Their presence and participation was dearly missed by all of us.

This month's e-Bulletin focuses exclusively on the [IMC](#). This is just a brief summary; a complete report will be placed on the website by the end of January 2008.

Some of the IMC photos have been uploaded on Picasa web album which you can view by following the link below. If you would like to share with everyone the photos you have taken during the event do send it to us and we can place it on the web album. <http://picasaweb.google.com/GAATWIMC07/GAATWIMC2007?authkey=8kMqHnYqRzY>

We will keep in touch and hope you will too.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

## GAATW International Members Congress

*The Impact of Anti-Trafficking Measures on Human Rights Around the World*

Monday & Tuesday, 5 & 6 November 2007

The GAATW International Members Congress held at Windsor Suites, Bangkok started with a concert of Japanese drums and a video showcasing a retrospective of GAATW's activities in the past 3 years. The atmosphere was festive and celebratory yet serious. The theme of the first two days echoed that of GAATW's recent research report; *Collateral Damage*. In addition to representatives from member organisations many colleagues from Thailand and abroad also participated in the two-day conference.

A networking session that followed the opening ceremony provided an opportunity for the participants to meet each other and learn about the work that colleagues are doing in various parts of the world. Organising such a session for 138 colleagues from 41 countries was by no means an easy task. But everyone had prepared colourful posters, was eager to share their own work and keen to listen to others and the space was easy to navigate so the session progressed at a relaxed pace. It was wonderful to find people who had not seen each other until that morning getting into interesting conversations and old friends catching up with each other.



Highlighting the conclusion of *Collateral Damage* in her opening address, Bandana Pattanaik, GAATW International Coordinator had said, "The report demonstrates that we are very far from being able to claim that the human rights of trafficked persons and migrant workers are being adequately protected and promoted by state and non-state actors." She had added that the findings were a reminder that "all of us need to be more accountable to the people whose rights we are seeking to protect."

The first thematic session of the congress held on 5 November afternoon discussed the findings and recommendations of the report in detail. Mike Dottridge (Editor of *Collateral Damage*, UK) commented that the report is unique as it talks about the abuses trafficked persons suffer at the hands of people supposedly protecting them. Jackie Pollock and Jayne Huckerby, both chapter authors, presented their analysis of the policies and practices in Thailand and the USA. Chapter authors from Brazil, India, Nigeria, and the UK were also present at the conference.

Interactive discussions in regional groups focussed on the relevance of the report, follow-up campaign strategies for GAATW and its member organisations, and the need for further research.

The exhibition *Creating Change* was another highlight of the day. It showcased the vitality, commitment and strength of self-organised groups of trafficking survivors, migrant workers, domestic workers and sex workers in Asia. Through creative use of photographs and text the exhibition highlighted the process of social change brought about by self-organised groups. It showed how the lived experience - positive and negative - of every single person is a source of knowledge and personal and professional strength.

The first day of the GAATW International Conference ended with an interactive session with some of the grant making organisations present. Representatives from ICCO, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Dan Church Aid (DCA) and Global Fund for Women (GFW) shared their organisations' policies and practices and answered questions from participants.

Tuesday, 6 November started with a poignant session on *Realising Rights of Women*. The session's aim was to identify factors that deprive women of their rights and also to suggest ways to make migration a fruitful opportunity for those who wish to embark on the journey. Representatives from different self-organised groups; domestic workers, migrant workers, trafficking survivors, sex workers, as well as refugee and migrant women - shared their very personal itineraries and the empowering and challenging experiences in their lives and work.

Julie Ham (GAATW-IS) presented the findings of GAATW's recent report '[Respect and Relevance: Supporting Self-Organising as a Strategy for Empowerment and Social Change](#)'. The report reflects on the ways self-organised groups contribute to individual and collective empowerment and to social change. The report also looks at ways in which NGOs and donors can support self-organised groups respecting their unique strengths. This point in particular was taken up by the plenary to explore ways of collaboration but also to discuss the challenges and obstacles.

An optional session held at lunch time focused on the opportunities to use the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to advocate for the rights of trafficked persons and migrant workers. Oy Sim Chin (IWRAP representative, Malaysia) gave an informative overview of the possibilities and implications.

*Access to Justice for Trafficked Persons and Migrant Workers* was the subject of the afternoon session on 6 November. Marta Gonzales (Proyecto Esperanza, Spain) and Sandhya Shrestha (Oxfam, Nepal) shared their experiences in providing legal assistance to trafficked persons when they decide to seek for justice. Mary (Vietnam, *name changed*) told her story of how she was trafficked to Taiwan and how she subsequently with incredible strength sued her traffickers and her current pursuit of legal studies.

Working groups discussed GAATW's proposed agenda for its 'Access to Justice' programme, ways of sharing technical knowledge among professionals and ways to make information on the legal and human rights of migrants accessible to the migrant workers and trafficked persons themselves.

Nelia Sancho (GAATW Board Member, Philippines) brought the first part of the IMC to a closure. *"This is only the beginning of our journey to address the complex realities of human rights violations in today's globalised world and accelerated migration. We need to be more vigilant and critical of the human rights impacts of anti-trafficking measures but above all, be sensitive, reflective and creative in promoting human rights"*, she said.

The Solidarity Evening took place on the 32<sup>nd</sup> floor of Windsor Suites Hotel, where participants cheerfully mingled with each other surrounded by a breathtaking view of Bangkok by night.



Wednesday & Thursday, 7 & 8 November 2007

The second part of the IMC was conceptualized as a members' only event. A few friends and associates of GAATW also stayed on for this part. Although GAATW was launched and led by an alliance of individual activists for several years, over the last few years the IS and the board have made a conscious attempt to transition into an alliance where member organisations would play a more active role. Several steps have been taken by the IS to strengthen communication between members and the IS as well as among member organisations. However, by and large the old organisational structure is still operational. It was clear during the course of 7 & 8 November that this was indeed the right moment for all members present to have greater clarity on the current structure and to start a participatory process to bring about necessary changes that would ensure greater ownership of member organisations in the Alliance.

7 November began with brief presentations by Stana Buchowska and Bandana Pattanaik on GAATW's current structure and proposed programme priorities for 2008-10. But the number of

questions which the members had regarding GAATW's organisational structure made it clear to the organising committee that much more time should be allocated on the next day for further discussion on structure and decision making processes. By the end of the last session on 8 November participants had reached a consensus to set up Working Groups in early 2008 with member representatives from all regions, the current board and the IS to look into 1) the membership, 2) the decision making processes and the board and 3) the 'Collateral Damage' campaign.

The GAATW-IS had formulated its programme priorities for 2008-10 based on extensive consultations with members during June-September 2007 as well the recommendations of Collateral Damage. Detailed discussions on the follow-up work of the research report, Access to Justice and continued engagement with self-organised groups had already begun on 5 and 6 November. So at the substantive level 7 and 8 November focused on further discussions on the issue of Direct Assistance, Advocacy and Regional Priorities. The collated suggestions from the two sessions on *Direct Assistance* and *International Advocacy Agenda* were presented and validated by the participants. Suggestions which came from regional groups (and could not be shared in a plenary due to time constraint) are now being shared within regions and will be shared among all members in January 2008.

To learn more from regions in which GAATW has little or no contact, a slot was set aside on 7 November for guest-speakers to share their experiences on the issue of human trafficking in Lebanon, South Africa and Kenya. All participants strongly felt that forging partnerships in the Middle East and African regions should be a future priority for the alliance. The few member organisations from Africa showed concern that GAATW has a very weak presence in their continent and promised to support the IS in [addressing this lacunae](#).

All sessions underscored not just the need for making stronger linkages and fostering mutual learning, participants also identified their most urgent priorities and made very concrete suggestions to GAATW-IS for better facilitation of partnership.



All suggestions which have been agreed upon by most people present will be incorporated into the plan of action of GAATW-IS for 2008-2010. Necessary steps will be taken in January 2008 to set up the recommended working groups.

It was almost evening by the time the last session on the last day ended. Somehow it felt like the 4 days [had](#) passed far too quickly. As Sabala (GAATW Working Group

member, India) put it, "We are leaving this conference really energised. We have achieved a lot in these 4 days on very grounded issues, which will contribute to the strengthening of the Alliance. We as members have recognised that we can't abscond our responsibilities towards our common goals".

The closing ceremony led by Jaqueline Leite (GAATW Board member, Brazil) was a very beautiful ritual in the tradition of Afro-Brazilian people. We wished each other a safe journey, we wrote our farewell messages and gave it to our friends and said our goodbyes aloud in our own languages. A strong note of optimism, determination to work together and a mild touch of sadness were in the air at the closure of the IMC.

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# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GAATW E-bulletin  
December 2007

Dear Members and Friends,

As the holiday season begins and 2007 draws to a close, we wish you a relaxing break from work and a joyous and peaceful 2008!

We have just concluded our last event for 2007; the *3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Consultation with our Self-Organised Member Groups. Held on December 7 - 10, 2007 in Bhubaneswar, India the theme of this consultation was Connecting Across Borders.* Self-organised member groups of GAATW comprising migrant women, domestic workers, trafficking survivors, young women, and tribal communities, participated in this consultation. Institute for Social Development (ISD), one of GAATW's members based in Bhubaneswar, co-organised the solidarity event which included information exchange, skill sharing sessions and organisational reflection. A short report of the consultation will be available in January.

Following the consultation the GAATW-IS staff held a two-day annual retreat. We said goodbyes to our colleagues Nina, Julie and Amraa and wished them well. We will miss them even though we know that like many other former colleagues they will always remain a part of GAATW wherever they are. Our dear colleague Aneeqa is getting married on 26 December and some of us are heading to Dhaka for her wedding.

Our office will remain closed from 22 December 2007 and we will be back at work on 4 January, 2008.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat Staff



The GAATW IS Staff in front of the Sun Temple, Konark, Orissa, India



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Consultation with Self-Organised Groups, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India