

# e-Bulletin



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

## GAATW e-Bulletin

January 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

Warm greetings from GAATW-IS and we hope that 2008 has begun well for all of you.

The past year has been a busy but rewarding year for GAATW. We held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Triennial Members Congress in November. The international and regional launch of the *Collateral Damage: The Impact of Anti-Trafficking Measures of Human Rights around the World* were held in September. The report has been widely disseminated among members and colleagues in various regions. As we commence our new programme, we hope that our lobby around the major recommendations of the report will be successful.

As you may know, recruitment process for several new positions in the IS has already started as some of our colleagues completed their contract at the end of 2007. We hope to have our new colleagues with us by March 2008.

In this issue, we bring you news from the UK, Bahrain, Guinea, Hong Kong and Tanzania and regional updates from Latin American members. We also update you on the latest international events. This year the Advocacy Updates will go out quarterly instead of monthly issues. Many of you may already have planned to attend the AWID Forum later this year. If you haven't yet, do send them your workshop ideas by 28 January. Some of you would also be going to the Vienna Forum in mid-February. Along with many members and friends GAATW-IS will also be there. In the next issue we will bring you an update on the Forum.

Warmly,

**The GAATW International Secretariat**

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

### UK to ratify Anti-Trafficking Treaty

The United Kingdom government has recently announced that they would ratify the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking by the end of 2008. British Home Secretary Jacqui Smith affirmed that the move underlines the government's attempt to curb trafficking. Currently 37 of the 47 Council of Europe members have signed the convention but only 11 have ratified it. Most of the member states are in the course of implementing it. In March 2007 the UK Government also published a comprehensive Human Trafficking Action Plan.

[http://www.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=26655&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26655&Itemid=2)

### Bahrain Parliament Approves Anti-Human Trafficking Law

The Bahraini parliament approved, on December 31, a law supporting the fight against human trafficking. The law will now be brought to the government and the monarch for approval. The new legislation will define the crime and set out the punishments and fines for those found to be committing it. A national committee for the fight against human trafficking is also to be established, for examining foreign workers' exposure to it.

[http://www.thememriblog.org/blog\\_personal/en/4373.htm](http://www.thememriblog.org/blog_personal/en/4373.htm)

### Guinea's Children Face Threat of Abandonment, Trafficking

Authorities and aid workers in Guinea say children in impoverished areas are increasingly being abandoned by their families, leaving them on their own, exploited as workers, or at the mercy of traffickers. An official from UNICEF who coordinates activities between Guinea's government and the United Nations children's body explains that many of these children end up being coerced into becoming domestic workers, working in plantations or given platters to put on their heads and sell food in markets. Children are also victims of organ trafficking as they are dismembered and their body parts sold for medical purposes.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2008-01-13-voa21.cfm>

### Trafficking campaign launched

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has embarked on a campaign to raise human trafficking awareness in Tanzania. The three-month campaign dubbed "Uwe sauti Yao" (Be their voice) was unveiled at a hip-hop rally in the capital Dar es Salaam, and followed by public service announcements on television and radio. Cases of international and domestic trafficking have increased in Tanzania, mostly internal trafficking. Women and children are also trafficked for sexual or labour exploitation to neighbouring countries as well as to the Middle East and Europe. IOM Tanzania in the last two years has assisted more than 120 victims of trafficking with support from the US State Department.

[http://www.news24.com/News24/Africa/News/0,,2-11-1447\\_2239752,00.html](http://www.news24.com/News24/Africa/News/0,,2-11-1447_2239752,00.html)

## REGIONAL/MEMBER UPDATES

**New Publication:** The Serviço à Mulher Marginalizada - SMM, (Service to Marginalized Women), a GAATW member in Brazil has launched a new publication: *Trafficking in Persons, a Political Approach*.

This publication tackles the different implications of trafficking in human beings as a cause and a consequence of Human Rights violations including issues like Migration (for example, there are thousands of migrants from Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru working in slavery-like conditions in the Sao Paulo garment industry, and many of these migrants are woman who are also sexually exploited), Gender, Human Rights and Race (since most of the woman trafficked in Brazil are afro descendents) and its nexus with Trafficking. You can find more information at: [www.smm.org.br](http://www.smm.org.br)

The World Social Forum will take place from 22 to 26 January 2008 in the city of Belem, Brazil. On the 22nd January, Sodireitos, a member organization based in the city will participate in a workshop on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights and Human Migrations.

You can find the Programme of the WSF at: [www.belemjaneiro2008.blogspot.com](http://www.belemjaneiro2008.blogspot.com)

**Workshop in the Dominican Republic:** From 03 to 05 December 2007, members of GAATW-REDLAC from Brazil (Sodireitos) and the Dominican Republic (COIN, CEAPA and MODEMU) gathered to finalize a common research on trafficking of women from Brazil and the Dominican Republic to Suriname. The workshop aimed at sharing the conclusions of the 3 commonly undertaken national researches, and at defining the final report structure and content. This is the first time that members of the REDLAC from 3 different countries (and speaking 3 different languages) have worked as a network in a common research.

The book will be published in Portuguese, Spanish and English -and maybe Dutch- in March 2008 and will be the first common publication of Sodireitos and the GAATW-REDLAC. For more information by contacting Sodireitos at: [sodireitos@gmail.com](mailto:sodireitos@gmail.com)

### **Indonesian Migrant Workers Protest the recent legislation:**

The United Indonesians Against Overcharging (PILAR) carried out a protest action to dispute the new order of the Indonesian Consulate that practically binds Indonesian Migrant Workers (IMW) to the mercy of their recruiter for the first two years in Hong Kong. PILAR is an alliance of 18 Indonesian migrant workers' organizations in Hong Kong (including ATKI-HK, a GAATW member) that has been actively pushing for the resolution of the overcharging issue and the improvement of services for Indonesian migrants. The policy, contained in the Letter of Order 2258/2007 and addressed to the Association of Employment Agency on Hong Kong (APPIH), was implemented last January 1, 2008. The group is concerned that the new order will put IMWs in a situation that is even more vulnerable to abuses by recruiters. PILAR will continue to push for the demands of IMWs to the Consulate and will include the scrapping of the order.

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.

## **RESOURCES**

### Reports

#### **The Civil Society Day of the Global Forum on Migration and Development End Report**

The end report brings together the results of the discussions during the Civil Society Day at the Global Forum on Migration and Development last July 9, 2007 which was hosted by the Belgian government. The aim of the Civil Society Day was to bring non-governmental parties together to exchange ideas and experiences, and to prepare civil society's contribution to the Forum in the form of a set of conclusions and recommendations.

[http://www.kbs-frb.be/uploadedFiles/KBS-FRB/05\\_Pictures,\\_documents\\_and\\_external\\_sites/09\\_Publications/EndReportMigration&Dev.pdf](http://www.kbs-frb.be/uploadedFiles/KBS-FRB/05_Pictures,_documents_and_external_sites/09_Publications/EndReportMigration&Dev.pdf)

#### **Caught Between Two Hells**

The research by the Burmese Women's Union (BWU) draws attention to the appalling working conditions and human rights abuses encountered by women migrant workers and girls in irregular situations and provides insight into the occupational hazards and harms migrants from Burma face in Thailand and China.

For copies, contact [bwunion04@chmai2.loxinfo.co.th](mailto:bwunion04@chmai2.loxinfo.co.th)

### Publications

Hotline for Migrant Workers has published a report on trafficking in persons entitled "Another Delivery from Tashkent: Profile of the Israeli Trafficker." This report focuses on the trafficker by examining the socio-economic background, criminal history and other information. This publication aims to deepen knowledge and stimulate public debate on

trafficking in persons and its implications. To download this and other reports, or for more information on the issues and the organisation's activities, please visit: <http://www.hotline.org.il/english/index.htm>

#### Trafficking in Humans: Social, Cultural and Political Dimensions

This forthcoming book published by the United Nations University (UNU) Press and edited by Sally Cameron and Edward Newman seeks to deepen understanding of the social, economic and political contexts of human trafficking: the recruitment and transportation of human beings through deception or coercion for the purpose of exploitation. The book includes experts with great experience of trafficking issues and it also gives a voice to 'critical' views which argue that trafficking challenges are inseparable from broader debates about human rights and migration.

<http://www.unu.edu/unupress/2008/traffickingInHumans.html>

To order: [http://www.unu.edu/unupress/hq\\_howto.htm](http://www.unu.edu/unupress/hq_howto.htm)

#### Events

The Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy (SAPA) General Forum 2008 will have its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of its members following the first which was held in Bangkok in February 2007. The GF is convened by SAPA Regional Steering Committee (RSC) in cooperation with Forum-Asia which is the local hosting organization. The GF, as the main meeting open to all members and partners, aims to develop common action plans based on common understanding of emerging challenges. In addition, it aims to evaluate SAPA's activities in terms of civil society response to them. Official website and contact of SAPA: <http://www.asiasapa.org> / [sapa@forum-asia.org](mailto:sapa@forum-asia.org)

The Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking will be held from 13 to 15 February 2008 under the framework of the United Nations-sponsored Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN-GIFT). The Vienna Forum will bring together representatives from Member States, UN system organizations, other regional and international organizations, the business community, academia, non-governmental organizations and other elements of civil society. The Forum will address issues on vulnerabilities and root causes of human trafficking, its human and social consequences as well as innovative approaches to solving complex problems.

For more information, please call +43.1.26060.4148 or email: [viennaforum@unov.org](mailto:viennaforum@unov.org)  
[http://www.ungift.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=375&Itemid=687](http://www.ungift.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=375&Itemid=687)

#### 2008 AWID Forum: Call for Proposals

From November 14-18, 2008, up to 1,500 women's rights activists from around the world will gather in Cape Town, South Africa to discuss the issue of building stronger women's movements globally. The 11<sup>th</sup> AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development invites proposals from anyone who works or has an interest in women's rights, international development, and social justice to contribute to this urgent discussion by submitting a proposal to organize a session at the 11th AWID Forum: The Power of Movements

To visit the website: [www.awid.org/forum](http://www.awid.org/forum)

Go to the AWID website: [www.awid.org](http://www.awid.org)

Submit your proposal online: [www.awid.org/forum08](http://www.awid.org/forum08)

Email or call AWID for more information *or* a Word version/hard copy of the application form: [forum08@awid.org](mailto:forum08@awid.org); +1 416 594 3773

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 28, 2008**

*" Women should have opportunities to share their experiences of activism and struggle in addition to sharing their experiences of oppression"*  
Respect and Relevance: Supporting Self-Organising as a Strategy for Empowerment and Social Change, GAATW 2007

The GAATW e-bulletin is sent out to all member organisations of the Alliance as well as to many of its friends and

sister NGOs worldwide.

- The e-bulletin is published every last week of the month. A Spanish version goes out three days after the English version. Sometimes additional follow up information and/or reminders are also sent via email to member organisations.
- Primarily a tool for communication between the International Secretariat and the Alliance members, the e-bulletin aims to cover a broad range of topics although trafficking related issues remain its special focus. We also use this e-bulletin to inform members about upcoming events and provide regular updates about the Secretariat.
- We strongly encourage members and friends to send us their input to the e-bulletin at [info@gaatw.org](mailto:info@gaatw.org)
- If you do not want to receive this e-bulletin please send us a message at [info@gaatw.org](mailto:info@gaatw.org) and we will delete your address from the list.

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