



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

e-Bulletin

January 2024



Dear Alliance friends,

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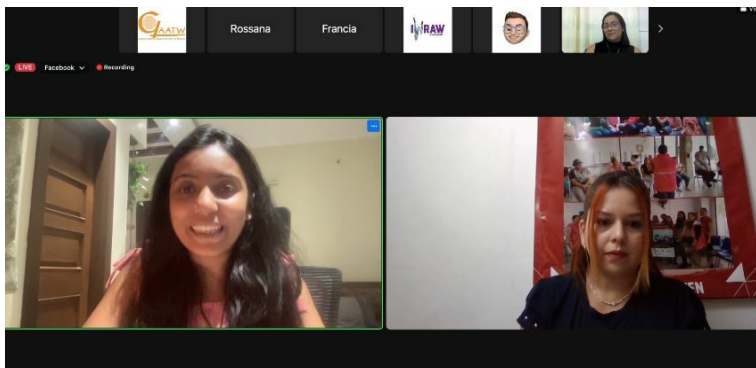
As we step into 2024, the GAATW International Secretariat extends warm wishes for a year filled with progress, collaboration, and meaningful impact. Reflecting on the year gone by, we witnessed the resilience and courage of communities, most particularly migrant workers, amidst the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, economic uncertainties, and armed conflicts. This issue covers our activities from October till December 2023.

In 2024, our focus remains on advocating for the rights and welfare of women workers, migrants, and trafficked persons. We remain committed to furthering our research and advocacy initiatives, strengthening our collaborations, and amplifying the voices that need to be heard. The past year's events, consultations, and workshops across various regions have reinforced the power of collective action and shared learning. As we embark on this new year, we will build on these foundations with renewed strength and purpose.

Looking forward to the months ahead, we are thrilled to announce our upcoming International Members Congress in October, marking a significant milestone – the 30th anniversary of the Alliance. This congress will celebrate our collective achievements, reflect on our journey, and strategise for the future. More details on the event and how you can participate will be shared in the coming months.

News from the GAATW International Secretariat

Activities



In our latest virtual panel at the Global South Forum organised by [International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific](#) on 29 October, GAATW in collaboration with [Serve the People Association](#), [Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants \(APMM\)](#), [Corporación Espacios de Mujer](#), and [Asbrad](#), brought together

women from Asia and Latin America to discuss the effects of citizenship and immigration status on their access to employment, social welfare, and housing. The panel not only highlighted the unique challenges faced by these women but also celebrated their resilience and ongoing struggle for their rights. Check out the summary of the panel [here](#).

From 14-17 November 2023, we conducted a

[workshop](#) in Chiang Mai, Thailand, for the learning facilitators of our Women Workers Forum programme. This workshop aimed to enhance collective learning, develop facilitation and capacity-building skills, and creatively document experiential knowledge. We extend our thanks to Studio Horjhama for their collaboration in making this event successful. Additionally, we are grateful for the contributions and participation of our partner organisations from across the region, including Yayasan Annisa Swasti - Yasanti from Indonesia, Women's Initiatives & Shramajivi Mahila Samity from India, Tarangini Foundation from Nepal, and the Just Economy and Labor Institute from Thailand.

On 31 October, we held a webinar on participatory grant-making which aimed to discuss some positive shifts towards more and better-quality funding for social and economic justice. We asked a series of questions to funding organisations that were relevant to GAATW members and partners working in the Global South.

Then we concluded the year with two meetings to discuss GAATW's strategic direction and future plans - first, a meeting with the Board members, and second, an informal consultation with a group of experts comprised of friends and former colleagues of GAATW.

Statements

We also want to highlight some key statements that reflect our ongoing advocacy efforts:

[Solidarity with Bangladeshi Garment Workers](#): GAATW-IS and members globally expressed their support for Bangladeshi garment workers' fight for a fair minimum wage of Tk 23,000, in line with the Asia Floor Wage Alliance's proposal. A fair minimum wage would be a crucial step towards addressing low pay and poor working conditions.

[EU Anti-Trafficking Directive Advocacy](#): Together with La Strada International, ESWA, and PICUM, we called for a strengthened EU anti-trafficking directive. Our statement focused on enhancing victims' rights, ensuring access to justice, and advocating for amendments that safeguard the non-punishment principle and effective compensation. We also voiced concerns over potential harmful extensions of criminalisation that could affect the rights of sex workers and people involved in surrogacy.

Meet our Members

In addition to these resources, we are excited to share with you three insightful Meet Our Members interviews:

[Freedom Network](#): They are the largest coalition tackling trafficking in persons in the US. From empowering survivors to advocating for sex worker rights and policy changes, their work is reshaping the anti-trafficking movement. Learn about their origins, their approach to prevention and service improvement, and narrative change.

[Just Economy and Labor Institute](#) (JELI): Dedicated to promoting social justice and protecting labour rights in Southeast Asia, particularly in Thailand, JELI is making significant steps in empowering workers and labour organisations through educational and capacity-building programs. They also conduct important research and drive policy recommendations for economic and labor justice through strong collaborations with other civil society organisations.

[SINTRASEDOM](#): Established by 25 domestic workers, SINTRASEDOM is a union dedicated to addressing migration issues and advocating for the rights of domestic workers. The union runs a school staffed by human and labour rights experts who conduct bi-weekly workshops in various cities across Colombia. To extend their reach, they also distribute newsletters, flyers, and videos in regions where workshops are not held, ensuring

Other sources

In addition to our latest updates, we would like to share some other materials from the past few months that may be of interest to our members: I.

International Migrant's Day [video highlight](#) from our 3-day consultation event in Colombo, Sri Lanka: The event brought together returnee women migrant workers and CSOs to focus on sustainable reintegration and safe migration practices in Sri Lanka. Participants, including women with lived migration experience, shared insights on challenges faced during the post-Covid economic crisis.

Life upon Return: Women Migrant Workers Advocating for Safe and Fair Migration

Take a look back at our consultation event from August in Colombo, where voices of resilience and unity highlight the cause of safe and fair labour migration for women.

Join Michael Joachim of the Voice of Migrants as he shares insights on the transformative power of migrant-led advocacy in shaping a more inclusive future.



[2022 Annual Report](#): For an overview of our work, achievements and challenges faced in 2022, read our newly published Annual Report. It details our projects, partnerships, and the significant steps we made in advocacy and support for our cause.



Call for papers

We are currently inviting submissions for our [upcoming Anti-Trafficking Review](#). This special edition seeks to uncover the crucial roles of families and communities in migration and trafficking scenarios. We invite papers that dig



into the experiences and challenges faced by migrants and trafficking survivors in their immediate social environments. From the economic motivators behind migration to the support systems in place upon return, your insights are valuable.

The [Health and Human Rights Journal](#) is inviting [contributions](#) for their "Special Section on Distress Migration and the Right to Health" that explore the complex connections between healthcare, social justice, human rights, and migration. They welcome contributions that include, but are not limited to, research on the impact of human rights violations on migrant health; analyses of social and structural determinants affecting migrant populations; and case studies on progressive developments in migrant health.

The newly appointed Special Rapporteur on the Protection of the Rights of Migrants and their Families has released [a call for inputs](#) to his upcoming report "Revisiting migrants' contributions from a human rights-based approach: a discussion on facilitating and hindering factors." The GAATW-IS will prepare a submission and if you would like to contribute, please get in touch with Maya (maya@gaatw.org).



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