

# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

October 2015

**Welcome to the October issue of GAATW e-Bulletin!** Our e-Bulletin features comment pieces, analytical articles and interviews. It is also a space for the GAATW-IS, Member Organisations and partners to share news about their work. We welcome your feedback and contributions to future issues at [gaatw@gaatw.org](mailto:gaatw@gaatw.org).



## GAATW-IS comment...

### Amnesty International calls for the decriminalisation of sex work

GAATW-IS congratulates Amnesty International (AI) for adopting a decision to develop a policy in support of the decriminalisation of sex work at its International Council Meeting in Dublin, Ireland, in August.

In doing so, Amnesty joins a growing list of international organisations, such as Human Rights Watch, the World Health Organisation, UNAIDS, UNDP, and The Lancet medical journal, who all recognise that decriminalising sex work is the best policy to protect the human rights of sex workers and improve their access to legal and health services. The decision comes after two years of consultations with AI's national chapters and with sex workers' rights organisations, feminist and other women's rights organisations and activists, LGBTI groups, anti-trafficking agencies and HIV/AIDS organisations. Amnesty also conducted research on the sex industry and the rights of sex workers in four countries. [Read GAATW-IS's full comment...](#)

## News from the GAATW International Secretariat

### Labour Trafficking Case Analysis Workshop



The Access to Justice Programme of GAATW-IS currently has a South Asia-Middle East focus. We are engaged in a two-year project that aims to identify and address barriers that trafficked overseas migrant workers from South Asia face in countries of origin and destination when accessing justice. The project focuses on workers from India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in Kuwait, Lebanon and Jordan. While the primary focus is on countries of destination, keeping in mind the continuum of rights violation that workers face, the project aims to analyse the scenario at both ends and hopes to strengthen coordination among NGOs providing legal and psychosocial assistance to migrant workers.

[Read all the latest GAATW-IS news...](#)

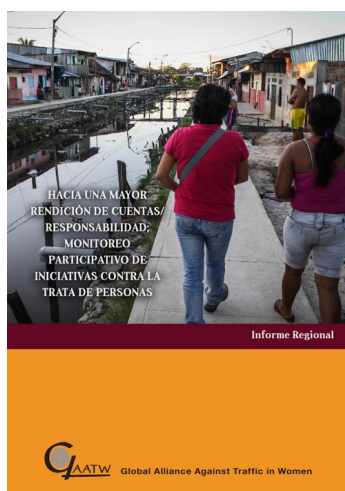
## Betty Pedraza Lozano from Espacios de Mujer Awarded with the Annual TIP Report Hero Acting to End Modern Slavery Award

Betty Pedraza Lozano, director of Corporación Espacios de Mujer, was one of eight people awarded the annual "TIP Report Hero Acting to End Modern Slavery Award" by the United States Department of State on 27 July. The award recognises the work carried out by different people, in different parts of the world, to end human trafficking. Betty Pedraza Lozano has been recognised for her commitment to the prevention of trafficking, her support of trafficked persons in Colombia and her work for the rights of all women and men who have survived human trafficking.

[View the interview...](#)



## From our Member Organisations...



### "Towards Greater Accountability - Participatory Monitoring of Anti-Trafficking Initiatives" - Latin America Report

During 2013-14 GAATW-IS initiated and steered a project entitled "Towards greater accountability - Participatory Monitoring of Anti-Trafficking Initiatives". In the framework of this project, 17 GAATW member organisations from Asia, Europe and Latin America carried out researches to find out from trafficked persons their perceptions and views of the support services they received.

The researches reaffirmed the rights of trafficked persons to express their voices and ensured that service providing organisations incorporated their feedback in future work. Participating colleagues from the Latin American region have put together their research reports into a regional report that can be downloaded from GAATW-IS Website.

[Read more updates from members...](#)

If you would like to contribute your news to our members' section of the ebulletin, please email [gaatw@gaatw.org](mailto:gaatw@gaatw.org)

[www.gaatw.org](http://www.gaatw.org)

## Resources

Resources that explain the various legal framework on sex work and difference between sex work and trafficking:

### **Open Society Foundation: Laws and Policies Affecting Sex Work**

This reference brief aims to clarify terms and illustrate examples of alternatives to the use of criminal law as a response to sex work. Understanding the range of legislative and policy options for responding to sex work is critical to establishing policies consistent with respecting, protecting, and fulfilling the human rights of sex workers. Laws and policies on sex work should be based on the best available evidence about what works to protect health and rights.

### **NSWP Briefing Paper: Sex Work and the Law: Understanding Legal Frameworks and the Struggle for Sex Work Law Reforms**

This briefing paper, prepared by the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) describes the different legislative frameworks used to criminalise and oppress sex work and sex workers,

including oppressive regulatory frameworks. It also provides insight into the language and shared principles that NSWP members use when advocating for law reforms that respect and protect sex workers' human and labour rights.

### **Sex Work is Not Trafficking**

This NSWP briefing paper explains how sex work is conflated with trafficking; the legal framework; how demand for sex work is conflated with trafficking; the dangers of conflating trafficking with sex work, its impacts on sex workers' lives and work; the impact on sex worker programming; and offers some recommendations for policy makers, donors and for civil society.

### **La Strada International contribution to public hearing at the German Bundestag on prostitution and human trafficking**

Contribution by La Strada International, the European NGO network against trafficking in human beings, to a public hearing on human trafficking and forced prostitution at the German Bundestag, in relation to the German Government's plans to revise prostitution and human trafficking policies.

### **ICRSE: Research on Sex Work**

The International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe (ICRSE) is a network of sex workers and sex worker-led organisations in Europe and Central Asia. The Resources section of ICRSE's website provides different materials, studies and researches related to sex work and trafficking, sex work and law, sex work and migration etc.

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Resources on human trafficking and migration:

### **How American Anti-Trafficking Policy is Failing Asian Migrants**

Hanna Hindstrom

In July the US Department of State released its annual Trafficking in Persons report but critics say it has done little to address the underlying causes of trafficking or to protect trafficked persons. This has been especially felt in Asia, where Thailand focuses disproportionately on efforts to crackdown on the sex industry to the detriment of other labour sectors and refugees. While Malaysia, whose track record is not much better, has been upgraded this year, allegedly because of Obama's desire to sign the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.

### **The 2015 US Trafficking Report: signs of decline?**

Anne Gallagher

The US Trafficking in Persons report is problematic not only because of its increasing politicisation, seen this year in the rank upgrades of several countries, including Cuba and Malaysia, for political and economic reasons. It also weaves a simple - and ultimately comforting - tale of trafficking being about bad people doing bad things to good people. It fails to seriously interrogate the deep economy of human exploitation - to ask what would happen to global wealth and productivity if such exploitation were suddenly removed. Beyond a cursory reference to the now ubiquitous "global supply chains", corporate complicity in trafficking - and the government corruption that makes this possible - isn't even on the table.

### **Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences. Urmila Bhoola**

This study by the Special Rapporteur focuses on enforcing the accountability of States and businesses for preventing, mitigating and redressing contemporary forms of slavery in supply chains. It reviews the international legal framework on slavery, the causes and prevalence of contemporary forms of slavery in supply chains and initiatives of states and businesses to address them. It also reviews the corporate legal liability and the access to remedies in cases of contemporary slavery in supply chains and some of the challenges and gaps to ensuring the accountability of states and businesses for contemporary forms of slavery in supply chains.

### **Modern Slavery: The Margins of Freedom**

Julia O'Connell Davidson

This book brings the literature on transatlantic slavery into dialogue with research on informal sector labour, child labour, migration, debt, the prison industrial complex, and sex work in the contemporary world in order to challenge received ideas and popular and policy discourses of injustice and suffering, which fail to attend to structural inequalities and suggest that victims are entirely eviscerated of will.

Calling for more serious political debates about the restriction of freedoms in the contemporary

world, this book provides a unique, critical perspective of violence, injustice and exploitation in modern society.

### **UAE establishes fund to support victims of human trafficking**

Gulf Today

The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking has established The Fund of Supporting Victims of Human Trafficking in cooperation with its strategic partners. Its mission is to provide financial support to the victims and help them in addressing their needs to facilitate a brighter future. It also highlights the importance that the committee places in combating different types of human trafficking, and its commitment to strengthen work with the authorities and international organisations to eliminate the problem and uphold the rights and dignity of humans.

### **Indispensable yet unprotected: Working conditions of Indian Domestic Workers at Home and Abroad**

ILO Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL)

This study examines two of the most frequent migration routes for female domestic workers in India - from the state of Jharkhand to New Delhi and from the state of Kerala to the Arab states. It seeks to understand the problems and the nature of abuse that migrant domestic workers face and whether some of them are victims of forced labour and trafficking. The study reviews the legislative and institutional framework and makes recommendations for improving the conditions for migrant domestic workers.

### **The gendered victims of (anti)trafficking**

Prabha Kotiswaran and Sam Okyere

The August edition of Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, devoted to gender, focuses on two sets of issues. The first set of articles are clustered around gender and migration. They highlight how state and institutional practices, especially those that deny women's agency and reinforce stereotypical notions of female vulnerability, adversely impact women's mobility and render their migration choices precarious. The second set of articles demonstrates how mainstream anti-trafficking activists are hardly exceptional in their paternalist call to arms when it comes to female and child victims of trafficking. Evocative yet ineffective understandings of complex issues such as surrogacy, female genital cutting, and child marriage result in the reiteration of simplistic reform strategies rather than the restructuring of the very conditions under which women negotiate power structures.

### **Violence, self-harm and suicide attempts: health of child trafficking survivors revealed**

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Poor mental health, self-harm and suicide attempts are common among children and adolescents who have been trafficked for forced labour or sexual exploitation, according to a new study among almost 400 children and adolescents in post-trafficking services in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam. Researchers found that one-third of boys and girls surveyed had experienced physical or sexual violence while trafficked, and of those, a quarter had sustained a serious injury. Mental health issues were common: more than half of the survivors screened positive for depression, a third for an anxiety disorder and a quarter for post-traumatic stress disorder. 12% reported they had tried to harm or kill themselves in the month before the interview, while 15.8% reported having suicidal thoughts in the past month.

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