

Annual Report 2024



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

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Introduction

In 2024, the global landscape for migrant workers, sex workers, and individuals vulnerable to human trafficking remained fraught with challenges. Economic disparities and conflicts continued to drive migration, often leading to exploitation and human rights abuses.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) [reported](#) a 25% increase in detected trafficking victims compared to pre-pandemic figures, with a notable 47% surge in forced labour cases. Alarming, child trafficking rose by 31%, disproportionately affecting girls.

In Southeast Asia, thousands were coerced into labour within online scam operations, undergoing inhumane conditions. At least 120,000 people were [trafficked](#) into scam compounds in Myanmar, and around 100,000 were held in similar conditions in Cambodia. Similar operations also took place in Laos, the Philippines, and Thailand.

In Lebanon, many migrant workers [faced](#) challenging labour conditions exacerbated by regional conflicts. Many sought repatriation after enduring abuses under the Kafala system, and others experienced displacement due to the Israel-Lebanon conflict. Displaced migrants are often excluded from government shelters and services during emergencies and conflict situations, allowing NGOs to fill in these gaps in assistance and welfare support.

Organised criminal networks across the Americas [continued](#) to exploit vulnerable migrant populations, particularly women, through forced labour and sexual exploitation. As migration routes across Central and South America became increasingly hazardous, traffickers preyed on those desperate to reach safer destinations. Migrant women faced disproportionately targeting, forcing them into sex work under threats and violent conditions in several countries, including the United States and Mexico.

Amid these challenges, GAATW marked its 30th anniversary, dedicating much of the year to strengthening solidarity and advocacy, and preparing for and successfully hosting our International Members Congress and Conference (IMCC) in October. We began the year 2024 by organising regional online consultations with our members to understand the regional priorities, ideas, and expectations for the IMCC. We also held an in-person consultation with representatives from the GAATW-REDLAC members in Chile in February 2024. These consultations helped shape the agenda of the Anniversary Congress in October.

In June, we hosted the Women Workers for Change (WW4C) Forum in Bangkok, which placed a feminist change agenda at the centre of discussions for low-wage women workers. The forum focused on three key strategies: Educate, Agitate, and Organise. Participants included CSOs, representatives from partner organisations, women workers' groups, and advocates.

Beyond these major events, we also organised learning visits to Malaysia and Poland, strengthening our understanding of local contexts and advancing cross-regional solidarity. We

amplified our advocacy by issuing joint statements championing the rights of sex workers and migrant workers.

From July to September, it was an extremely busy time for the Secretariat team as we prepared for the IMCC. During these months, the Secretariat team organised an online survey on the methods of social change and we did another round of online regional consultations to confirm the priority thematic areas that members would like to bring forward to the IMCC.

2024 was a packed and productive year, and we are immensely grateful for the contributions of everyone in our network. As we embark on this new year, we carry forward the momentum of our 30th anniversary with renewed energy and a shared commitment to promoting and protecting the rights of women, migrants, and workers.

Research and Feminist Knowledge Building

Learning and sharing: GAATW's visit to Warsaw



From 21-24 May 2024, GAATW's Programme Coordinator, Alfie Gordo, and Borislav Gerasimov visited Warsaw, Poland, for a four-day learning exchange in collaboration with our member [Fundacja La Strada](#). They were joined by Sen Nguyen, a GAATW media fellow and freelance journalist, along with representatives from [Blas Ople Policy Center](#), [Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities Initiative](#) (Philippines), and the [Center for Social Work and Community Development Research and Consultancy](#) (Vietnam).

The visit was part of GAATW's Feminist Participatory Action Research project, aiming to understand the experiences of Southeast Asian migrant workers in Europe and their reintegration upon returning home. We engaged with Filipino migrant workers and a Vietnamese community leader, the Philippines Embassy, Poland's Ministry of Interior and Administration, as well as media, academics, a labour recruitment agency, and civil society representatives.

Through these exchanges, participants gained insights into the challenges faced by migrant workers in Warsaw. At the same time, Polish stakeholders had the opportunity to hear directly from Filipino and Vietnamese NGOs about the realities of return migration and the support systems needed for reintegration.

Feminist Forum on Migration and Displacement: Collective Strategies for Change

On 30 November and 1 December, GAATW co-organised the Feminist Forum on Migration and Displacement (FFMD) with [Women in Migration Network](#) in Bangkok. We were part of the organising committee for this important gathering held in Bangkok. Over two days, more than 124 participants from 35 countries came together to discuss key issues, power dynamics, and strategies to advance the rights of migrant and displaced women.



The forum acted as a platform to address the unique challenges faced by migrant and displaced women through participatory discussions on issues such as climate-induced migration, care work, border securitisation, conflict, discrimination, legal migration pathways, and political participation.

The event highlighted the importance of incorporating women's rights into migration policy, strongly emphasising advocating for these rights through feminist activism. The forum ended with [recommendations and a commitment](#) to a just and equitable future for migrant women.

Cross-Movement Conversations: Feminist Organising and Migration at the AWID Forum

At the [AWID Forum](#) in December 2024, GAATW co-organised and facilitated two panel sessions, bringing together activists, advocates, and feminist leaders from diverse movements to discuss economic justice, migration, and feminist organising.

Intersectional Feminist Organising for a Just Economy

GAATW co-organised a session with [Women's Fund Asia](#) which explored visions and strategies for building a just and inclusive economy in the face of global crises. Intersectional feminist leaders shared insights on resisting systemic inequalities and strengthening cross-movement solidarity.



Speakers discussed their vision for feminist economic justice and the strategies they employ to achieve it. They emphasised the importance of creating a women-centred economy that recognises women's contributions and leadership. It is crucial to address the intersection of gender-based violence and gender-economic justice. They provided examples of wage disparities and various forms of exploitation by employers affecting workers' living and working conditions. They mentioned strategies such as building alliances, ensuring continuity of funding, providing social protection for members, and participating in national mechanisms to hold employers accountable. They also stressed the importance of strengthening solidarity and creating platforms to elevate women's concerns and demands.

Connecting Across Borders: A Conversation on Women, Work, and Migration

This interactive panel showcased how low-wage women workers - both local and migrant - are organising to demand labour rights and challenge patriarchal and neoliberal structures. Participants exchanged stories, strategies, and collective action approaches to advance justice for women workers. Panellists included Yanti, the General Secretary of [GSBI - The Centre of Indonesian Labor Struggle](#) and Ruth, a community leader and advocate for safe migration from Kenya.

Ruth shared her experience about the creative ways domestic workers in the Middle East connected with each other despite restrictions. They use market areas and garbage collection days to distribute flyers and spread information by word of mouth. Ruth also highlighted how learning from the organising experiences of Asian migrant workers inspired her to begin organising among African migrant women workers.



Yanti shared how community theatre became a powerful tool for raising awareness about workplace exploitation and workers' rights. This method allowed workers to visualise their struggles and envision change, enabling conversations and solidarity among workers.

These sessions highlighted the power of cross-movement collaboration and the importance of centering women's voices in shaping global conversations on justice and equality.

Strategic Communications and Publications

Anti-Trafficking Review

No. 22 (2024): Special Issue - Armed Conflicts: Migration, Trafficking, and Labour Markets



In our first issue of 2024, the Anti-Trafficking Review (ATR) released a [Special Issue](#) focused on Highly Militarised and Violent Contexts (HMVC) - such as international wars, military dictatorships, armed insurgencies, and the presence of organised crime groups. With over 110 million people forcibly displaced and 2 billion living in conflict-affected areas, this issue arrived at a critical time.

The seven articles in this issue explored the links between HMVC, trafficking, and precarious migration and labour in the Philippines, Ukraine, the Sahel, Nigeria, Mexico, and Colombia. They offer important recommendations to governments, policymakers, and civil society on protecting the rights and well-being of people who flee or choose to remain in such contexts.

No. 23 (2024): Special Issue - Following the Money II

For the second issue of 2024, ATR released a [Special Issue](#) focused on funding and spending in anti-trafficking initiatives, particularly by the United States, United Kingdom, and European Union. The issue brings together voices from academics, non-governmental organisations, and trafficking survivors to examine where the funding comes from, who it goes to, and what it achieves.

The eight articles in this issue revealed that while millions of dollars are spent on combating human trafficking, the funds often fail to reach trafficked persons or at-risk groups. The authors offered reflections on how anti-trafficking funding is allocated and proposed survivor-centered approaches to ensure that resources genuinely support those in need.



E-Bulletin



To begin our 30th anniversary year, GAATW reflected on the resilience of migrant communities in the face of ongoing global challenges. Our January [issue](#) covered 2023's events, consultations, and workshops across various regions. A key highlight of the year was the preparation for our International Members Congress, held in October to mark 30 years since GAATW's founding.



In the first quarter of 2024, GAATW focused on preparing for the upcoming International Members Congress and Conference (IMCC) through regional consultations and engagements with UN bodies. This [issue](#) also highlighted a learning visit to Malaysia, as part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen cross-regional solidarity and advocacy.



In the lead-up to GAATW's 30th anniversary and the International Members Congress and Conference (IMCC), this [issue](#) highlighted the development of the IMCC programme and the sharing of new artwork celebrating our journey. It also features the Women Workers for Change Forum held in Bangkok, which brought together women workers, partners, and advocates for dialogue and solidarity.



This [issue](#) reflected on GAATW's 30th anniversary celebrations and the successful International Members Congress and Conference (IMCC) held in Bangkok. It captured the energy of the discussions and collective spirit shared by members and allies, marking a renewed commitment to advancing the rights and agency of women migrants and trafficked persons.

Statements

Joint NGO Statement on recast EU Anti-Trafficking Directive: Progress and Remaining Gaps

On 23 April, 2024, the European Parliament adopted updates to the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive, introducing stronger sanctions and expanded protections for trafficked persons. However, significant gaps remain that could impact the victims' rights and well-being.

In the [statement](#), GAATW welcomed the directive's enhanced measures but urges EU Member States to prioritise a victim-centred, rights-based approach in its implementation. Key concerns included the effectiveness of new criminal penalties and the removal of National Rapporteurs, which weakened oversight and accountability mechanisms crucial to ensuring justice for trafficked persons.

GAATW also called on policymakers to address these gaps and incorporate survivor-informed recommendations to strengthen protections, improve support services, and uphold the rights of all trafficked persons.

Revisiting Migrants' Contributions: A Rights-Based Approach



GAATW [submitted input](#) to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, emphasising the need for a rights-based approach to migrant contributions. We

cautioned against framing migrants' worth solely in economic or social terms, particularly for migrant women, who often face gendered expectations in labour and caregiving roles.

Our submission spotlighted the role of self-organised migrant movements in advancing rights and protections. Sex worker-led organisations in Thailand and South Africa have fought against trafficking and exploitation, while migrant domestic worker groups successfully campaigned for labour rights, including securing ILO Convention 189 and recent minimum wage reforms in the UK.

These examples demonstrate that when migrants are empowered to organise, they strengthen their communities and advocate for justice. However, their rights should not be contingent on their perceived contributions. We urged governments and international bodies to adopt feminist, rights-based policies that protect all migrants, regardless of their economic role.

Advocating for a Human Rights Approach to Trafficking at the UN Human Rights Council

At the 56th session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, GAATW, alongside other sex worker rights organisations, submitted a statement rejecting the recent report on prostitution by the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls (SR VAWG). Sabra Boyd from Sex Workers and Survivors United, a member of GAATW's US member organisation [Freedom Network USA](#), delivered an [oral statement](#) on GAATW's behalf.

Sabra talked about the dangers of conflating sex work with trafficking, stating that a human rights approach to combating trafficking must centre on protecting people's agency and autonomy to work – rather than increased policing and surveillance. She criticised the SR VAWG's report for blurring the needs of children and adults, calling this approach ineffective and contrary to international human rights law.

Additionally, Sabra referenced a Louisiana (US) law similar to the report's recommendations, where online age verification requirements led to the identity theft of over 6 million people. As a child trafficking survivor, Sabra shared how identity theft had a lasting damage that led her to homelessness and contributed to further exploitation.

She also condemned the infantilisation of survivors in the SR VAWG report, highlighting that factors like poverty or social status do not invalidate a person's capacity for autonomous consent.

GAATW's 30th Anniversary: Strengthening Solidarity and Human Rights in Anti-Trafficking Efforts

In October 2024, as GAATW concluded its International Members Congress and Conference (IMCC), GAATW and its members released a [statement](#) that coincided with the EU Anti-Trafficking Day. Throughout the event, members discussed the growing challenges facing our

work, including global conflict, the climate crisis, far-right populism, increased immigration controls, and the shrinking space for civil society.

In the face of global instability, our strategies remain clear:

- Upholding labour rights by organising marginalised workers and increasing their inclusion in public services.
- Resisting attacks on migrant rights by promoting collectivisation and access to justice.
- Centering human rights in all anti-trafficking efforts, recognising sex worker rights, and empowering survivors to reclaim autonomy and leadership.

Joint Submission to CEDAW: Human Rights Challenges of Migrant Domestic Workers in Saudi Arabia

GAATW collaborated with [Sema Nami](#) and the [Tarangini Foundation](#) to submit two reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), highlighting the human rights violations faced by migrant domestic workers in Saudi Arabia. The submissions focused on the discriminatory impacts of the kafala system, the exclusion of domestic workers from labour reforms, and the challenges posed by restrictive laws and insufficient legal protections.

Key recommendations included:

- Inclusion of domestic workers in national labour law
- Establishment of a fair minimum wage
- Prohibition of passport confiscation and recruitment fees
- Strengthening support systems for migrant workers

Mary Mugo from Sema Nami delivered the statement at the CEDAW session in Geneva. The video of her intervention can be accessed [here](#) at the 25-minute 45-second mark.

Commemorating 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

GAATW joined members, partners, and allies worldwide to [commemorate](#) the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, honouring the resilience and dedication of human rights defenders who persist in their work despite growing challenges.

This year's theme, "Towards Beijing +30: UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls," reminded us of the progress made in challenging systemic inequalities while highlighting the many setbacks and emerging challenges that continue to threaten hard-won gains.

Our statement reflected a broader reality of growing inequality, armed conflict, and climate crises that are forcing people to seek safety and dignity elsewhere, while facing hostility and repression.

Publications

Migration, Human Trafficking, and Organised Crime in the Americas: A Gender Perspective



MIGRACIÓN, TRATA DE PERSONAS Y CRIMEN ORGANIZADO EN LAS AMÉRICAS

Una perspectiva de género



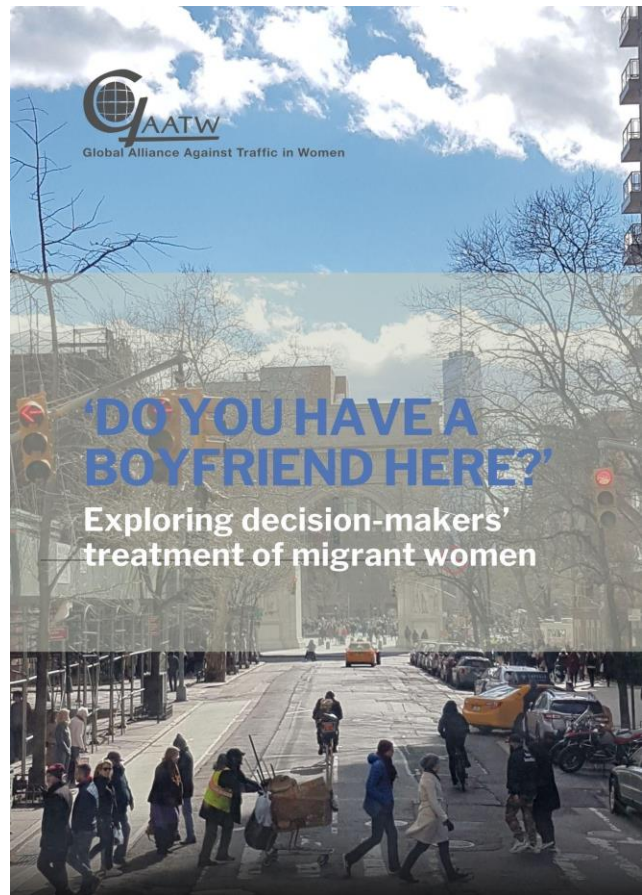
In preparation for the 2024 IMCC, the GAATW Latin American and Caribbean Network (GAATW-REDLAC) members, composed of 14 civil society organisations from nine countries across the region, coordinated a regional report. These organisations work on prevention, direct support for trafficking survivors, and defending the rights of migrant women, sex workers, and other marginalised groups.

This [report](#) highlighted the challenges REDLAC faces - from violence and poverty to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic - and the strategies the members have adopted to respond. Through advocacy, direct support, and awareness campaigns, REDLAC remains at the forefront of human rights and social justice in the region.

"Do You Have a Boyfriend Here?": Stereotypes and Prejudices in Access to Justice for Migrant Women

This [publication](#) highlighted the stereotypes and biases that prevent migrant women from fully accessing justice. Based on consultations with women migrant workers across Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the report revealed how decision-makers' prejudices about migrant women's work and personal choices often lead to discriminatory practices and rights violations.

From racial and ethnic biases to harmful assumptions about sexual behaviour and parenting, these prejudices shape how migrant women are treated in legal processes. This report also emphasises the importance of decision-makers, advocates, and civil society to challenge these stereotypes and ensure fair access to justice for all migrant women.



Social media insights for 2024

On [Facebook](#), the majority of GAATW followers identified as women, with the largest age group between 35 and 44. Our audience is primarily based in the United States, India, and Thailand, reflecting our strong global connection across these regions.

Our [Instagram](#) audience similarly skewed toward women, with most followers aged 25-34. The top cities engaging with our content included Mexico City, Mexico, Berlin, Germany, and Beirut, Lebanon, highlighting the platform's reach among younger activists and advocates across borders. We saw the biggest follower growth in the second half of 2024, following the revival of our Instagram presence during the Women Workers for Change Forum.

While we could not access detailed analytics for [X](#) (formerly Twitter) due to the platform's restrictions on accessing our insights, we continued to maintain an active presence. Posts related to sex workers' rights generated the highest engagement.

Advocacy and Influencing

Advocating for Remote Participation in UN Human Rights Mechanisms

GAATW joined over 300 NGOs in a [letter](#) to the UN Secretary-General, expressing concern over the decision to end online participation in UN events and human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council, Universal Periodic Review, and Treaty Bodies. We highlighted how this decision excludes marginalised communities, many of whom face barriers such as visa restrictions, financial constraints, security risks, and accessibility challenges.

In April 2024, the UN Secretary-General responded, acknowledging these concerns and committing to advocating for inclusive decision-making among member states.

Advocating for the Decriminalisation of Sex Work in UN Reports on Poverty and Housing

GAATW joined several NGOs in a joint submission to the UN Special Rapporteurs on Adequate Housing and Poverty, highlighting how the criminalisation of sex work, drug use, and homelessness worsens poverty, housing insecurity, and human rights violations.

When the initial draft report was shared in April 2024, it failed to recommend the decriminalisation of sex work. In response, GAATW submitted additional evidence, and how the decriminalisation of sex work is a crucial step in addressing homelessness and extreme poverty.

Challenging Abolitionist Narratives in the UN Special Rapporteur's Report on Prostitution

At the end of 2023, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) called for input on her upcoming report on "Prostitution and Violence Against Women and Girls". The framing of the call signaled a strong abolitionist stance on sex work, positioning the report as a response to the Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls' progressive 2023 [report](#).

In response, GAATW worked with members across all regions to coordinate eleven submissions, ensuring a collective challenge to the Special Rapporteur's position. We emphasised the need for decriminalisation and the dangers of conflating sex work with trafficking. Additionally, Maya Linstrum-Newman from GAATW participated in an online consultation, advocating for evidence-based, rights-centred approaches that prioritise the voices and autonomy of sex workers.

Submission with JELI and WINS to the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

In response to the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery's call for inputs on the role workers organisations can play in ending exploitation, GAATW worked with members [Women's Initiatives](#) (WINS) and [Just Economy and Labor Institute](#) (JELI) to prepare submissions

on the role sex workers organisations and informal workers organisations have played in combating exploitation in India and Thailand respectively. The submissions drew on direct testimony gathered by WINS and JELI through focus group discussions with workers.

Supporting Change: GAATW's Op-Ed on the UN's Call for Sex Workers' Rights

GAATW's Advocacy and Media Lead, Maya Linstrum-Newman, co-wrote an [op-ed](#) supporting the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls' recommendation for the full decriminalisation of adult voluntary sex work.

The op-ed highlighted how harsh laws harm sex workers, emphasising the need for equal labour protections and meaningful inclusion of sex workers in policy making. Drawing from global consultations with sex workers, it makes a strong case for evidence-based policies that prioritise rights, dignity, and safety.

Side Event at the UN Crime Commission: Human Trafficking and Armed Conflicts

In May, GAATW hosted a side event at the 33rd UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, Austria, focusing on human trafficking and exploitation in armed conflicts.

Speakers included Borislav Gerasimov (GAATW-IS and Editor of Anti-Trafficking Review), Kiril Sharapov (Edinburgh Napier University), and Jonathan Mendel (University of Dundee), who examined how Russia's war in Ukraine has heightened trafficking risks. Video contributions from Mónica Hurtado (Colombia) and Luigi Achilli (European University Institute) explored the experiences of children in armed groups in Latin America and Nigeria.

With 25 participants, the event sparked a lively discussion on the intersection of war, forced migration, and trafficking, emphasising the need for rights-based responses.

Regional Consultation on Addressing Xenophobia

In September 2024, Alfie Gordo of GAATW-IS participated in the Regional Expert Consultation on Addressing Xenophobia in Asia and the Pacific, co-organised by the UN Human Rights Office for South-East Asia and other UN bodies in Bangkok, Thailand. The event brought together 40 representatives from migrant rights groups, academia, government, national human rights institutions, UN agencies, and the private sector.

GAATW contributed to discussions on xenophobia in public narratives, highlighting how policy-driven discrimination perpetuates harmful stereotypes that portray migrants as less deserving of rights. We emphasised the need to shift the narrative on migration, acknowledging migrants as key stakeholders. We also noted that it is essential to ensure their voices influence public discourse to foster inclusivity and strengthen social cohesion.

International Migrants Day: Stories of Leadership and Feminist Funding

For International Migrants Day, GAATW released a series of interviews featuring three inspiring migrant leaders who shared their journeys of organising, advocacy, and the critical role of feminist funding in supporting migrant communities.



[Leni](#), co-director of ODA ([Otros Dreams en Acción](#)), shared her journey from living undocumented in the U.S. to organising with a community of deportees in Mexico. She highlights how feminist funding can better support migrant workers by prioritising collective efforts that foster international collaboration to strengthen global solidarity.

[Jean](#), a Filipino migrant worker in Thailand, who founded the Phuket Pinay Migrants Association (PPMA), emphasised that feminist funding is essential for building safe spaces where migrant workers can share their experiences and amplify their voices in mainstream media.

And [Ruth](#), a community leader and advocate for safe migration from Kenya shared her journey into advocacy, driven by witnessing the lack of basic human and labour rights for migrants and the devastating impact on their families. For her, feminist funding is important in providing resources for education and skill-building.



Alliance Strengthening and Movement Support

Planning for the International Members Congress and Conference Members Congress and Conference (IMCC)

In preparation for the IMCC, GAATW engaged in a series of consultations - one in-person and five online - with members from each region, learning about their current focus areas, gathering recommendations for the congress, and discussing the thematic areas they wish to explore. The consultations were held between February and March. These consultations were instrumental in understanding our network's evolving needs and expectations. The insights gathered shaped the agenda of the Congress and ensured that the event was a catalyst for meaningful and actionable outcomes.

GAATW International Members Congress and Conference

From 15-18 October, in celebration of GAATW's 30th anniversary, we organised the International Members Congress and Conference (IMCC) in Bangkok, Thailand, where 96 participants consisting of members (47) and allies from almost 40 countries gathered to celebrate, reflect, strategise and plan together as an Alliance.



The IMCC commenced with a [special audiovisual presentation](#) that highlighted GAATW's journey over the past three decades: our collective efforts, key achievements, and commitment to promoting the rights of women, migrants, and workers. It was followed by welcoming words from

GAATW's Founding Member, Siriporn Skrobanek, Chair of the Board, Dr Naruemon Thabchumpon, and Bandana Pattanaik, GAATW's International Coordinator. Afterwards, we had speakers in the following plenary session who spoke about the foundational issues affecting migrants, informal workers, and trafficked persons, such as neoliberal capitalism, racism, the legacies of colonialism, armed conflicts, and the decrease in respecting labour and human rights protections in policies and public services. The panelists noted that resistance and organising are happening, making it vital to listen, document their experiences, and spread their message. This creates an opportunity for collective action and solidarity.



On the same day, GAATW showcased our interactive timeline, tracing milestones and achievements of the Alliance and allies between 1994 and now. The first day concluded with three lively parallel sessions in which each group discussed strategies, intersectionality, and lessons learned on protecting the rights of trafficked persons, migrant workers, and those engaged in the informal economy.

On the second day, the morning session highlighted the need to amplify the voices of those with lived experiences in shaping policies and advocating for their rights. The afternoon session focused on our latest issue of the Anti-Trafficking Review, where we discussed funding for anti-

trafficking work, and how the increase in anti-trafficking funding globally over the past 30 years has not necessarily benefitted anti-trafficking efforts.

On the third day, our sessions addressed several pressing global issues: the need for stable governance to uphold the rights of migrant and domestic workers in Africa, the escalating violence from political instability in Latin America, which has forced millions to migrate within the region or to North America, the rise of far-right governments and anti-migration policies in Europe, the battle against the criminalisation of sex workers' clients in Canada, the need for stronger collaboration among South Asian governments to regulate safe migration, and the ongoing fight to recognise informal workers in Southeast Asia.

The day concluded with brainstorming ideas for a new annual GAATW publication, which will be launched in 2025 in collaboration with our members.



On the final day of the IMCC, discussions focused on survivor-centred approaches in anti-trafficking efforts, the impact of climate crisis on migration, and the rising issue of trafficking for forced criminality across Southeast Asia, Europe, and Latin America.

The day concluded with strategic planning, identifying cross-regional priorities and ways to strengthen the Alliance. To mark EU Anti-Trafficking Day, GAATW issued a [joint statement](#) with European members, calling for a human rights-centred approach that prioritises safe migration, labour rights, and dignity over restrictive border policies.

GAATW-IS prepared an IMCC report detailing the presentations and discussions during the event. The report can be accessed [here](#).

Women Workers for Change

Women Workers for Change: Knowledge-Sharing & Solidarity Forum



From 13-15 June 2024, GAATW hosted the Women Workers for Change (WW4C) Forum in Bangkok, Thailand, bringing together civil society organisations, partner groups, and women workers' advocates. The forum centred on a feminist change agenda for low-wage women workers, guided by three core strategies: Educate, Agitate, and Organise.

Plenary sessions featured testimonies from women workers' groups, with key discussions on social protection and gender-based violence and harassment. Interactive afternoon sessions were filled with activism, theatre, and dance movement therapy, strengthening creative forms of resistance and solidarity.

Participants collaboratively created a tapestry symbolising the strength and resilience of women workers, led by [PintaKultura](#) during the Activism workshops. Another group staged a community theatre performance, *Unseen Struggles: A Call to Protect the Rights of Domestic Workers*, developed with [Gabfai Community Theater](#), a GAATW member.

The forum concluded on International Domestic Workers Day, with WW4C participants joining 200 women workers at an event organised by [Homenet Thailand](#), celebrating collective action and solidarity.

The full report can be downloaded [here](#).



The Learning Journey on Voice and Participation

Learning Visit to Tenaganita: Rehabilitation Programmes for Trafficking Survivors

Srishty Anand of GAATW-IS visited [Tenaganita](#) in Malaysia to learn about its rehabilitation programme for trafficking survivors in shelters in Penang and Selangor. The programme supports survivors through skill-based training and rights awareness workshops, helping them rebuild their livelihoods.

During the visit, Srishty noted that although the 2015 amendment to Malaysia's Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants Act of 2007 grants trafficking survivors the right to work and freedom of movement, these provisions are still not widely implemented.


False Alarms, False Solutions

Ahead of the 2024 Paris Olympics, GAATW's Programme Officer for Voice and Participation, Srishty Anand, wrote a [blog article](#) critiquing France's anti-trafficking measures. The piece highlighted how these policies, rather than addressing human trafficking, put sex workers at risk through increased policing and restrictive laws.

Drawing from past sporting events, the article exposed how sensationalist claims about the rise of trafficking have repeatedly led to harmful policies based on fear rather than evidence. It called for rights-based approaches that prioritise the safety and agency of sex workers rather than harsh crackdowns that fail to address the root causes of exploitation.

Meet Our Members

Meet our members




Nairobi, Kenya

"The more we empower women on their rights the more they are able to claim them"
Interview with Janet Anyango

GAATW had an interview with [FIDA-Kenya](#), to get to know the organisation's history and impactful work in promoting women's and children's rights. They shared insights on FIDA-Kenya's founding motivations, challenges in accessing justice, and their influential mentorship programmes. Learn how FIDA-Kenya has shaped policies and continues to champion justice for all [here](#).

GAATW had a conversation with [Women Forum for Women \(WOFOWON\)](#) in Nepal, the first NGO in Nepal dedicated to advocating for the rights of women in the informal and entertainment sectors. In our interview, WOFOWON shared their inspiring founding story, the advocacy work they do, the key issues they tackle, and the challenges they face. They also provided valuable insights from the perspectives of the people they assist. Check it out [here](#).


Meet our members



Kathmandu, Nepal

"The voice is louder when we unite, and when we unite, we are stronger and can fight together."
Interview with Sarita Thapa

Meet our members



Warsaw, Poland

"Victims of human trafficking are not seen as persons deserving of help or empathy"
Interview with Joanna Garnier

We interviewed [Fundacja La Strada](#) (La Strada Poland), one of the founding members of the La Strada network. Founded in 1996, La Strada Poland has grown into an internationally recognised expert and advisory centre specialising in human trafficking. Their efforts extend to prevention and education, offering guidance on legal job opportunities abroad

and safe migration practices. Read our [conversation](#) to have an in-depth look at La Strada Poland's contributions and the valuable lessons they've learned from their work.

GAATW had the pleasure of talking with [Fundación Quimera](#), a non-profit organisation that has led social transformation since 1996. From Machala, Ecuador, their area of work include prevention and elimination of gender-based violence (GBV) — including trafficking in persons — with emphasis on addressing women, children, LGBTIQ+ groups as well as refugees and migrants in Ecuador. We delved into their journey - how they began, the difficulties they have encountered, and their ongoing efforts. Check out our interview [here](#).

Meet our members



📍 Machala, Ecuador

"Networking is our biggest and strongest strategy in our experience working with sex workers and women's organisations"

Interview with Rosa Manzo

Meet our members



📍 Lalitpur, Nepal

"When we talk about the root causes of discrimination and violence, at the core is unequal distribution of power due to gender, class and caste"

Interview with Sunita Mainali

We had an interview with [WOREC](#) which is one of leading national NGO in Nepal dedicated to addressing deep-rooted socioeconomic, cultural, and human rights injustices. In its journey spanning back to 1991, WOREC has been working together with people at the grassroots to foster social justice and sustainable livelihoods. Their primary mission is to prevent

trafficking in persons from a human rights perspective, but they also utilise holistic approach to address the root challenges to ensure rights for all Nepali people. Learn about their incredible journey [here](#).

Organisational Development

Human Resources

In 2024, the GAATW Secretariat welcomed two interns from [CAPI](#), Carly Egan and Maya Wilson, from the University of Victoria, Canada, who were with us from May to October. They supported the GAATW-IS team with communications, research, advocacy, and administrative tasks.

We also said goodbye to Srishty Anand, Programme Officer Voice and Participation, Wachira Chairattham, Accounts and Grants Management Officer, and Orathai Meesin, Administration Assistant, who made valuable contributions to GAATW's work. We appreciate their dedication and hard work as team members of the International Secretariat.

GAATW's Revamped Website Goes Live



In December, we launched our revamped website, designed to better serve our network and provide easier access to GAATW's resources, updates, and events. With a fresh look, improved navigation, and a more user-friendly interface, check out our [new site](#) and stay connected with our latest initiatives!

Our roots

The story of the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) is a women's story. It is a story of women building alliances across borders. This story also marks a moment of maturity in the feminist movement when women:

- Acknowledged that the vision of global sisterhood is fraught with numerous tensions – including those of class, race, sexuality and nationality – and began to understand that they need to listen before speaking on behalf of other women;
- Recognised that alliances, feminist or otherwise, are built around unequal power relationships;
- Understood that solidarities for political action can only be effective if one is able to negotiate different agendas.

GAATW Structure

GAATW Member Organisations

By the end of 2024, the Alliance welcomed six new member organisations: [ACCEM](#) (Spain), [Anti-Racism Movement](#) (Lebanon), [Christian Agenda for Development](#) (South Sudan), [Peers Victoria Resources Society](#) (Canada), [Southeast and East Asian Centre](#) (United Kingdom), and [Workers Support Centre](#) (Scotland).

The Board of Directors in 2024

Dr. Naruemon Thabchumpon, President
Poonsap Suanmuang Tulaphan, Member and Treasurer
Dr. Ratchada Jayagupta, Member and Secretary
Bianca Fidone, Member Representing Latin American Membership
Dr. Lucila Granada, Member Representing European Membership
Andriyeni, Member Representing Southeast and East Asia Membership
Grace Ideahor Osakue, Member Representing Africa Membership
Meera Raghavendra, Member Representing Asia Membership

The Secretariat in 2024

Apivart (Nong) Chaison, Finance and Admin Manager
Bandana Pattanaik, International Coordinator
Alfie Gordo, Programme Coordinator
Maya Linstrum-Newman, Advocacy, Policy and Media Lead
Srishty Anand, Programme Officer Voice and Participation (until October)
Orathai Meesin, Administration Assistant (until December)
Vivian Cartagena, Programme Officer Alliance Strengthening
Wachira Chairattham, Accounts and Grants Management Officer (until June)
Michelle Soe Moe, Programme Officer Communications
Borislav (Bobby) Gerasimov, Editor, Anti-Trafficking Review (part-time)
Dewi Nova Wahyuni, Consultant (part-time)
Vijaya Vanamala, Consultant (part-time)
Carly Egan, intern (May - October)
Maya Wilson, intern (May - October)

Editorial Board of Anti-Trafficking Review

Editor

Borislav Gerasimov, Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women, Thailand

Editorial Board Members

Rutvica Andrijasevic, University of Bristol, United Kingdom

Lyndsey Beutin, McMaster University, Canada

Jacqueline Bhabha, Harvard School of Public Health, United States

Denise Brennan, Georgetown University, United States

Amalia Cabezas, University of California Riverside, United States

Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, University of Nigeria; Former UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Nigeria

John Gee, Transient Workers Count Too, Singapore

Yana Hashamova, Ohio State University, United States

Suzanne Hoff, La Strada International, The Netherlands

Mónica Hurtado, Universidad de la Sabana, Colombia

Kamala Kempadoo, York University, Canada

Annalee Lepp, University of Victoria, Canada

Marika Mcadam, Independent Consultant, Australia

Sanja Milivojevic, La Trobe University, Australia and Oxford University, United Kingdom

Sverre Molland, Australian National University, Australia

Jennifer Musto, Wellesley College, United States

Marina Novaes, Business & Human Rights Resource Center, Brazil

Victoria Ijeoma Nwogu, United Nations Development Programme, Somalia

Julia O'connell Davidson, University of Bristol, United Kingdom

Pia Oberoi, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Thailand

Sam Okyere, University of Bristol, United Kingdom

Sharamila Parmanand, London School of Economics, United Kingdom

Elaine Pearson, Human Rights Watch, Australia

Nicola Piper, University of Sydney, Australia

Adriana Piscitelli, University of Campinas, Brazil

Nivedita Prasad, Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Joel Quirk, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Caroline Robinson, Independent human rights expert, United Kingdom

Jyoti Sanghera, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Switzerland

Marie Segrave, Monash University, Australia

Kiril Sharapov, Edinburgh Napier University

Elena Shih, Brown University, United States

Rebecca Surtees, NEXUS Institute, United States

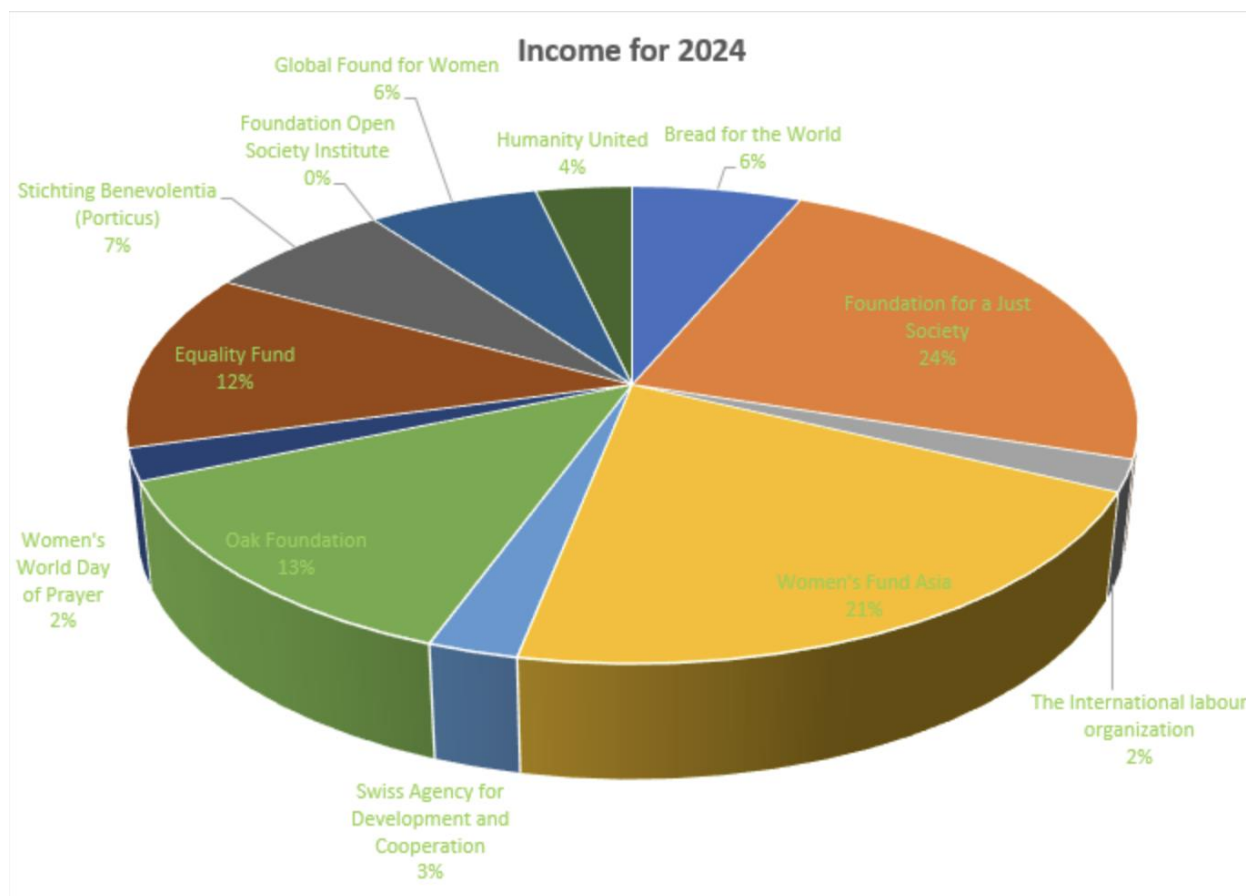
Sallie Yea, Independent scholar and consultant, Australia

Cathy Zimmerman, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom

Funding support

1. Expenditure per donor 2024

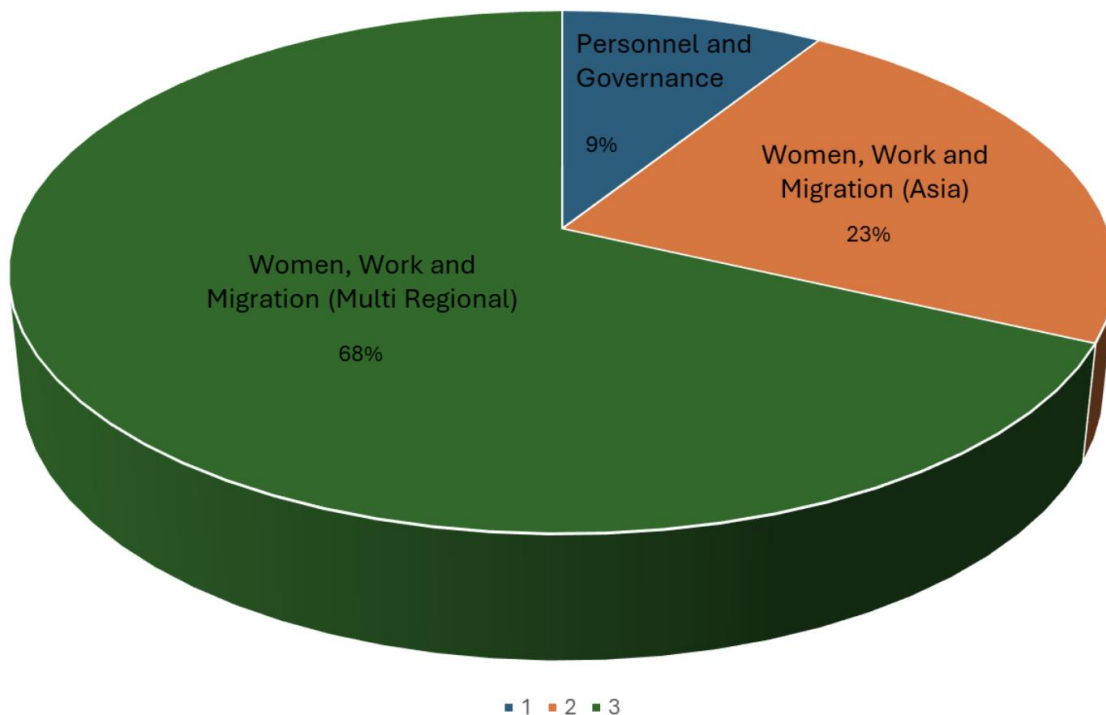
	Funding Partners	Balance from 2023	Income Jan-Dec 2024	Total Income for 2024	Amount in USD	Per cent of total
1	Bread for the World	896,139.76	2,284,160.09	3,180,299.85	90,866	6%
2	Foundation for a Just Society	11,781,476.91		11,781,476.91	336,614	24%
3	The International labour organization	(6,845.00)	1,068,056.93	1,061,211.93	30,320	2%
4	Women's Fund Asia	7,378,643.31	3,112,191.03	10,490,834.34	299,738	21%
5	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	(617,714.60)	1,853,568.12	1,235,853.52	35,310	2%
6	Oak Foundation	1,686,287.49	4,841,751.00	6,528,038.49	186,515	13%
7	Women's World Day of Prayer	259,177.48	820,979.28	1,080,156.76	30,862	2%
8	Equality Fund	1,044,380.94	5,018,890.00	6,063,270.94	173,236	12%
9	Stichting Benevolentia (Porticus)	3,532,403.48	-	3,532,403.48	100,926	7%
10	Foundation Open Society Institute	-		-	0	0%
11	Global Found for Women	1,326,038.63	1,865,898.15	3,191,936.78	91,198	6%
	Humanity United	-	1,807,302.28	1,807,302.28	51,637	4%
	Total Income	27,279,988.40	22,672,796.88	49,952,785.28	1,427,222.44	100%



2. Expenditure per programme

Expenses from January-December 2023	In THB	In USD	% of Programme Expenses
OVERHEAD			
Personnel and Governance	2,771,669.82	79,191	9%
PROGRAMME			
Women, Work and Migration (Asia)	7,054,745.67	201,564	23%
Feminist Knowledge Building (Research)			
Strategic Communications			
Advocacy & Influencing			
Movement Support & Alliance Strengthening			
Partner Support			
Meetings, Trainings & Consultations			
Women, Work and Migration (Multi Regional)	20,974,666.08	599,276	68%
Feminist Knowledge Building (Research)			
Strategic Communications			
Advocacy & Influencing			
Movement Support & Alliance Strengthening			
Partner Support			
Meetings, Trainings & Consultations			
TOTAL	30,801,081.57	880,031	100%

Expenditure per Programme for 2024



About GAATW



GAATW is an alliance of organisations from Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas that promote the rights of women migrant workers and trafficked persons and believe that ensuring safe migration and fair workplaces should be at the core of all antitrafficking efforts.

We advocate for living and working conditions that provide women with more opportunities in their countries of origin and for the incorporation of human rights standards in all anti-trafficking initiatives, including in the implementation of the UN Trafficking Protocol.

GAATW strives to promote and share good practices of antitrafficking initiatives but also to critique practices and policies that are having a negative impact or are causing harm to trafficked persons, migrants and other communities.

GAATW supports the self-organisation of women in vulnerable and marginalised situations, especially migrant workers in the informal sectors, and aims to strengthen their efforts of self-representation and advocacy.

The GAATW-IS works in conjunction with its member and partner organisations and aims to plan and implement the strategic agenda of the Alliance in a democratic manner, centring the rights of all migrating people.



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW)

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X: https://x.com/GAATW_IS

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/GlobalAllianceAgainstTrafficInWomen/>

Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/gaatw-is.bsky.social>