



GAATW E-bulletin
18 January 2006

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings of the New Year.

Reflecting on our work in 2005, we at the GAATW International Secretariat feel really happy. Everything that was planned for 2005 in consultation with the member organisations have been carried out well. As you all know, we worked with a very small team of only 5 women in this office. However, we are grateful to our member organisations, the members of our international board, our working group and many other friends for their support and encouragement. Without your help, completion of the planned tasks would have been impossible.

We have begun the new year with renewed enthusiasm and determination and hope to get your support during this year too. Just a week before we closed for X'mas last year, the hardware of our server which supports the website had crashed so for a few weeks it was not accessible. It has been fixed now and we will soon start doing the updates for this year. You may recall that we had invited applications for programme and communications positions at the Secretariat. We are happy to inform you that the recruitment process is drawing to a close and we will have new colleagues with us very soon; in February 3 new friends will be with us. By May we will have the full team and the regional and thematic work can be done in a satisfactory manner.

Like last year, we are beginning this year also with the World Social Forum. And once again, the member organisations from the Latin American region have taken the lead. Projeto TRAMA, Jepiara, Modemu, COIN, Ibiss, Projeto Direito de Ir e Vir and GAATW Secretariat will be holding three workshops in all. We will also launch the Portuguese Handbook on human trafficking which is an updated version of our Human Rights and Trafficking in Persons (2001). We will send out the schedule of our WSF workshops as soon as we get those from the WSF organizers and in the next issue we will have report of the workshops. If you are going to be in Caracas, do join us.

Sincerely,

GAATW International Secretariat

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GAATW E-bulletin
February 14, 2006

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from GAATW International Secretariat.

We are sending this out after a short break. As many of you know, we had a serious virus problem so we stopped sending out bulk emails until the problem was sorted out. A new anti-spam and anti-virus programme is installed now and each outgoing and incoming email is being scanned. We hope that this will keep the communication system safe and efficient for some time now. Let us keep each other informed by sending out information on viruses and effective anti-virus programmes.

In this issue we bring you a short summary prepared by Bandana on the events organised by GAATW members in WSF, Caracas, Venezuela. We are sharing with you three important pieces of information that came from members/friends: Kav La'Oved's report is a relevant resource that provides a clear idea about what is going on in Israel in the area of migrant workers. Tenaganita, Malaysia shares a press release commenting on a recent piece of legislation for foreign domestic workers in Malaysia. DMSC, Calcutta, is seeking solidarity with their most recent advocacy effort in India around the proposed amendments to the anti-trafficking bill.

WSF 2006 Caracas

Like last year, this year too, Projeto TRAMA, our member organisation in Brazil, took the initiative to bring several groups from the LAC region working on human trafficking and held 4 workshops at the WSF, Caracas. Colleagues from TRAMA were able to bring together 45 women and men representing more than 20 organisations from the region working on the issue.

I joined the team from the Secretariat. It was a wonderful experience for me to meet so many new colleagues from the region and to see some old friends again. For example, it was a really pleasant surprise to meet Juanita Altenberg from Maxi Linder, Suriname and Kristina from Atalantas, Holland. At a personal/political level Venezuela as a place and the LAC region on the whole are important at this moment because a clear and

strong resistance to economic neo-liberalism and unilateral, imbalanced global politics is emerging from this region. It is the responsibility of everyone who believes that another world is possible to make the changes that have begun sustainable and to see that the promises are kept. While in Caracas, with the help of a friend who works with small farmers, I spoke to many people on the streets; in the buses and in shops. We also spoke to many students. There is a strong sense of hope among the working class, the lower middle class and also among some intellectuals. People spoke with great enthusiasm about the land reform programmes, the doctors in villages and the new free university. Among the older people (who are also admirers of the president), I also sensed some worry and fear; worry that their beloved president might be losing his ability to listen to people, that he might fall a victim to the adulation around him and react harshly to constructive criticism and fear that the rich people unhappy with the new system may do something to harm him.

Coming back to the WSF; it had a predominantly regional character. Given that events were organised in different places, it was not very easy to go from one venue to the other. And if a scheduled event changed it was not always easy to find another one that might be interesting. Translation was not always available so not having Spanish was a great handicap. However, with 4 planned workshops of our own, there wasn't much time left to attend other workshops/events. Some friends from the team were always with me to translate so I had no difficulty at all.

All the 4 workshops organised by our team had participation of trafficked women, women working with sex workers and women providing assistance to trafficked persons. Among us there were also politicians, academics and colleagues from donor agencies. The first workshop addressed the issue of autonomy and exploitation. After an impassioned but respectful exchange of ideas and experience the participants concluded that the line between the two is often very thin and while we are pushing for common frameworks and guidelines adhering to the principles of human rights, such sharing of concrete experiences are highly relevant as they remind of the complexities of the situation. In the second workshop we moved on to the sphere of public policies and panelists shared the work that is going on in their countries. It was opportune that the minister of women's affairs from Brazil was present who shared the situation at the regional level and expressed that there was a need for civil society to engage with the regional inter governmental forums. She said that one of the impacts of the popularity crime control framework is that some countries are now keeping the issue of trafficking with the ministry of justice whereas a joint committee of ministers dealing with women, immigration, labour and justice should handle the issue. The third and fourth workshop discussed strategies and quite naturally networking came up for discussion. I shared the work of GAATW and many groups also talked about how they have been able to take their work forward by forming national and regional networks. The Portuguese translation of the GAATW handbook on human rights and trafficking was launched. The meeting concluded with a decision to discuss issues of common concern and advocacy plans via email over the next two months and meet again in April to make a concrete regional plan of action. Nerea Bilbatua (nerea@gaatw.org) and Diana Castillo have

started their preliminary discussion with the groups from the LAC region and by end of March they will have a concrete plan for future work.

A Report from Kav La'Oved

We would like to share with you Kav La'Oved's ["Concise Case Descriptions of Migrant Workers in Israel, 2005: Between Exploitation and Trafficking"](#) The report provides an overview of different case scenarios handled by Kav La'Oved in 2005 from confiscation of passports to handling cases of illegal arrests. Kav La'Oved is a non-profit Israeli NGO, working for the protection of the rights of local and migrant workers. The organisation provides legal aid to disadvantaged workers and advocates for systematic change in labour policies. Kav La'Oved was one of the participating organisations that attended the direct assistance workshop organised by GAATW International Secretariat in November 2005. For more information about Kav La'Oved, visit their website at www.kavlaoved.org.il/index_en.asp

Protection for the Rights of Domestic Workers; A Press Release by Tenaganita

"The proposed changes to the Employment Act to ensure that the wages of the domestic worker is paid into a separate bank account of the worker though positive, is only a piecemeal solution to the gamut of problems faced by domestic workers in the country."

This is the opening phrase of the press release statement by Tenaganita, a women and migrant workers organization based in Malaysia with the mission to promote and protect the rights of all women and migrant workers. They have raised concerns over the new legislation and demand clarification on how the wages will be calculated, on the rules for deductions and the specific rights of the domestic workers.

Tenaganita states that "the piecemeal and ad hoc amendments proposed to Section 57A of the Employment Act will in no way eliminate the discrimination faced by domestic workers; the abuse suffered daily in the private domain of employers and in providing them the equal treatment to benefits as enjoyed by all other workers in the country."

For full copy of the press release, visit their website at <http://www.tenaganita.net/>

Statement and solidarity request from DMSC

Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC), a forum of 65,000 sex workers based in West Bengal, India has recently released a call for solidarity explaining the harmful consequences of the proposed Amendment Bill on the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act (ITPA).

Despite protests by sex workers and HIV/AIDS service organizations, the Union Cabinet in India has cleared the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2005 late last year. Ms. Gouri Roy, DMSC Secretary explains that the most contentious provisions are the proposed sections 5A, 5B and 5C that pertain to trafficking. Not only

does the bill fail to segregate trafficking from sex work, it further conflates the two; the new definitions of prostitution and trafficking leave scope for reading all sex work within the meaning of trafficking thereby criminalizing sex work per se. For more details visit their website www.durbar.org

Secretariat News

As many of you know, recruitments for programme and communications positions had started in Dec 2005- January 2006. We are happy to inform you that all the positions have now been filled. Members and friends from the LAC region have already been introduced to Nerea Bilbatua. In the next issue we will introduce all our new colleagues to you.

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 - 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. It does not have a rigid format; while some issues may contain news clips others may have an opinion piece or a report. 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
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GAATW E-bulletin

28 February 2006

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from an expanding team at the International Secretariat!

As you may have noticed, we have a slightly new format for the E-bulletin. We have incorporated some of the valuable feedback you took the time to give in 2005. We will be making more improvements gradually.

In this issue, we bring you news from Ghana, China, Haiti and Estonia and updates from our European member, La Strada International. We also update you on some key consultations we held recently.

As you all know, International Women's Day is coming up on 8th March. If you organise any events which you think would be useful for others to hear about, please do send us some information we could include in the next issue of the E-bulletin.

CODEPINK's Global Call for Peace to end the war in Iraq has now attracted over 45,000 signatures from around the world as well as support from the likes of Alice Walker and Arundhati Roy. The GAATW International Secretariat has also signed on. If you would like sign on, please log on to <http://www.womensaynotowar.org>

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

Ghana Ministry to Set Up Anti-Human Trafficking Fund

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=99899>

The Ghana Ministry of Justice and Attorney - General's Department has announced that it would soon establish a special Fund to provide skills training and capacity building for victims of human trafficking as well as tracing their families. It would also be used for rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration and provision of other material support such as shelter for victims. The Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs will manage the fund.

Unions to help female migrant workers in China

http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/200602/22/eng20060222_244800.html

The All-China Federation of Trade Unions has said that legal rights of female migrants have often been violated. Trade union chiefs are thus now enhancing efforts to prevent female migrant

workers from being overworked, and suffering from occupational diseases and sexual harassment.

Haitian women migrants are now entering the labour market directly without men

<http://www.un-instraw.org/revista/index.php?lang=en&display=interviews&id=1027>

Colette Lespinasse, Coordinator of the Haitian NGO Groupe d'Appui aux Rapatriés et Réfugiés (GARR) (Support Group for Repatriates and Refugees) speaks to the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on the feminisation of Haiti labour migration to the Dominican Republic, the effects of this on the economy and family unit, related NGO efforts and the rights of women within the emerging political context.

Legislative Update

Estonia Approves National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking

In January of this year, Estonia, a significant source country of trafficked women and girls, approved a national plan to prevent human trafficking. The plan covers activities for 2006 – 2009. An important resource for further information on human trafficking in Estonia can be found at: <http://gvnet.com/humantrafficking/Estonia.htm>

REGIONAL UPDATE - FOCUS ON EUROPE

The Regional Update for this issue comes from La Strada International, a GAATW member. In their latest newsletter, La Strada International provides information on the latest from the European region. If you would like to receive a copy of La Strada's newsletter, please write to info@lastradainternational.org.

As part of its continued efforts to fight and prevent trafficking in people, the EU and member states strengthened their commitment by adopting the "[EU Plan on Best Practices, Standards and Procedures for Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings](#)"

However, the Plan is not balanced in its treatment of assistance, protection, return and reintegration and instead focuses on prosecution. La Strada International will continue to work with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit (OSCE ATAU) and other human rights NGOs to stimulate international discussion of the plan and follow developments around it.

The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking on Human Beings continues to gain new signatories. The Convention must be ratified by 10 member states before it can be entered into force. You can assist in the campaign for additional member support of the Convention through Anti Slavery's email campaign.

<http://www.antislavery.org/homepage/campaign/coebackground.htm>

A High Level dialogue has been planned for this year by the UN's General Assembly on the relationship between international migration and development. La Strada International plans to follow this dialogue closely and gauge how migrant workers rights can be incorporated into the broader trafficking debate.

La Strada's Website: <http://www.lastradainternational.org/>

We would love to hear from members about updates on their work. 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.

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

“How far have we gone, where do we go from here?” A Consultation Meeting held on 11-12 February 2006

On 11-12 February some founding members of GAATW, members of the Asian Women's Human Rights Council (AWHRC), members of the GAATW international board and staff of GAATW International Secretariat held a consultation meeting. This meeting was held to discuss the dominant anti-trafficking model and its impacts on the rights of trafficked people and migrant workers in the informal economy. Participants in the meeting agreed that a major trend which dominates the anti-trafficking discourse and approach is still that of not differentiating prostitution from trafficking. Another is the “blanket approach” to “rescue” missions and deportation of migrant workers and trafficked people without any long-term and comprehensive plans for them. There is also a predominant top-down approach towards grassroots groups and the affected population. These discussions echoed many of the concerns previously raised by some colleagues. However, it was felt that no systematic data has yet been gathered on these issues. The consultation mandated GAATW Secretariat to hold structured discussions on these topics with member organisations and like-minded people in various parts of the world and collect concrete evidence for future collective advocacy. The Secretariat is currently discussing this via email with members in different regions.

Consultation with South Asian Member Organisations 14-17 February 2006

GAATW's member groups from Bangladesh, India and Nepal held a meeting in Shantiniketan, West Bengal, India to discuss the regional situation and its impact on their activism. In the last few years, the region has seemed to be making progress economically and many so-called development initiatives are currently under way. However, rise of fundamentalism, instability in the systems of governance, loss of livelihood among a large group of population and displacement have affected people's lives. While the governments are paying lip service to human rights obligations, in reality, the basic rights of many people are being violated by the states on a daily basis. Although there has been a proliferation of anti-trafficking initiatives in the region over the last few years, almost all groups focus exclusively on prostitution. This focus has made the lives of prostitutes extremely difficult because they are merely fodder for sensationalist media, ego-boosters for the so-called 'rescuers/saviours' whose work begins and ends with the raids and rescues. These initiatives also allow the governments to turn a blind eye on their own actions which fuel trafficking. The South Asian groups formed a regional working group with Ms Natasha Ahmad, Ms Bishakha Bhanja and Ms Sandhya Shrestha as members to work on a report documenting the concerns of the group and outlining proposed future strategies. Some members of the working group, a representative from Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal and a representative from GAATW Secretariat will hold a follow up meeting at WSF Karachi and later in the year in Sri Lanka to connect with other members and people working on these issues.

Who's new to our Team

We welcome five new colleagues to the Secretariat team this year. We have Isabel and Gerardine who are now in the Communications and Information Unit, and for the Program Unit we have Nerea, Michelle and Eleanor.

What's new on our website

The GAATW “**Human Rights and Trafficking in Persons**” Handbook is now available in Portuguese and Spanish. PDF copies are available on our website.

Information about our **planned activities for the year 2006** is now available on our website under "GAATW 2005-7". Members will also be informed about the upcoming events via email.

Profiles of GAATW Secretariat staff can be viewed on our website in the "Contact Us" section.

RESOURCES

The National MultiCultural Institute (NMCI) has launched a groundbreaking web portal, www.humantraffickingsearch.net that provides over 15,000 web entries of informational resources on issues related to human trafficking and modern-day slavery from around the world. This is useful for quick research purposes.

Ten Ways to Protect Undocumented Migrant Workers

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

The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants has published this report which presents detailed information obtained from nearly 50 NGOs, trade unions and other actors working with and advocating for undocumented workers, both in Europe and in the United States. PICUM presented this report to the European Parliament in October 2005. Although it is based on cases in the US and Europe, it is still useful reading for members working on migrant worker issues elsewhere.

Protocol for Identification and Assistance to Trafficked Persons

<http://www.antislavery.org/homepage/resources/PDF/Protocoltraffickedpersonskit2005.pdf>

Anti-Slavery International has published a training kit for front-line workers on identifying trafficked persons. The manual includes lists of indicators, checklists and recommends questions for interviewing trafficked people and would especially be useful for members providing direct assistance.

Does feminist mean large unpleasant person who'll shout at you or someone who believes women are human beings. To me it's the latter, so I sign up.
~ Margaret Atwood

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GAATW E-bulletin

14 March 2006

Dear Members and Friends,

We hope you had an eventful International Women's Day. It's that time of the year so we have been busy with accounts and preparing our annual report. In this issue, we report on some of our members' IWD activities, bring you news from Georgia, Singapore and South Africa and several bilateral initiatives on trafficking. Our regional focus for this issue is Europe. We have also included information on the European Social Forum and an international fundraising workshop.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

In December 2004, the President of Georgia signed a presidential decree for a two-year action plan against trafficking but there has been little implementation. Not only that, there are signs that the **trafficking situation in Georgia is worsening**. There is detailed information in the article below on the failure of enforcement agencies as well as victims' fear towards coming forward since there is no guarantee for witnesses and furthermore, law enforcement bodies are involved in trafficking operations:

<http://www.tol.cz/look/TOL/article.tpl?IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=4&NrIssue=156&NrSection=3&NrArticle=15895>

South Africa's laws have been found to be inadequate in tackling its trafficking problem.

Researchers say this translates to "a low level of legislative knowledge on the victim's behalf, victim's fears, scarce resources, corruption and complicity as well as poor inter-country information sharing": <http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=27772>

Singapore has rejected calls for a mandatory domestic worker's day off saying it would "inconvenience" families:

This is despite a Human Rights Watch report on the abuses suffered by migrant domestic workers released in December 2005: <http://hrw.org/reports/2005/singapore1205/>. However, two domestic worker accreditation bodies have independently stipulated that new employment contracts will provide for one day off per month: <http://www.todayonline.com/articles/105798.asp>

Transnational Cooperation

The **Australian Federal Police** (AFP) have signed a historic **law enforcement agreement** with the **Vietnamese and Cambodian police** on terrorism, human trafficking, money laundering and paedophilia.

Bilateral cooperation between Malta and Croatia on trade as well as human trafficking has been planned

The seven-member **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation will form a task force on human trafficking**. They have observed that the problem has increased in the poverty-stricken region and that governments should form joint strategies to tackle it.

Legislative Update

Sri Lanka is now amending its penal code to strengthen laws against human trafficking. Although trafficking is already in its penal code, its definition is too limited for effective legal action. IOM has said that "Prosecutions were conducted by linking to other offences and not filed as trafficking". The changes will also help in the implementation of the UN convention against trafficking in persons that Sri Lanka has signed but not ratified.

REGIONAL UPDATE - FOCUS ON EUROPE

Nerea from the International Secretariat met up with the Proyecto Esperanza (PE) team, which is part of the GAATW European Network in Madrid. PE offers direct assistance to female survivors of trafficking, supports reintegration or safe return, raises awareness and does analytical work on trafficking. On 3rd March, Nerea attended the launch of the first issue of their magazine "Voces contra la trata de mujeres" (Voices against trafficking in women). This magazine will be published twice a year and will address trafficking in women in Spain from a plurality of perspectives. The magazine will provide information to the general public, but will also serve as a forum where all stakeholders (from NGOs to governmental institutions and trafficked women themselves) can share their experiences and opinions about different topics. For more information: voces@proyectoesperanza.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.

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Evaluation and Refresher Training. Sanayar-Thi-Pan Women's Centre Mae-Sot, Thailand, 21-26 February 2006

Established in 2004, Sanayar-Thi-Pan Women's Centre is a Burmese migrant workers self-help centre on the Thai-Burma border. Set up with the initiative of the participants of a research project of GAATW IS, Sanayar-Thi-Pan is currently a member organisation of GAATW. June from the Secretariat went to the Centre to take stock of the impact of their work as well as to do a short refresher course for the peer educators there. The centre is now serving over 60 women per

month on-site and over 400 per annum through outreach. Although initially set out to empower women on self-help health concepts, the centre is now gradually dealing with women with other psycho-social problems or difficult living/working conditions including forced labour. Interventions are in-depth and holistic and hence take up a considerable amount of time. But the effects are showing. For example, women are coming in at earlier stages of illnesses and some are not silently putting up with domestic violence anymore. The Centre is currently run by one coordinator and three volunteer peer educators who all refreshed their conceptual and practical skills through June's sessions with them.

World Social Forum Regional Workshop, 26 – 27 February 2006, Bangkok

A few staff attended the WSF regional workshop and preparatory meeting for the WSF Bangkok which is scheduled for October 2006. This would be the first time a WSF event is taking place in Southeast Asia. The workshop was attended by several Thai NGOs and people's movement groups as well as participants from regional countries such as South Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Australia. The IS will keep member organisations updated about the process and programme of WSF, Thailand.

SPECIAL MEMBER UPDATES ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, 8 MARCH AND INTERNATIONAL SEX WORKERS' DAY, 3 MARCH

- La Strada launched a prevention and awareness campaign on IWD, announcing that **up to 10,000 Polish women fall victim to human traffickers every year**. See <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=199&sid=173199>
- The **Sanayar-Thi-Pan Women's Centre at Mae Sot** held their first International Women's Day event in the form of a Sports Day on 5 March. The objectives of the event were to offer a space for the women to come together and have fun but also to incorporate messages on health and self-help into the programme. More than 200 women and girls turned up. The women were thrilled with having organised their first major event successfully by themselves. Bandana and June from the International Secretariat travelled to Mae Sot to lend them moral support and were heartened by the organisation of the event and the turnout. One woman leader who had helped with the organising shared her joy of having seen a few women who had attempted suicide and received counselling at the Centre, at the Sports Day having fun playing games. It was a sign of them engaging with life again...
- One of GAATW's member groups in India, the Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee has planned a series of week-long activities in conjunction with International Sex Workers' Day on 3 March. This involves cultural activities, leafletting, demonstrations, a meeting with the Chief Minister, sharing of experiences by sex workers on violence against them as well as workshops on negotiation and advocacy. For information on Durbar, log on to <http://www.durbar.org/>

RESOURCES

UNESCAP has published a discussion paper, "**Violence against and Trafficking in Women as Symptoms of Discrimination: The Potential of CEDAW as an Antidote**".

<http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Publication/DiscussionPapers/17/DiscussionPaper17.pdf>

The **digital library** at www.childtrafficking.com has been updated. Although its name suggests a single focus on children, it has excellent resources on women. Categories include “Care and Support”, “Reintegration”, and “Sex work”. Groups providing direct assistance may find some useful materials here. And it has several country reports under “Trafficking”. Highly recommended website.

The **ILO news search** has the latest news (it is updated by the minute!) on migration and trafficking from around the world. They include a list of key words that are useful for searches. <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/support/lib/resources/newsfeed.htm>

Events

The **European Social Forum** will be held in Athens, Greece from 4-7 May 2006. For more information, please log on to <http://www.fse-esf.org/>. For the report of the Migration and Racism groups, see http://www.fse-esf.org/article.php3?id_article=159 and for the report of the Women’s Network Meetings, see http://www.fse-esf.org/article.php3?id_article=155. For analytical articles on past ESFs, see <http://www.euromovements.info/newsletter/>

The **7th International Workshop on Resource Mobilisation (IWRM)** will be held at the Ambassador Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand on 5th - 7th May 2006. It is the leading local resource mobilisation event in the Global South. You save \$50 if you book by 1st April. <http://www.resource-alliance.org/index.php>

If individuals trace their ancestry back far enough, it is clear that we are all migrants, with a mix of blood running in our veins. Human relationships are not defined by lines on a map. This personal realization snaps the brittle links between people and national or racial superiority. It breaks the idea of a rigid homogenous nation completely, leaving space to mould new forms of society where migrants are accepted as 'us' not 'them'. - Anouk Ride, New Internationalist, Issue 305

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GAATW E-bulletin

Mach 28, 2005

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from GAATW International Secretariat.

This issue of the e-bulletin comes to you with an invitation. We are inviting you to take a tiny break from your work and share a story with your fellow members and friends. The story should focus on an experience of 'border crossing'. For many of us border crossings have been anything but easy, even when we have all the legal papers to prove our legitimacy. Working with migrant workers, sex workers, domestic workers and trafficked women we also know that border crossings are far more traumatic for those who have much less formal education and other social privileges than us.

In meetings, seminars and conferences we have heard women narrate their experiences with unhelpful, rude and arrogant officials who interrogate them about completely irrelevant things. Sadly, sometimes we are told that those 'rude remarks and interrogations' are part of the anti-trafficking measures which the airlines and immigration officials might be taking. And once in a way, we have heard of incidents where either the officials or the people around have been very helpful assisting the person with the language and explaining why certain questions are being asked.

We are inviting you to share your own experience or an incident which you have observed at a border crossing point. It could also be a true story you have heard from someone else. These would be valuable for all us in getting a sense of the treatment that people, especially women of a certain social class, or from certain countries, or even of certain religious affiliations are currently facing. We can find out whether such treatments are one off incidents or really wide spread. And if indeed these 'treatments' are part of anti-trafficking initiatives we will need to raise awareness about humane and human rights based treatment. The happy experiences will serve as examples that border crossings do not really need to be so stressful.

Here is a story from the GAATW Secretariat:

This happened in 2001, at the Bangkok International airport while 5 of us were on our way to Venice for an event organized by Comitato, Italy. Our team had one GAATW Secretariat staff, two colleagues from EMPOWER, Bangkok, one colleague from Cambodia Prostitutes Union and one colleague from Cambodia Women's Development Agency.

All of us had our valid travel documents and confirmed tickets. We were all excited to be on this trip to one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It was a late night flight on Alitalia. We reached the airport two hours before the flight time, went to the check-in counter, presented the travel documents and tickets and waited. It seemed the process was taking much longer than it should. After nearly 20 minutes of going through all our papers, the man at the desk looked perplexed and made a telephone call. We did not understand what was going on and asked him if anything was wrong. He told us that he had asked an immigration person on duty to come and help him. It was not clear whether the person he had called was from any particular embassy and what his/her role would be.

A few minutes later a European woman came to the desk and started examining our papers. She flipped through every page of our passports and looked at them through a magnifying glass muttering under her breath all along. We were waiting, confused, worried and quite irritated. It felt as if they did not owe us any explanation or as if we did not exist for them. When this process of examination did not seem to end, finally one of us asked what the matter was and if there was any problem. The woman put down the magnifying glasses and looked surprised by the question.

'The problem,' she said rather severely, 'is that the airlines would not be able to let people travel without adequate documentation.' 'But then whose documentation is inadequate', we asked her. She sounded frustrated now, 'Oh, I am not sure why all of you are traveling. What you would be doing there.' 'But then the visa and passport will not give you all the details, will they? Why didn't you ask us directly and politely?', we said angrily and quickly rummaged through our bags for various papers that would prove our 'authenticity'. We told her about the organisations we work in and what we do. We gave her as many details as we could. She had more questions for the Thai women than for others and we told her to talk to the coordinator of EMPOWER on the mobile phone if she wanted. Finally, she decided that we could go. There were people looking at us from the other check-in counters. Before the woman left she looked at the GAATW IS staff said, 'madam, you work in an anti-trafficking organisation, so I am sure you will appreciate what I was doing.' 'I am sorry, I don't appreciate bad manners and harassment,' the GAATW staff replied. She did not bother to respond and walked out.

We now turned to the Thai desk clerk who was looking rather sheepish by that time. "So what made you suspicious about us," we asked him. He talked about a training he had undergone to stop trafficking, and added that he knew many poor women from Thailand go abroad for prostitution. While he did not think that it mattered, his boss had asked him to alert the immigration if anyone looked suspicious. He would lose his job if anything went wrong.

We took our boarding passes and left him to do his job. We had many questions and not as many answers. Yes, he might lose his job if the airlines detects a forged passport or visa at the destination point. Yes, airlines and immigration officials do

need to check documents properly—but how would he know if someone was really being trafficked but did not ‘look’ suspicious to him? He will be suspicious of women from his own country or from other poorer countries but will not worry about others who he does think of as ‘poor’. And the lady immigration officer, would she have talked to others who ‘looked like they are born to travel the world’? As for anti-trafficking trainings, we wondered, what ‘techniques of interception’ the resource persons had discussed in it.

So that was our story. We would like to hear from you.

Send your comments and stories to gaatw@gaatw.org

Until the next issue, good bye.

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**GAATW E-bulletin
28 April 2006**

Dear Members and Friends,

We hope you had a good Songkran, New Year or Easter! Due to the extended holiday, we are sending out this e-bulletin a little later than usual. The next e-bulletin will be disseminated on 14 May.

We are fortunate to have had many visitors and friends at the IS in the last few weeks. We enjoyed listening to them about their work as well as exchanging ideas and information with them. We also had our interim board meeting recently. News highlights are from Europe and Asia. Under resources, we have included information on a report on funding for the women's rights movement as well as a newly released publication on Indonesian domestic workers.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

There is a possibility of a **unified European Centre for Human Trafficking** to be based in Bulgaria. The centre will develop new anti-trafficking strategies. It will also collect and analyse data, protect victims and co-ordinate international efforts.

http://www.sofiaecho.com/article/european-anti-human-trafficking-centre-likely-established-in-bulgaria/id_14482/catid_66

Kosovo moves from being transit to destination country. Some of the factors contributing to this are reported to be the transition the country is undergoing now, unemployment, poverty, movement of population and dysfunctional families.

<http://see.oneworld.net/article/view/129822/1/>

Finland is setting up two **support centres for trafficked survivors**. Finland has been reported to be a transit country for trafficking.

<http://www.yle.fi/news/left/id30900.html>

The **Indonesian Government** has started a **crackdown on labour smuggling rings**. Thousands of Indonesians are reported to be working in sweatshops and as prostitutes in the Middle East.

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/yesterdaydetail.asp?fileid=20060324.C02>

Transnational Cooperation

- Malta and Bulgaria are to sign an agreement to work together to fight human trafficking and strengthen ties on tourism and trade.
- Nepal has expressed interest in learning from Vietnam's experiences in dealing with poverty reduction, gender equality and human trafficking. (Source: Vietnam News Agency)

Legislative Update

The UAE has announced plans to amend labour law that would allow unionisation, the possibility of strike action and collective bargaining with employers. This came after recent protests by migrant workers over the exploitative conditions under which they work.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO0604/S00108.htm>

REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATE

The **GAATW Latin American and Caribbean Consultation** is now in progress at the Dominican Republic. Many of our Latin American members are participating in this. Look out for a more detailed update on this in the next issue of the E-bulletin.



Cover of Booklet on Fertility Awareness

The **Sa Na Yar Thi Pan Women's Centre in Mae Sot** has taken their own initiative to produce **informational booklets on self-care** for women at the Centre. So far they have produced a booklet on fertility awareness and one on health care, specifically anemia. The handy booklets are full of illustrations, easy to read and tap on indigenous knowledge of cheap and easily available food/herbs that can help the women deal with certain health issues themselves. If you are working with rural Burmese communities which may benefit from these booklets, please contact the GAATW IS.

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.

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Visit by Dechen Tsering from one of GAATW's donor agencies, **Global Fund for Women**, GAATW IS office, 25 March 2006

It was a real pleasure to meet Dechen who shared with us more about the Global Fund's work in Asia and was interested to know about our work, our members and the anti-trafficking landscape.

Conceptual Clarity Orientation Session for New Staff by Elaine Pearson, Consultant with ILO, GAATW IS office, 30 March 2006

Elaine, a former GAATW-IS staff, spent the afternoon discussing concepts in trafficking for the new staff touching on key issues such as the link between migration and trafficking and the whole concept of “demand” in trafficking. You can read one of Elaine’s works on “demand” in a publication from the ILO The Mekong Challenge series, “Human Trafficking: Redefining Demand”. <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/child/trafficking/downloads/demand.pdf>

Highlights of GAATW Board Meeting, Bangkok, 31 March – 1 April 2006

On the first day of the Board Meeting, all staff met with Nelia Sancho, Usa Lerdsrisuntad and Sereyphal Kien to understand more about their work and the trafficking situation in their respective countries. The second day of the meeting was planned to discuss the activities of GAATW during 2005-7, to share the auditor’s report for 2005, the operational budget of 2006 and also to talk about a few issues regarding the current board. One of the things that was decided was that a few of the board members will be working with staff on specific issues such as prevention, regional advocacy in Asia etc.

Shelley Preece from [Legal Support for Children and Women](#), 7 April 2006

Shelley shared with us the findings of her research into the situation of Cambodian Migrant Workers in Klong Yai District in Trad, Thailand. An abridged version of her report can be found at http://www.lscw.org/images/situational_analysis_for_web.pdf

Visit by Kees van den Berg from [Interchurch organisation for development co-operation \(ICCO\)](#), another donor agency of GAATW, 11 April 2006

We were also delighted to meet with Kees who shared with us about ICCO’s approach to working with partner groups. Beyond providing funds, ICCO aims to enable its partners to exchange information and best practices and work together where possible.

RESOURCES

Events

The **High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development will take place on 14 and 15 September 2006 in New York at UN Headquarters**. This is to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimise its negative impacts. In relation to this, the General Assembly will hold **informal interactive hearings with representatives of NGOs, civil society organisations and the private sector on 12 July 2006** at United Nations headquarters in New York. The objective of these hearings is to enable NGOs, civil society and the private sector to interact with Member States and offer input for the High-level Dialogue. The deadline for sending in the application form is **5 May 2006**. For more details: http://www.un.org/esa/population/hldmigration/NGO_Hearings.html

The International Museum of Women, with the Global Fund for Women, has launched an interesting online event, “**Imagining Ourselves**” celebrating the voices of women in their 20s and 30s. It is a beautiful website full of stories, conversations, information and resources. It includes several global events in South America, North America, Middle East, North Africa and Europe. Each month, over a four-month period, focuses on a different theme. You can also post your own stories and comments.

Main site:

<http://imaginingourselves.imow.org/pb/Welcome.aspx>

Event listings:

<http://imaginingourselves.imow.org/pb/EventListings.aspx?lang=1>

Reports

"Where is the money for women's rights? Assessing the resources and the role of donors in the promotion of women's rights and the support of women's rights organizations" is an action research report by the Association of Women's Rights in Development especially for women's rights groups who would like to understand better the donor landscape and try some different strategies on fundraising.

http://www.awid.org/go.php?pg=where_is_money

Books

"Dreamseekers: Indonesian Women as Domestic Workers in Asia" is a newly launched book published by Equinox Publishing in collaboration with the ILO. It is based on first hand accounts of the domestic workers but also includes views of other players such as employers, agents and NGOs.

<http://www.equinoxpublishing.com/dreamseekers/default.htm>

"When the United States, Canada, and Mexico entered into the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) they created an instrument to facilitate the crossborder movement of money and goods but ignored the third ingredient of production: human beings."
Laura Carlsen, directs the Americas Program of the International Relations Center

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**GAATW E-bulletin
19 May 2006**

Dear Members and Friends,

This has been one of the busiest periods for the IS with fieldtrips and consultations. Hence the slightly delayed edition. New staff members who went on the trip to Mae Sot to learn about the plight of Burmese women workers there found it to be an extremely humbling experience. We also had a successful consultation with Latin American and Caribbean groups and are now gearing up full-speed for the Self-Organised Groups meeting next week. As almost all staff will be involved in the meeting next week, we'll bring you the next e-bulletin on 14 June.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

Freedom From Debt Bondage in Sight. For 17 years Pakistan's brick kiln owners have defied Supreme Court orders and legislation banning the practice of 'peshgi' (debt bondage) that mean workers are slaves with no rights. However, an eight day strike of two million brick workers has brought about compromises from brick kiln owners and promises from the government that observers hope will lead to better working standards. (Zofeen T. Ebrahim, IPS News, 28 April 2006) <http://www.dev-zone.org/cgi-bin/knowledge/jump.cgi?ID=10246>

Thwarting slavery. In the recent UN report titled "Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns", Israel was among the top 10 nations identified as destination countries into which victims are being smuggled. Statistics shows that an estimated 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked across the borders each year. It was cited that there is a need for more resources and support such as legal, medical and psychological services for victims.

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1145961234432&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

27 nations meet in Peru to discuss international migration. The International Ministerial Conference for Developing Nations with International Migrant Flows aimed to create agreements and recommendations together with developed nations, which receive the greatest number of migrants. An agreement called the Lima Declaration, which will be vital for the UN migration and development conference in September, is expected as the end result of the conference. http://english.people.com.cn/200605/16/eng20060516_266061.html

Indonesian maids to get better protection in Malaysia after an agreement was signed recently by the Southeast Asian neighbours. In the new agreement, Indonesian domestic workers will now deal directly with their employers. Monetary deductions for travel and work documents will be paid first by their employers to the agency, which later on is deducted from the worker's salary.

Transnational Cooperation

A global cooperation agreement was made between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Ricky Martin Foundation (RMF). The aim is to raise awareness in combating human trafficking especially on children and minors.

<http://etna.mcot.net/query.php?nid=21810>

Legislative Update

The Canadian Federal Government has adopted **new measures that will assist human trafficking victims**. The government support will include the issuance of temporary resident permits for up to 120 days and access to health care benefits.

http://www.680news.com/news/local/article.jsp?content=20060511_124856_5044

REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATE

The **International Center "La Strada" Moldova** has released the second issue of La Strada Express focusing on the **problem of identification of trafficked persons**. This issue suggests the new systems approach and hopes to provide the basis for theoretical discussions among specialists, conceptualisation in the area of victim identification as well as to eliminate gaps in the practical activity/level. For more information, contact Tatiana Fomina at analytics@lastrada.md

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.

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

From 25 to 30 April, 23 participants from 16 organisations attended the **GAATW Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Consultation** held in the Dominican Republic. Nerea and Bandana represented the GAATW Secretariat and met with the organisations from Latin America; Cord Aid, a Dutch donor NGO; and representatives from Proyecto Esperanza, Spain and La Strada International, The Netherlands. During the meeting, Fanny Polania, a GAATW Board Member, facilitated the workshop on GAATW's Human Rights and Trafficking in Persons Handbook while La Strada International gave a workshop on Networking in Latin America. A consensus was made to come up with a LAC Chapter within GAATW and create a Coordinating Committee. The Secretariat will work closely with the Committee in order to strengthen the newly created chapter.

GFW Summit on Human Trafficking

Bandana attended the Summit on Human Trafficking: Critique and New Strategies held from May 1-2, 2006 at the Open Society Institute in Manhattan. The summit, sponsored by the Global Fund for Women (GFW), aimed at addressing the approach of the US government with regards to human trafficking and at evaluating the current understandings about human trafficking within a broad framework of labor migration, human rights, women's rights, HIV/AIDS and globalisation. The two-day meeting was attended by a select group of anti-trafficking, human rights, labor rights, health rights and women's rights advocates and academics. The summit resulted in the creation of seven working groups that will facilitate further collaborative action. On May 3, GFW and the Council on Foreign

Relations U.S.A coorganized a Symposium on Human Trafficking in three consecutive sessions. The first panel which sought to provide an overview of the main conceptual and pragmatic issues was moderated by Isobel Coleman (Director of the U.S. Foreign Policy and Women Program at CFR) with Ann Jordan (Director, Initiative against Trafficking in Persons, Global Rights), Neha Mishra (Global Coordinator, Counter Trafficking Programs, American Center for International Labor Solidarity) and Jyoti Sanghera (Adviser on Trafficking, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) as panelists. The second panel focussing on the intersection of trafficking and health and security was moderated by Nicholas Kristof of the New York Times with Sarah E. Mendelson (Senior Fellow, Russia and Eurasia Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies) Alice Miller (Professor, Department of Population and Family Health, School Of Public Health, Columbia University) and Joy Zarembka (Director, Break the Chain) as panellists. The final session was a lunch with Ambassador John Miller from the US State Department, who's the State Department's point person on trafficking. Kavita Ramdass, President and CEO of the Global Fund for Women moderated a conversation with Ambassador John Miller on U.S. policies on human trafficking. The audio tapes and rush transcripts of the May 3 Symposium can be accessed at the CFR website <http://www.cfr.org/publication/10603/us_foreign_policy_and_women_symposium.html>

Staff Exposure Trip to visit the NGOs in Mae Sot, 8-10 May 2006

June organised a staff orientation and exposure trip for all staff in Mae Sot, located along the Thai-Burma border in the northern province of Thailand. The trip consisted of field visits and interaction with the staff of the Maesot Women's Centre (a GAATW member), Maetao Clinic and the Social Action for Women (SAW). All groups are doing exceptional work in providing support for migrants within the community. The trip also provided staff the opportunity to observe the outreach activities of the Mae Sot Women's Center.

Visit to SWING, 4 May 2006

IS Staff had an interesting discussion with Surang, the director of **Service Workers IN Group (SWING)**. She shared with us her in-depth experience of working with sex workers in Thailand. SWING supports their members through knowledge building, access to their information center and training.

Our Upcoming Events in May-June:

- 2nd Annual Meeting with Self-Organised Women Organisations: Getting our Voices Heard, 23-29 May, Thailand
- Access to Justice Consultation, 7-9 June 2006, Bangkok, Thailand

RESOURCES

Reports

People trafficking: upholding rights and understanding vulnerabilities. The latest issue of [Forced Migration Review](#) (FMR) includes 22 articles on trafficking-related issues from a range of UN agencies, civil society and human rights organisations, government agencies, NGOs and researchers. FMR25 can be accessed free of charge, either as a [single pdf](#) (3mb) or by [individual article](#). For more details, contact the editors at fmr@geh.ox.ac.uk

Books

Strengthening Protection of Migrant Workers and their Families with International Human Rights Treaties – A do-it-yourself Kit

27/04/06 - A recent publication by ICMC on migrant issues in the Treaty Monitoring Bodies of the UN. It will be available on [ICMC website](#).

Women's Empowerment: An Annotated Bibliography

Compiled by E. Esplen, S. Heerah, and C. Hunter, and published by BRIDGE and the IDS Research Programme Consortium (RPC).

http://www.siyanda.org/docs/bridge_rpc_empowerbiblio.doc

"One of the most unsettling things about human trafficking and domestic violence is that they happen in front of us in our neighbourhoods, which is why community-based prevention is imperative in ensuring that women and children are safe from violence," said Roselyne C Swig, summit co-chair and founder of Partners Ending Domestic Abuse.

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Human Rights Groups Announce Future Strategy for Access to Justice for Victims of Human Trafficking

Press Release from GAATW Secretariat – 6 June 2006

Human rights lawyers, victim-protection NGOs, police, prosecutors and survivors of human trafficking from 11 countries (Thailand, Cambodia, India, The Netherlands, Spain, Ukraine, Russia, Nigeria, Brazil, Mexico and the United States) **will meet in Bangkok, Thailand, 7-9 June**, to work towards adopting a common plan of action to realize their vision of **equal access to justice for all victims of trafficking**.

Human trafficking has risen to prominence in recent years as one of the key human rights issues of our time. Governments have responded with tough criminal laws, police training, and a push to prosecute offenders. However, in practice, victims of human trafficking still find it near to impossible to access the justice system. When they do, the process is often retraumatizing and victims end up with nothing; the profits from the traffickers' crime have vanished into thin air.

The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women, a human rights-based international organisation based in Bangkok, will gather together international teams who have successfully brought trafficking cases to the courts. The meeting will analyze how the victims and their lawyers managed to obtain justice, and what the impact of the legal process was on them. Six survivors of human trafficking will share their experiences to the group.

The international gathering is a critical step forward from developing macro level policies, to designing simple practical measures that can change people's lives. It will focus on the treatment of victims of trafficking by law enforcement, and the right to receive compensation or damages for serious human rights violations. Honoring the rights of victims to a financial remedy can allow victims to start their lives afresh, reducing the risk of stepping back into the net of poverty and trafficking. The meeting will also mark the start of a stronger international legal network to fight the injustice caused by human trafficking.

For more information, write to us at gaatw@gaatw.org

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GAATW E-bulletin

14 June 2006

Dear Members and Friends,

It's a special time to be in Thailand as it celebrates the 60th anniversary of King Bhumibol Aduljadej. People are in patriotic yellow t-shirts, wear "Long Live the King" wrist-bands, the Chao Phraya river comes alive for the Royal Barge ceremony and dignitaries from around the world are coming to join in the festivities – all reminders of how celebration is a wonderful part of being human. It is an especially important thing to do for us who wrestle daily with the downside side of human nature.

The whirlwind of events at the IS is quietening down for now. Our challenge now lies in making the outcomes and plans of the many conversations happen.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

Burmese forced labour activist freed

Su Su Nway, a key Burmese activist who fought against forced labour in Burma was released from jail on 6 June. Su Su Nway is the first person in Burma to have successfully sued her local authority members over forced labour practices. But she was counter-sued and sentenced to 18 months in prison for defamation. 'I am fine but I don't feel happy or sad about my release because forced labour in Burma still exists. I will continue fighting against forced labour and all kinds of human rights abuses', Su Su Nway told the Democratic Voice of Burma. For more information, see

<http://english.dvb.no/news.php?id=7213>

Sweden to appoint special ambassador on human trafficking

The Ambassador, whose name will be announced soon, will work with international and multilateral organisations, other countries and development bodies. Sweden has appointed such special ambassadors for terrorism, human rights and humanitarian work before.

Transnational Cooperation

While transnational cooperation is vital in dealing with trafficking or migration, and it may seem encouraging to see MOUs often being signed, a local grassroots activist perspective sometimes enables us to question the real impact of some of these agreements. Solidaritas Perempuan, an Indonesian NGO, has seriously called into question the recent Memorandum of Understanding

between the Governments of Indonesia and Malaysia on migrant workers. It reports that the MOU supports the interests of employers and recruitment agencies more than female migrant domestic workers. For the full statement, please log on to our website and for more information, contact SP at soliper@centrin.net.id.
<http://gaatw.net/content/view/288/1/>

The **US Trafficking in Persons Report 2006** has been released:
<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/66086.pdf>

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Self-Organised Groups 2nd Annual Meeting “Getting our Voices Heard”, 22-29 May, Suphanburi

GAATW's self-organised member groups comprising migrant workers, trafficking survivors and sex workers participated in training on health, counselling and self-help by facilitators, Sabala and Kranti. Nancy (from Action for Reach Out, Hong Kong) delivered a lively session on public speaking and the representatives from San Yar Thi Pan Women's Centre in Mae Sot ran a herbal remedies workshop which the participants could not get enough of! Bandana from the IS also led discussions on empowerment, sustainability and self-sufficiency, getting the groups to reveal some of their greatest challenges. Plans are now underway to try and secure funding for another Training of Trainers workshop for the SOGs. Please log on to our website to read more about the meeting. Congratulations to June on organising a successful meeting that is paving the way for a more strengthened self-organised membership.



Women actively creating their future: Participants at the 2nd Annual SOG meeting

CAT III meeting: Networking the networks, from 29 to 31 May/06, Utrecht The Netherlands, organised by The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME)

This meeting was part of the Project “Human trafficking: New Challenges, new partnerships” by Christian Action and Networking against Trafficking in Women (CAT). Bandana and Nerea participated in it. Some of the key highlights of the meeting were

- The mapping out of European anti-trafficking networks, what various bodies are doing and what the main challenges in the European anti-trafficking context are
- Exchange of information on advocacy
- Information on the Dutch anti-trafficking scenario and networks as well as common advocacy in The Netherlands.

It was agreed that information on key events/meetings and their outcomes in Europe will be shared among participants on a regular basis. Especially important for the GAATW IS was to have had the opportunity to meet in person people from organisations we have been communicating regularly with, to gain first-hand information on the anti-trafficking scenario in Europe as well as the burning issues that are being discussed at the European level.

Informal meeting with some of the GAATW European member organisations, 1 June, The Netherlands

Taking advantage of the CAT meeting, a one-day informal meeting with some of the GAATW European member organisations was organised. It was an occasion for sharing information between the IS and the participants, discussing common issues for future advocacy, discussing possibilities for undertaking a common regional report and strengthening the coordination between the IS and the European members.

Access to Justice workshop, 7-9 June 2006, Trang Hotel, Bangkok

Human rights lawyers, victim-protection NGOs, police, prosecutors and survivors of human trafficking from 10 countries met at a GAATW-organised event in Bangkok. The highlight of the event was having a great diversity of voices from around the world sharing experiences from their different perspectives, and particularly hearing from survivors of trafficking who displayed extraordinary courage and determination in their efforts to seek justice. Although teams came from different social and legal contexts, they sought to find common ground and it was clear that they had the same ideals and frustrations. In the end we arrived at shared goals and strategies for increasing access to justice for victims of trafficking. Some of the planned outcomes of the event are a plan for a press release, followed by a report on the consultation and a short 'common paper' outlining our findings and advocacy goals. At the same time, the IS will begin creating an online database to facilitate the sharing of information, cases, contacts and key documents on access to justice, to which all members will contribute.

We thank Jackie Pollock and Elaine Pearson for facilitating two of the sessions of the workshop. We also express our deep gratitude to Elaine, Siriporn Skrobanek, Anne Gallagher, Uthaiwan Jamsutee and Usa Lerdsrisantad for their conceptual advice in designing this workshop. The team at IS celebrates Eleanor and Nerea's successful organisation of this groundbreaking event!

RESOURCES

Events

Money & Movements, 9-11 November 2006, Oaxaca, Mexico by AWID and Semillas.

This is a follow-up to AWID's excellent report, "Where is the money for women's rights?". This meeting of the women's rights movement aims towards cutting-edge dialogue on funding challenges, opportunities and strategies.

<http://www.awid.org/moneyandmovements/>

Conference on "**Emerging Issues and New Challenges: Gender and Human Rights Issues in Southeast Asia including Transitional Societies of the Mekong Subregion (Thailand, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar)**" by WARI (Women's Action & Resource Initiative). The aim of this conference is to analyse women's socio-economic roles, their changing contexts and opportunities, and the efforts made by governments and NGOs to enhance their contributions. Bandana from the GAATW IS will speak in a panel on "*Gender, Migration, Trafficking and Women's Work*".

<http://geocities.com/wari9/conference2006.htm>

Reports

Report of the UN Secretary-General on International Migration and Development

http://www.un.org/esa/population/hldmigration/Text/Report_of_the_SG%28June06%29_English.pdf

This is critical reading for all involved in migration work. The report argues that migration can be beneficial to destination countries and countries of origin but that this depends on the rights of migrants being respected. It also reveals the various new ways in which Governments are handling this global phenomenon. The report also proposes a standing forum for Governments to use on exploring and comparing policy approaches.

Call for Papers

An upcoming issue of **Forced Migration Review** will feature a section on *Sexual violence in conflict and beyond*, exploring the challenges and opportunities for combating sexual violence in conflict, post-conflict and development recovery contexts. There is now a call for practice-oriented submissions highlighting key issues and challenges, best practices, innovative programmes and recommendations. The deadline is 8 September 2006. For more information, please see <http://www.fmreview.org/forthcoming.htm>.

"I took (my) prison uniform with me because I know that I will have to come back to prison until Burma gains democracy"

- Su Su Nway, activist against forced labour in Burma, recently released from prison

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Special E-bulletin

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to bring you a special bulletin this week. For a change this is not about human trafficking. Nor does this bulletin focus on adults. This is just an informal account from Bandana of a weekend spent in southern Thailand with several youth groups from all over the country.

We do know that some of you work with children and youth and your work is not limited to the issue of human trafficking. As we recall many of you had written to us in late Dec 2004 and early 2005 expressing deep concern for people affected by Tsunami . Some of you had also called us wanting to get in touch with organisations working in the affected areas so that you could contribute to the aid efforts. We hope that this story of a weekend spent in Khao Lak, one of the areas of southern Thailand which was hit by Tsunami, might interest and inspire you.

Sincerely

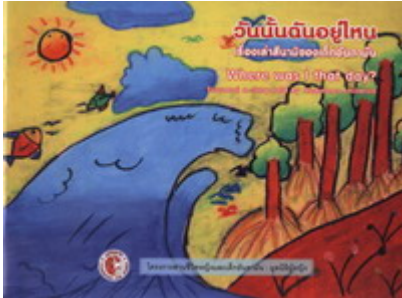
GAATW International Secretariat

A WEEKEND IN KHAO LAK

I have just come back to office after spending a wonderful weekend in the company of around 300 young people and would like to share the experience with you.

Getting ready to leave for Bangkok airport early in the morning on Friday 23 June was quite an effort. I was feeling tired, the very thought of the morning traffic was daunting and my head was filled with various unfinished tasks. My mood improved at Don Muang itself where I was joined by a friend. We found all kinds of things to laugh over including our own preoccupation with real and imagined ailments.

Sun, sand and the cool blue water of the Andaman Sea welcomed us as we were landing at Phuket airport but our destination was still two hours drive away. Images seen on television screen after the Tsunami had hit Phuket and its surrounding islands came back to my mind as we drove past the small towns and lush tropical vegetation. Nature destroys to recreate itself and human beings do join hands with each other to reconstruct and rebuild, I thought to myself as I saw the newly constructed buildings and people going about their daily lives.



We were on our way to attend an event organized by the Foundation for Women^{1[1]} in conjunction with the children from Khao Lak which was one of the many areas hit by the giant Tsunami waves on 26 December, 2004. Lives were destroyed, houses were swept away and many people had lost everything and everyone in their lives even before they could comprehend what was happening around them. No one had experienced anything like that before; many had not even heard the name of the killer waves. News of the disaster reached other parts of the world and along with empathy and concern help in cash and kind also started pouring in. Aid agency workers as well as individual volunteers from Thailand and abroad joined efforts to provide emergency help. Now a year and a half later, many groups are still working in the region and providing long term assistance.

We were going to meet some of the children who had survived the disaster. The stories of that fateful day retold by the children in words and pictures has resulted in a colorful bi-lingual book; *Where was I that Day?* The book was going to be launched in a ceremony in which most of the guests were also children and youth from various parts of Thailand.

The conference hall of Khao Lak Merlin hotel was packed to capacity with around 300 young people in the age group of 10-17 years representing many regions, communities, religions and ethnic groups from all over the country. After a brief welcome note from the organizers, the children took charge of the event. Starting with an enactment of the Tsunami day, they told us how an ordinary day had suddenly changed into the darkest day of their lives and how some of them suddenly had found themselves completely alone in this world. They expressed their sincere gratitude towards those who have stood by them and pledged that they would reciprocate in future by helping others who might need support. Some

^{1[1]} Foundation for Women(FFW), a Bangkok based women's rights group is a founding member of GAATW.

children were spontaneous and eager to say a few words while others were shy and awkward needing a gentle push from their friends. The experience of facing a large hall filled with people was both exciting and daunting for many and some just couldn't stop their nervous giggles. The audience applauded each speaker with gusto and called out greetings. The little boy behind me sitting on his mother's lap clapped so hard that his palms started hurting.

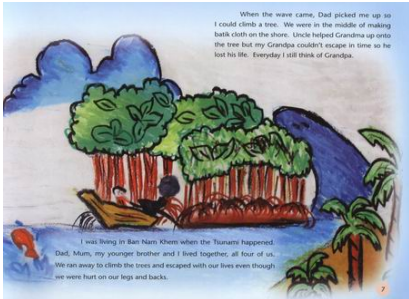


Then it was the turn of the youth from other parts of Thailand. Each group had prepared a performance for the children of Khao Lak. Each group started with a reference to the Tsunami time acknowledging and sharing the grief of those who have lost so much and expressing solidarity with them. The groups also shared the situation in their own region. Using local folk dance forms performed to the tunes of traditional and improvised songs they talked about environmental disasters through indiscriminate use of chemicals, development induced displacement and communal violence in the southern provinces. They declared their resolve to work towards peace, to preserve their culture and ethnic roots, to understand and love each other in spite of ethnic or religious differences, to protect their environment and to protest against injustice. The day ended with dinner at a beach restaurant. The restaurant was totally destroyed by the killer waves and is just beginning to get back some of its clientele. The sea looked calm. The sun was setting. Children were playing on the beach. A young boy was trying to photograph the waves. It was difficult to imagine the scene on this beach a year and half ago.

Saturday morning took us to another part of the region and we reached a small fishing port. The morning's catch had arrived a while ago and sorting out of the fish was almost done. Most workers were Burmese. Some of them who could speak Thai talked about their work and lives and the disastrous impact of Tsunami on their compatriots. The young visitors had many questions. They wanted to know about the treatment of migrant workers by employers, the living condition of migrants, the cost of fishing boats, the technique of fishing and many more things. After the meeting with the fisher folks we moved on to a resettlement township. The township has been set up to provide housing to people from an island which was completely devastated by Tsunami. The islanders are scared to go back to their old place but not having lived in the mainland before they clearly find the new place strange. Only time will tell whether they would really settle there.

The highlight of the day came in the afternoon by which time it had started raining. Braving the rain we donned our plastic boots and walked into the mangrove to plant

some trees. Soon all of us were struggling with the thick mud and trying to keep our balance. Thanks to our energetic young friends and the help from local people, in a little over an hour we were able to plant 1200 saplings. The rain continued to fall softly and the sky stayed overcast promising more rain. It was time to get back to our hotel. Some people were leaving for their hometowns soon after. We said our good byes and headed for our hotel.



That night I slept like a baby. The violence, killing and aggression in our world are real but so are the determination and dreams of young people. My young friends had restored my faith in humanity and revived my hope for future. The memories of those smiles and those trusting eyes will stay with me forever.

Bandana Pattanaik
Bangkok, 27 June, 2006

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e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GAATW E-bulletin

26 July 2006

Dear Members and Friends,

We have some good news to share with you. GAATW has been granted **Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations**.

We hope you like the e-bulletin's fresh new look! We know that this issue has been delayed but we were working on some format changes. From this month onwards, the e-bulletin will be monthly. It will continue to bring you key news and information but will also direct you to opinion pieces our new blogspot <http://gaatw.wordpress.com/>. We encourage you to share your views on the Blog. It will help us stay in touch with your ideas and opinions.

We are deeply concerned about the Israel-Lebanese conflict and its impact on civilians. Many governments are currently trying to evacuate their citizens and sadly though not surprisingly 'legal documents' to prove where they belong is affecting many people's situation. The tragedy which we are witnessing now is not 'the birth pangs of a new middle east', as the US Secretary of State would like us to believe. This is a sign of our collective failure to take measure of the malaise simmering underneath our societies. We urge the international community to strengthen its call for immediate cease fire and to bring the issue to the negotiating table. We feature in this bulletin, statements and calls for action for the thousands of stranded migrant workers by migrant worker groups.

We also have an article on the World Cup and Human Trafficking Scare under the "From the Secretariat" section. We would love to hear what you think of the points raised there.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHT - CRISIS IN LEBANON

Excerpts from Statements by Migrant Worker Groups

The price of the recent war between the Israeli Army and Hezbollah is paid, as usual, by those who do not have access to resources which can protect them. Migrant workers are especially vulnerable: they have limited access to information, and depend heavily on their employers for protection...

All the labour rights of departing workers should be respected, including the right to the last month's wages, severance pay and other benefits. Israeli employers who leave dangerous areas must provide adequate solutions to their migrant employees...

We call upon Israeli authorities to provide information to workers in their own languages, so that they are aware of their rights and options. We call upon the Israeli authorities to provide the same support and relief services to migrant workers as they do to Israeli

citizens and workers. This include forthcoming legislation which will compensate workers for periods of forced unemployment due to the war.

~ [Kav LaOved, Israel](#)

The collective punishment of the people of Lebanon by Israel affects the more than 200,000 migrant workers from Sri Lanka, the Philippines, India, Bangladesh and from countries in the Northern African region. Thousands of migrant workers who wish to return to their respective countries are now trapped in the deadly pit that is Lebanon. We are worried over reports that many domestic migrant workers are left behind by their employers who also took their passports. Many of them are left with no money, food and shelter. We must bear in mind that these migrant workers helped in the reconstruction of Lebanon after the devastating civil war years ago. They surely do not deserve to be treated as commodities only to be abandoned when their services are no longer necessary.

We are also appalled by the slow response of the governments of migrant sending countries to the plight of their people... After propping up their economies with billions of dollars in remittances the least these countries can do is to ensure the safety of their nationals during crisis such as this. Conflicts do happen and the Asian governments should have seen this one and established an early warning mechanism that will help the migrant workers... This recent conflict underscores the need for a quick-response mechanism to protect the rights and livelihoods of migrant workers.

~ [Migrant Forum in Asia](#)

It is outrageous, to say the least, of the Philippine government to say that it would only consider moving out its 34,000 citizens from Lebanon when the situation becomes out of control... Without even an evacuation plan and not a single resource allotted for the safety of Filipino workers in Lebanon, the Philippine government has again shown its inutility and neglect of their nationals abroad in times of crisis...

The government has again made the excuse of lack of funds for its slow response to the crisis as well as the obvious insufficiency of their plans to secure the lives and livelihood of migrants and their families affected by the conflict...Migrant Filipinos provide billions of dollars worth of remittances and payment for various governments and there is not a single cent allocated for overseas Filipinos under clear and present danger...

There have been reports of Filipino evacuees in one church in Lebanon who are packed like sardines as well as OFWs abandoned by their employers who the country. Instead of verifying these reports and providing assistance. Estrelita Hizon who is president of a recruiters group and who sits in the OWWA Board of Trustees even irresponsibly declared that what is happening is not that bad and scary...

In these times of crisis, OFWs and their families need concrete programs and actions and not unsubstantiated assurances nor mere monitoring of the situation.

~ [Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants](#)

For full statements, please log on to our [blogspot](#).

REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATE

The **Foundation for Women** is currently seeking Cambodian and Burmese organisations to participate in an exchange programme in Thailand, working with them on their anti-trafficking project "Partners in Action". For more information, click [here](#).

ASTRA, with the Red Cross of Serbia, has released the English version of the **manual for peer education "Human Trafficking – Our Response"**. This is the first manual of its kind in Serbia. <http://www.astra.org.yu/en/pdf/istrazivanje6.pdf>

The Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee recently organised a book launch of *Sex Workers of India: Diversity in Practice of Prostitution and Ways of Life* by Columbia University Adjunct Professor, Moni Nag. The book breaks ground in providing comprehensive information, based on field research, on prostitution in India. It covers the

historical, socio-economic, cultural and legal aspects of prostitution and will be an important resource for many, especially policy planners, programme managers and activists who are engaged with HIV/AIDS intervention programmes. For more information, please email sonagachi@sify.com.

The **Pakistan Rural Workers Social Welfare Organization** has released a special new publication put together by street and trafficked children. If you would like to hear what young voices have to say, please email farhat2@mul.paknet.com.pk or prwsowbwp@hotmail.com.

The [Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child \(SPARC\)](#), has released a new study which reveals that levels of domestic child trafficking in Pakistan's southern Sindh province are much higher than those for international trafficking in the country. Through this study, SPARC attempted to assess the scope of child trafficking while correlating the problem with levels of education of children and their families, employment patterns within families, migration, as well as cultural practices. For more information, please see <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/4569296c4a96c295ba1e125ee34bc021.htm>

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.

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

As the roar of football fans has died down, so has the uproar on human trafficking during the World Cup. Did the World Cup pose as a new avenue to raise awareness on trafficking? Or was the avenue misused? Did it bring up new approaches or were perennial mis-associations made? The [GAATW IS reflects on these and more and invites your views](#).

The soft copy of the [July 2006 issue of Alliance News](#) is up on our website and the hard copies will be mailed out to members soon. This issue's theme is "Giving & Receiving Help: Social Assistance to Trafficked Persons" and is directly linked to Protection, one of GAATW's current programme areas. Featuring voices of women who had been trafficked and those who assist them the essays and interviews in the newsletter present a complex picture of assistance scenario and make some suggestions for future work.

World Social Forum on Migrations, 22-24 June 2006, Madrid, Spain
1193 organisations from 84 countries participated in plenary sessions, seminars, workshops and open activities. The GAATW IS was represented by Nerea. GAATW members, Projeto Trama from Brazil and BlinN from The Netherlands attended the Seminar on *Women, Prostitution, Slavery and Sexual trafficking* with Nerea. The prevailing discourse mainly equated trafficking with prostitution and prostitution with exploitation. The GAATW team remained the sole voice which broadened the debate. Nerea made several interventions on the nexus between trafficking and migration as well as a human rights-based approach to trafficking. Projeto Trama presented case examples on forms of trafficking other than for sex and BlinN shared experiences about trafficked persons who had become empowered instead of portraying them as victims. At the workshop on *Interventions in the phenomenon of sexual trafficking and prostitution*, GAATW member, Proyecto Esperanza (Spain) presented their experience in providing practical and integral assistance to trafficked persons. Finally our Argentinean member, AMUMRA, participated as part of MIREDES (a network of migrant organisations), in a seminar on *The immigrant protagonist as the actor in social transformation*. This was another international platform in which the GAATW IS enjoyed working alongside members to represent views and values consistent with human rights, self-representation and evidence-based discourse. The main outcome of the Forum was the Declaration of

Rivas, which agreed, among other issues, in organising a III WSFM for 2007. For additional information, contact Nerea at: nerea@gaatw.org or log on www.fsmm2006.org.

Technical Consultation on Trafficking Prevention in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region, 26 and 27 June 2006, Pattaya, Thailand, organised by ILO-IPEC's Mekong Sub-Regional Project to Combat Trafficking in Children and Women (TICW)

June attended this consultation along with others experienced in implementing or funding trafficking programmes or with expertise in related fields such as mass communication. An interesting departure from the usual dialogue format, two competing teams were asked to design a 5-year \$15 million dollar project on trafficking prevention in the Mekong sub-region. The key objective of the technical consultation was to define more precisely (and reach common agreement) on what is meant by 'prevention' of human trafficking. The consultation surfaced specific strategies of trafficking prevention that should be implemented in the Mekong region as well as a series of indicators to measure success. The findings from the two-day meeting may set a foundation for further recommendations at policy level and in the field.

Goodbye to Isabel...**Isabel from the Communications Unit who has been bringing you the E-bulletin will be completing her tenure at the IS on 28 July and move on to New York to pursue her Masters Degree. Like many other former colleagues, she will stay in touch and remain a part of the Alliance. We wish her the very best of everything in the months and years to come.**

RESOURCES

Events

Conference of the Parties, **United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols**, 9-21 October 2006, Vienna. The agenda for this year's COP is focused on the implementation of the Protocol. If your organisation would like to send a representative to participate as an observer to this session, please indicate your interest by email to Mirella Dummar Frahi <mirella.frahi@unodc.org> before **31 July**. NGOs without ECOSOC status are most welcome to apply by providing a short background on their area of work. You will then receive a formal invitation from the Conference Secretariat in accordance to the rules of procedure of the Conference. Do let us know if you are participating in this conference as we are exploring the possibilities of organising a side event in conjunction with other colleagues.

The Domestic Workers International Seminar is being planned for 8-10 November 2006 in Amsterdam. * The seminar aims to be a continuation of network activities between the different NGOs and trade unions, support exchange and harmony of strategies towards the ILO, from NGOs and trade unions, support strategies to make 'domestic work' a priority area of the trade unions and be facilitate an exchange of experiences of organising and supporting domestic workers. For more information, conyact Anneke van Luijken, Exec. Secr. IRENE AvLuijken@irene-network.nl and see <http://www.irene-network.nl/oncoming.htm>.

Reports & Books

UNICEF has released the **'Reference Guide on protecting the rights of child victims of trafficking in Europe'**. It focuses on UNICEF's 'Guidelines for Protection of the Rights of Child Victims of Trafficking' and includes guidelines or checklists for various groups such as immigration officials and law enforcement officials.

The English version of "**A Life Less Ordinary**", an autobiography by Baby Halder, an Indian domestic worker has been released by Zubaan Books. This is the story of a young woman working as a domestic worker in Delhi. Married off at the age of twelve, a mother by the time she was fourteen, Baby writes of her life as a young girl, and later as a young woman. Baby was lucky enough to come across an employer who encouraged her to read and then to write. India's national newspaper, "The Hindu" says, "*This is not a book*

that can be read and tossed aside. It raises questions about the fate of the millions of domestic workers in our country and their ill treatment.” For more information, email contact@zubaanbooks.com.

“Getting to Grips with Trafficking: Reflections on Human Trafficking Research in South Africa” by Robyn Pharaoh looks into the existing literature on trafficking in South Africa, extracts lessons from the international literature and paves the way for more critical and sophisticated analysis and research in South Africa.

http://www.iss.co.za/index.php?link_id=&slink_id=2832&link_type=&slink_type=12&tmpl_id=3

Calls

The Resource Alliance - Khemka Foundation India NGO Award is a new initiative launched this year, aimed at advancing India's non-profit sector by promoting financial and organisational stability, and strengthening community support of civil society. Awards range from \$5000-\$20,000. The deadline for submission is 13 November 2006.

<http://www.resource-alliance.org/page.php?sectionid=6&subsectionid=25&pageid=831>

The Skoll Foundation is accepting applications for the **“Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship 2007 Awards Competition”**. 18 September 2006 is the last day for applications to be considered in March 2007.

<http://www.skollfoundation.org/skollawards/index.asp>

It was never the people who complained of the universality of human rights, nor did the people consider human rights as a Western or Northern imposition.

It was often their leaders who did so.

Mr. Kofi Annan,

United Nations Secretary-General

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e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GAATW E-bulletin

August 25, 2006

Dear Members and Friends,

It is a time of great activity and excitement at GAATW secretariat. Our staff has been busy preparing for international advocacy work, visiting a government-run shelter for trafficked persons, and attending relevant meetings on migration and development, and prevention of trafficking.

We have two new entries on our [blogspot](#), "A Mock Trial on child victims and sexual abuse" and "Focus on forced marriage". We would love to hear your comments and we welcome submission of your own blog articles on the issues that we are working together.

We also thank all those who responded to our call for photo submissions of "Women on the Move." For those who still wish to send in their entries for the 2007 GAATW Calendar, please write to us at gaatw@gaatw.org

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

Why human trafficking still thrives in West Africa. Porous borders and poor economic conditions in West Africa have been identified as major factors responsible for the thriving of human trafficking business in the sub-region. Minister of Co-operation and Integration in Africa, Senator Lawan Gana Guba, cited these concerns in Uyo during the sensitisation workshop on human trafficking organised by his ministry in collaboration with NAPTIP and WOTCLEF. <http://www.tribune.com.ng/10082006/news/ss2.html>

Migrant Workers flee Lebanon, some to wars at home. International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is evacuating citizens of countries whose governments do not have the resources to get them home. It has evacuated 7,690 since the war between Israel and Hezbollah erupted on July 12, but is stepping up the pace as demand for a way out grows from Sri Lankans, Filipinos, Ethiopians and other migrant workers. <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L09544310.htm>

Transnational Cooperation

The Director of the European Police Organisation Europol **visited Interpol to discuss collaboration** between the two organisations in the fight against trans-national crime. The leaders of the two organisations welcomed the positive results so far of the "Roadmap" to enhanced cooperation between Europol and Interpol, which was launched last year, and agreed that the initiatives mentioned therein would be further developed during the coming year. The "Roadmap" covers a number of mutually relevant crime areas such as human trafficking and child abuse. <http://www.egovmonitor.com/node/7027>

Legislative Update

Portugal's government approved a new law that aims to curb illegal immigration by posting vacancies on the Internet for workers from outside the European Union and stiffening penalties for companies employing illegal labor. The law grants temporary residence permit to non-EU job seekers whose qualifications meet the country's labor market needs, the center-left Socialist government said. <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/4108391.html>

A military leader in Pakistan is spearheading an effort to amend laws pertaining to women in Pakistan. Proposed provisions will cover cases such as kidnapping and "forced elopement." At a national seminar, Pakistani human rights activists called for the complete repeal of the Hudood Ordinance. The regulation was created in 1979 has earned rage for its punishment of extra-marital sex and rape. http://www.altmuslim.com/perm.php?id=1758_0_24_0_M

REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATE

La Strada Czech Republic, in cooperation with Anti-Slavery International (Great Britain), Migrants Rights Centre (Ireland) and Portuguese Association for Victim Support, has currently implemented a **project focusing on gathering information on human trafficking and commercial exploitation of persons in various labour sectors excluding sex industry**. One of the outcomes of the project is the elaboration of country reports describing the situation in the four participating countries. For more information, contact La Strada Czech at Lastrada@strada.cz

A delegation of women's organisations including migrant workers in Hong Kong attended the meeting in UN Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Committee on August 7 in New York. One of the calls voiced by the Asian Migrants Coordinating Body (AMCB) was to Abolish the Live-in Requirement and Enact Maximum Hours Legislation, citing the situations of some migrant domestic workers who work on-call 24 hours a day with no break or weekly rest.

Source: [Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants \(APMM\)](#) News Digest, June-July issue

Updates from GAATW-Canada - Over the past few years, members of GAATW Canada – Shauna Paull, Pari Ruengvisesh (also with SWAN) and more recently Annalee Lepp - have been active in the Anti-Trafficking Coalition of Vancouver (ATCV), an ad hoc group comprised of NGO representatives as well as legal and medical professionals. In February 2006, the coalition together with members from the broader Vancouver NGO community agreed to strike a four-person NGO Steering Committee on Trafficking in Persons. Established in March 2006, the committee was mandated to develop and advocate for sustainable and appropriate legal and social supports for trafficked persons and irregular migrants in British Columbia. Since then, committee members have chaired a number of working groups to gather relevant information and organize consultations with provincial government officials and service providers in a number of key areas: protection from criminal prosecution as well as immigration detention and removal; housing/settlement needs; and access to healthcare. Each working group's recommendations will be released in mid-September.

The Steering Committee's work took on an added significance in May 2005, when the Department of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) announced the adoption of new measures designed to assist persons trafficked into Canada in the form of 120-day temporary resident permits (TRP). In reviewing the interim TRP guidelines, Steering Committee members are concerned about some of the key provisions and their implementation. After a preliminary discussion with one CIC official in July, committee members are pressing for a more consultative process between NGOs and CIC as the guidelines are being refined and hope to be involved in developing RCMP training materials.

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.

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

On 22-24 August, the Office of Welfare Promotion, Protection and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups (OPP) under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand organised **the Mekong Sub-regional Workshop for Practitioners on Prevention of Human trafficking especially Women and Children**. Among the participants are the Government officers, international organizations and civil society groups working on anti-trafficking in women and children from six countries in the Mekong sub-region. Michelle from the Secretariat participated as an Observer during the workshop. First part of the meeting presented the current situations on trafficking in women and children in Mekong Sub-region and on the emerging issues on the prevention of trafficking. Participants from the six countries also shared examples of good practices to combat human trafficking. Over the three-day workshop, a series of panel discussions were conducted on possible areas of cooperation on the prevention of trafficking in women and children in the Mekong Sub-region.

On 16-17 August Bandana and Eleanor from the GAATW secretariat attended **a civil society meeting on the UN High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Migration and Development, to be held in New York on 14-15 September 2006**. The preparatory meeting was an exciting moment of building on the energy of civil society organisations in Asia working on migration, development and human rights. Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) organised the meeting and brought together for the first time representatives from Asian regional organisations working on migrants' rights, human rights and development rights. GAATW co-convened the meeting and was the sole anti-trafficking organisation represented. Advocacy plans were also made for civil-society events during the HLD, including the

distribution of common position papers and holding side-events inside and outside the UN to draw attention to the treatment of migrants, including 'irregular migrants' such as victims of trafficking. The group also agreed to form a new alliance: the **Asian Alliance on Migration, Development and Human Rights (AAMDHR)**, to bring about a more effective platform of advocacy in addressing the crosscutting issues of migration, development and human rights.

GAATW will assist with coordination of the delegation attending New York over the HLD. Anyone interested in getting involved in the civil society meetings in New York at this time, is welcome to contact the secretariat or visit the MFA website: <http://www.mfasia.org/index.html> to find out more. For more information on the UN HLD on Migration, visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/population/hldmigration/>

Kredtrakarn Protection and Occupational Development Centre: An exposure trip

On 3 August, the programme unit of GAATW IS was invited to attend a presentation at one of the Government shelters on an island just outside Bangkok, Baan Kredtrakarn. This visit was also an opportunity to meet old friends—members of the Japan Network Against Traffic in Persons (JNATIP)—and discuss mutual work. Established in 1960, the shelter houses up to 550 women and girls removed from sex work, those who suffer from social problems and those who are trafficked. Standard services are provided, as well as family tracing and assessment, repatriation, (re)integration and follow-up services. Sale of the produce from the vocational training classes provides some pocket money and financial independence to the women, as they receive 75% of the proceeds. We thank the women and girls for allowing us a glimpse into their lives and the shelter staff for providing a chance to learn. We look forward to offering input and returning again in the near future. We are also grateful to JNATIP colleagues for sharing a lovely meal with us, as well as their experience and knowledge.

GAATW's **The Migrating Woman's Handbook** is now translated into **Georgian language**, special thanks to the Human Rights Information and Documentation Centre in Tbilisi, Georgia. For more information, write to hridc@hridc.org

Blogspot

At the beginning of July, Aneeqa from the Secretariat attended a **mock trial session organized by Nari Shakti Unnayan (NUS), Bangladesh**. The "Trial" was for "child victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence and their prosecutors for quality and prompt legal assistance". The full story on our **blogspot**.at <http://gaatw.wordpress.com/2006/08/25/mock-trial-organized-by-nari-unnayan-shakti/>

The next report by the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children will be devoted to forced marriage. In preparation for this report, we have compiled a list of useful resources and selected a few cases to illuminate the discussion. We invite you to share your understanding of forced marriage and your comments on the information provided on our [blogspot](#).

New on our website

We have recently introduced the Speak Out Corner on our website where we welcome feedback on our featured articles in our blogspot. Also, up on our website are the **2006 GAATW comments/submissions** on the following relevant reports and legislation. We welcome your ideas and comments.

- [The UN Secretary General's Report on Migration and Development, 2006](#)
- [The UN Special Rapporteur's Report on the Demand Side of Trafficking](#)
- [The Proposed Anti-Trafficking Legislation in India](#)

RESOURCES

Website

Asia Regional Cooperation to Prevent People Trafficking (ARCPPT) has updated its website. The main focus of Project activities is on strengthening the criminal justice process to deal effectively with the crime of trafficking. For more information, visit their website at www.arcppt.org

An independent website to help stop human trafficking in Albania was recently formed to raise awareness on child trafficking. To know more, visit <http://stopalbanianslavery.ds-host.net/>

Books

Resource Book for Law Enforcement Officers on Good Practices in Combating Child Trafficking. Published by the IOM, this publication presents the good practices, recommendations, and practical information based on inputs from the experts in the law enforcement, medical science and civil society.
<http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/bypass/pid/8?entryId=5787>

Events

The **ILO Fourteenth Asian Regional Meeting (AsRM) in Busan, Republic of Korea, will be held on 29 August - 1 September 2006** with the theme, 'Realizing Decent Work in Asia.' The meeting is focused on the role of productive employment in people-centered development. <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/14arm/index.htm>

The **International Platform on the Migrant Workers' Convention (IPMWC)** will hold a meeting at the time of the next **UN Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (UN CMW)**. This meeting is scheduled for Monday, **30 October 2006**. This meeting will help prepare for the NGO input into the next CMW session, about Mexican report, Egyptian report, High-Level Dialogue outcome and Treaty Monitoring Body reform. For more information, contact the IPMWC Secretariat at: ipmwc@december18.net.

The Centre for Refugee Studies, Moi University invites applications from qualified individuals to participate in a two weeks **training on Refugee and Humanitarian Affairs**, scheduled for 23rd October to 3rd November 2006 in Eldoret, Kenya. For further information contact: Cynthia Mutuku, Course Coordinator for Centre for Refugee Studies at crefugee@mu.ac.ke

Reports

ILO-IPEC has recently developed a publication titled **Child-friendly Standards & Guidelines for the Recovery and Integration of Trafficked Children, Bangkok, 2006**. The guidelines were developed in an Asian context (South and South East Asia) and in consultation with children, care providers, NGOs and government officials. They were also based on existing national and international human rights standards. A short summary of the guideline is provided below. To read the full report, visit <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/library/pub16a.htm>

Summary:

Child victims of trafficking urgently need their rights protected and special care to recover from the abuse and exploitation they have experienced. Unfortunately, escape or removal from exploitative situations does not always mean their problems are solved. Throughout Asia many such children suffer discrimination and harassment from authorities rather than help and concern, and the shelter-based rehabilitation systems in many countries are inadequate. In the worst cases further harm is done to children in the name of rehabilitation, for example using physical punishment to make them disciplined or confining children to

small, tightly controlled premises where they are not allowed to meet and socialize with other children. This gloomy revelation of the shelter-based rehabilitation in Asia prompted ILO-IPEC to develop child-friendly standards and guidelines for the recovery and integration of trafficked children. These standards outline and explain what must, must not, and should be done at every stage of the recovery and integration process. The guidelines (which are based on a review of existing shelter-based rehabilitations services in Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand followed by national and regional consultations) also include examples of good and bad practices. The guidelines are recommended for practitioners, care providers, shelter managers and staff, social workers, NGO's, INGO's, government officials and policy makers.

Calls

The Division for the Advancement of Women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations is presently organising an online discussion on the theme of “**The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child.**” The discussion will run for four weeks from 14 August to 8 September 2006. Please check their web page for more information about the online discussion, including on each week's topic: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/forum/forum-daw-disc_viol_girlchild.htm

Migrants' voices should be part and parcel of this process since Migrants themselves are the real experts when it comes to discussing the benefits as well as the downsides of being part of the international migration process.

Comments from December 18, Belgium

Source: [NGO Responses to the UN Secretary General's Report on International Migration and Development](#)

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e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GAATW E-bulletin

27 November 2006

Dear Members and Friends,

This issue of the e-Bulletin is dedicated to the Global Consultation on Prevention of Human Trafficking, which took place in Bangkok 13-16 November.

The meeting was well highly appreciated thank to the tremendous team work of the GAATW IS Staff (with special thank to Michelle and Aneeqa!)

A special thank goes to Mike Dottridge, member of GAATW working group, who was the primary facilitator for the three days of the consultation. He created an atmosphere that encouraged discussion and generously shared his broad knowledge and experience with the participants.

The participants always contributed actively to the very interesting discussions, and kept on exchanging their experiences and opinions over the breaks between meeting sessions and common meals.

We would like to share with you the key points of this Consultation on Prevention with the hope that it may deliver some food for thought.

Warmly,

The GAATW International Secretariat

GLOBAL CONSULTATION ON PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Bangkok, 13 – 16 November 2006

The Global Consultation on Prevention of Human Trafficking was the last thematic consultation of the 2005-2007 Programme, after the Consultation on Protection and Assistance held in November 2005 and another on Access to Justice for trafficked persons in June 2006.

The GAATW International Secretariat organized this 3-days meeting, which brought together representatives from a range of organisations, including anti-trafficking, migrant rights and women's rights groups and academics, a mix of origin and destination countries and a mix of people employing a variety of strategies. The various world regions were covered, participants came from following countries: Nigeria, Germany, the Netherlands, UK, Macedonia, Poland, Nepal, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Indonesia, Thailand, China, Taiwan, India, Philippines, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Colombia and Australia.

The need to have a Consultation on Prevention of Human Trafficking was based on the fact, that although prevention of human trafficking has risen to become a major human rights issue for Governments and NGOs all over the world, the impact of these programs is not properly being assessed and good practices and lessons learned are not being shared. There is a general lack of valuable indicators to measure the effectiveness of preventive projects and thus a lack of data.

The goals of this Consultation were therefore, provide members and friends of the Alliance and the larger anti-trafficking community with concrete experiences and examples, which would contribute to their future prevention work and find solutions for assessing the impact of their programmes. To achieve these goals, the programme of the meeting was conceived in order to target specific objectives, such as exchanging views and experiences from each represented region on trafficking prevention, identifying the good and bad practices of various prevention initiatives and finding ways to strengthen and improve on-going initiatives.

The Consultation on Prevention was grounded on the common understanding that preventive approaches should be human rights based and embedded in the dialogues with other groups such as labor's, migrant's rights and sex workers groups.

A Common Statement (See Attachment) formulated and signed by all the participants was presented at the end of the Consultation. Participants stated the need for holistic approaches and for greater cooperation among different stakeholders. They stressed the fact, that awareness raising programs must have an empowering effect and not discourage people from migrating. Governments of countries of destination are urged to guarantee just and decent work for all workers, and to prioritize the protection of human rights over efforts to detain and deport undocumented workers. The participants declared furthermore to improve their data collection activities in order to assess the impact of prevention programs.

The Common Statement was presented at a Public Forum held at the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in Bangkok on 16 November 2006, where interested representatives from the Thai media, government officials responsible for anti-trafficking programs and other NGOs and IGOs working on the issue had an interactive discussion.

THE SESSIONS IN BRIEF

Session 1: Presentation of the participants and Introduction

The meeting started with a presentation of the organisations through colorful posters spontaneously created during the morning. Bandana Pattanaik and Mike Dottridge opened the Consultation on Prevention by warmly welcoming all the participants. Aneeqa presented the concept of the Consultation based on a questionnaire sent to various

organizations doing prevention activities. Mike held a presentation on the cycle of human trafficking and the opportunities to prevent trafficking at any stage of this cycle, considering as well the factors, which may lead to trafficking.

Session 2: Preventive strategies in countries of origin

Four working groups discussed about different techniques for preventing human trafficking in countries of origin, such as those to raise awareness, to address possible push factors and to mobilize communities. The working groups emphasised that community-based techniques should not only comprehend preventive aspects but also focus on re-integrating returned trafficked persons. Taking examples from human trafficking survivors but also from positive deviances could be a very helpful way to formulate effective and comprehensive strategies. Governments from origin countries should abolish recruitment practices such as compulsory trainings, detaining potential migrants in recruitment centres and extortiate fees from them.

Session 3: Safe Migration

The working groups discussed about different techniques to promote informed (safe) migration by enlisting the possible activities which Governments, official recruitment agencies, NGOs and other actors could take by evaluating their strengths and weaknesses. Participants stressed on the importance of governmental policies aimed at protecting migrant workers, who wish to work abroad, rather than looking at them as an exportable commodity (sending countries) or by passing restrictive migration laws (receiving countries). A multi-national and multi disciplinary collaboration between as many actors as possible would guarantee in the long run safer conditions for all those who want to work abroad.

Session 4: Preventive strategies in countries of destination

The discussions were dedicated in finding awareness raising techniques to target migrants themselves, traffickers and pimps, employers of undocumented migrants, clients of sex workers and consumers of goods being produced under exploitative conditions, and politicians. It was identified, that awareness raising campaigns in destination countries were limiting themselves to the sex work sector, whereas other sectors (domestic work, agriculture, etc.) need to be addressed with the same urgency. Organisations based in countries of destination stated the intent to do more advocacy work for migration policies that respect the human rights of migrants instead of putting them at risk.

Session 5: Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact Assessment

The session was opened with the presentation of the ILO-IPEC project "Trafficking in children and Women (TICW)" which is currently underway in the Greater Mekong Subregion (Cambodia, China's Yunnan province, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam) by Anna Engblom and Lisa Taylor. They introduced the project (see also www.childtrafficking.net) and described their methods to assess the impact of their project. All participants agreed upon the fact, that despite the difficulties to find indicators through which the impact of a preventive program can be assessed, the possibilities need to be explored in order to have effective projects, which target the most vulnerable groups and which do not cause any unintended harm for any other groups. The evaluation of preventive programmes should be ongoing, since situations and dynamics constantly change and the involvement of as many affected actors in the planning and evaluation phases should be aspired to. This session and the meeting were concluded with a Common Statement on Prevention of Trafficking.

Public Forum at the Thai NHRC: Presentation of the Common Statement

The Common Statement was presented in front of the NHRC and distributed to the participants and guests in Thai and English language. Representatives from several NGOs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Labour, the Police, Immigration Office, lawyers, journalists and academics participated in this Panel Discussion explaining the particularities of trafficking within the Thai context.

STATEMENT OF THE PARTICIPANTS TO THE GAATW GLOBAL CONSULTATION
PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING

Bangkok, Thailand
Wednesday, 15 November 2006

We, representatives of 19 organizations from 18 countries that work to prevent trafficking in persons and/or promote the rights of migrant workers, agree on the following:

1. Trafficking and migration are linked. Anti-trafficking organizations and organizations working on all aspects of migration can collaborate in designing programs, researching and strategising to achieve safer migration.
2. Initiatives aimed at preventing trafficking must be holistic. They must be made at all levels and address all stages of the trafficking cycle: before a person leaves; at the time of recruitment and travel; at the point of exploitation; and after return.
3. Prevention of trafficking requires cooperation and support between governments, inter-governmental organisations, NGOs, local communities and migrants themselves, and between countries of origin, transit and destination.
4. Origin country governments must take responsibility for their citizens, both at home and abroad. We urge them to ensure that no policies harm the human rights of migrants. For example, recruitment practices such as compulsory training, detaining potential migrants in holding centres, and charging extortionate fees, should be abolished.
5. Prevention programmes must address factors that increase the vulnerability of migrants or potential migrants, such as poverty, and discrimination on the basis of class, ethnicity and gender.
6. Awareness-raising programmes should empower migrants and potential migrants to make informed choices and to migrate safely, rather than discourage migration.
7. All governments should ensure safe migration pathways that centre the human rights of the migrant worker. Restricting the movement of individuals who seek to move for work will not prevent trafficking, rather it will only increase their vulnerability.
8. It is invidious for governments to instruct law enforcement agencies to systematically prioritise detecting and punishing undocumented migrants, rather than defend migrants' human rights not to be subjected to forced labour or related abuse.
9. Destination country governments should promote just and decent working conditions for all workers, including migrant workers whether documented or undocumented. Employers must be prosecuted for labour exploitation.
10. Migrants in destination countries should have a role in formulating and implementing prevention programmes, for example through mobilisation, peer support and community outreach.
11. The impact of a programme on all affected groups should be assessed before, during and at the completion of a project. Evaluation should be based on the principle of "do no harm" and on both empirical and qualitative data. Goals and assumptions should be constantly revised.

12. We urge all governments to sign and ratify the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, and the 2000 UN Protocol to Suppress, Prevent and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime.

Signed by representatives of the following organisations, or the individuals:

1. Association of Indonesian Workers in Hong Kong (ATKIHK), Indonesia
2. Ban-Ying, Germany
3. Bonded Labour in the Netherlands (BlinN), the Netherlands
4. Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, Australia
5. Centre for Human Rights and Development, Mongolia
6. Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC), India
7. Espacios de Mujer, Colombia
8. Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) International Secretariat, Thailand
9. Hope Workers' Centre, Taiwan
10. La Strada Poland, Poland
11. Migrant Assistance Project (MAP), Thailand
12. MODEMU, Dominican Republic
13. Open Gate - La Strada Macedonia, Macedonia
14. Sodireitos/Jepiara, Brazil
15. Unlad Kabayan, Philippines
16. Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladesh Employees (WARBE), Bangladesh
17. Women's Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON), Nigeria
18. Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC), Nepal
19. Mike Dottridge, independent international consultant

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