Central, non-EU Western, Eastern & Southern Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) & Central Asia

coalition Karat gender equality NEWS

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What's new in KARAT ?

- KARAT at CIVICUS FORUM in Montreal
- Call For Application: Membership in KARAT
- Toolkit "Gender Mainstreaming into development cooperation"
- makeITfair Postcard Action

Members' News

- Women's Rights Centre (Armenia): Training Manual on Domestic Violence for Police Servants
- Women's Rights Centre (Armenia): Street Action Informing About the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Hotline Service
- "Women's Independent Democratic Movement" (Belarus): Shadow report for CEDAW Committee
- "Sana Sezim" (Kazakhstan): Against Human Trafficking
- Federation for Women and Family Planning (Poland): Parliamentary Hearing on Polish Abortion Tourism
- FEMINA CREATIVA (Serbia): Conference - Role of Women in Rural Development
- Information Centre of the Independent Women's Forum (Russia): Women and Safer Cities

World

- Moldova: OSCE Mission holds roundtable discussion on gender equality in politics and the economy
- Uzbekistan: a new National Action Plan on the implementations of CEDAW
- Former Chilean President Bachelet to Head UN Women

Resources

- Gender Studies, o.p.s. (Czech Republic): New Publication: Family Policy
- Human Rights Watch: Report About Interethnic Violence in Kyrgyzstan
- WIDE: Mobilizing for Gender Justice Beyond the MDGs Campaign – Blog Officially Launched!
- Czech AidWatch Report 2010

KARAT at CIVICUS FORUM

The debate on the challenges of organizing for social inclusion and gender equity was organised by One World Action and KARAT at the CIVICUS 9th World Assembly (20-23 August 2010 in Montreal, Canada), attended by several hundreds participants from the spectrum of civil society organizations.

Our workshop focused on engagement of marginalized/poor group of women in development of new strategies aiming at building equitable, gender sensitive, democratic and accountable governance. The experience of women's groups from Africa, Asia, Eastern and Western Europe presented in the context of various processes, such as development effectiveness, Beijing or European Union enlargement, was a starting point of the discussion aiming to explore a number of themes including:

- How can marginalized/poor groups raise their capacity to engage with and transform political processes?
- What lessons can be learned from marginalized/poor women's political participation at various levels that can contribute to strengthening development processes?
- What can we learn from new strategies such as the development effectiveness process?

The workshop attended by more than 20 participants contributed to the Southern, Eastern, Western learning and sharing and to pointing out the importance of the role that women play in the various processes.

For more information contact Kinga at: kinga.lohmann@karat.org.pl.

Call For Application: Membership in KARAT

Twice a year KARAT Board is accepting new members of KARAT. KARAT Board will be accepting new members on the 14th of October 2010, at its meeting in Warsaw.

Any gender focused organization from Central/Eastern European or Central Asian country which agrees with and supports the statutory objectives of KARA can apply for membership. Detailed information on how to apply is available on our website: http://www.karat.org/karat,news,Membership,Become+a+member,en.html.

The deadline for sending applications to is the 8th of October.

For more information please write to Ewa Kamińska at ewa.kaminska@karat.org.pl.

Toolkit "Gender Mainstreaming into development cooperation"

The toolkit "Gender Mainstreaming into development cooperation" written by Milla O'Sullivan and Petra Kubálková (section "Equal Opportunities in an Organization") is now avaialable.

The toolkit has been created on the base of research carried out by Milla during data gathering tour in Georgia, which was part of the project "Through Their Eyes, Through Ours." co-financed by European Commission.

This tool is a great source of information on how to undertake concrete steps to mainstream gender in development projects.

Czech and English version are available here.

For more information contact Ewa Pintera at: ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl

makeITfair Postcard Action

KARAT Coalition supports initiatives and campaigns for fair working conditions: "I want a fair and green phone" is an action directed at mobile network operators by makeITfair campaign. Millions of mobile phones are being sold every year. Unfortunately, the production of these phones often does not respect social and environmental standards. As the main retailers of mobile phones, network operators have to take some responsibility. Please join us and help us to collect 10,000 signatures and hand them over to the network providers! Send a digital postcard to your mobile network operator.

More information: http://makeitfair.org

Members' News

Women's Rights Centre (Armenia): Training Manual on Domestic Violence for Police Servants

Women's Rights Centre (WRC) has elaborated a Training Manual on Domestic Violence for police officers, informing about the current issues related to domestic violence in Armenia. It has been created in cooperation with the specialists from Police Training Center and WRC lawyers. What is important, due to the Government decision, the published manual will be disseminated to RA Police Academy and RA Police Training Center in order to be included in the curriculum of proper institutions.

For more information please write to Susanna at: susanna@wrcorg.am.

Women's Rights Centre (Armenia): Street Action Informing About the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Hotline Service

After the activation of the 24-hours free hotline 0-800-80-850 Women's Rights Center organized a street action. Women-passers received plastic bags with National Hot Line numbers.

The action was really successful and attracted attention of many people. The passers by were also informed about WRC activities and services on domestic violence issue and on its prevention. For more information please write to Susanna at: susanna@wrcorg.am.

“Women’s Independent Democratic Movement” (Belarus): Shadow report for CEDAW Committee

During last two years “Women’s Independent Democratic Movement” carried out work on preparation of the Shadow report for CEDAW Committee. The Belarusian report will be reviewed in January 2011.

“Women’s Independent Democratic Movement” has carried out monitoring of last recommendations for Belarus. It has also conducted independent research concerning a labor market and women’s health problems. Now the association is conducting the information campaign promoting the Shadow report in Belarus.

The report contains a lot of information on problems of women in Belarus. It is available here.

For further information please contact Ludmiła at: petina@open.by.

“Sana Sezim” (Kazakhstan): Against Human Trafficking

The Legal Centre for Women's Initiatives “Sana Sezim” organized an informational action in Shymkent on the occasion of International Day of Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. The staff and volunteers of "Sana Sezim" distributed 1000 leaflets and 500 booklets among the population of Shymkent. The booklets informs about existing risks of becoming a victim of human trafficking, methods of achieving personal safety when going abroad, methods of recruitment by human traffickers, existing types of human trafficking, and the “hot line” number. The action was a part of the project "Legal Education to counteract human trafficking” co-financed by the European Union.

To know more, please write to Vera at: ngosanasezim@rambler.ru.

Federation for Women and Family Planning (Poland): Parliamentary Hearing on Polish Abortion Tourism

Polish restrictive 1993’s anti abortion law permits abortions only if pregnancy results from criminal offence or the life of the mother was seriously threatened or if there was severe deformation of the fetus. The introduction of the law led to development of abortion underground and abortion tourism.

The issue of abortion tourism was a topic of parliamentary hearing organized by Federation for Women and Family Planning. Invited guests, reproductive health practitioners from Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, and UK highlighted one of the central characteristic of the phenomenon - in highly restrictive situations, class and socio-economic status play a huge role in whether or not a woman can access safe abortion. Only women who have financial resources can go to Western countries to obtain abortion. Parliamentary hearing on Polish abortion tourism revealed the need for change of anti-abortion law.

More information (in Polish): http://www.federa.org.pl.

FEMINA CREATIVA (Serbia): Conference - Role of Women in Rural Development

The first Serbian national conference on the position and role of women in rural development has been held in Niš on the 27th and 28th of August. The position of rural women in Serbia is highly contradictory. On one hand there is a high percentage of formal unemployment, while on the other hand rural women have a variety of skills in the field of

traditional knowledge, one of the basis of diversification of rural economy. The aim of the conference was to draw attention of authorities to these inter relations and to the need for integration of women's issues into rural development planning at all levels.

The conference was organized by the Association for the Economic Empowerment of Women FEMINA CREATIVA from Subotica and the Department of Agriculture of City of Niš. The conference has been one of the most important steps in the 11-month long project "Women in Rural Development" which is supported by USAID and Institute for Sustainable Communities.

To know more, please write to Ružica at: rozen70@yunord.net.

Information Centre of the Independent Women's Forum (Russia): Women and Safer Cities

The Information Centre of the Independent Women's Forum (ICIWF) is currently running a series of local dialogues, focus group discussions and women's safety audits, in partnership with community members and local authorities. The events are taking place as preparation for a National Workshop on women's safety in September 2010. The groups are raising recognition for the issue of women and safer cities, and are developing partnership with local authorities to develop gender disaggregated data and cooperation on making cities safer for women and everyone.

The four day National Workshop will bring together women's groups from seven cities including Moscow, Tver, Putchino, Dubna, Petrozavodsk, Cheliabinsk, and Putchino. They will exchange their experiences around the safety issues that emerged in the focus groups, safety audits and other safety initiatives of the women's groups.

For more information please contact Erica at: erica.reade@huairou.org or Elizaveta at: liza_bozhkova@mail.ru.

World

Moldova: OSCE Mission holds roundtable discussion on gender equality in politics and the economy

How politics and economic growth benefit from greater participation by women, including in times of economic crisis, was the focus of a roundtable discussion organized by the OSCE Mission to Moldova in Chisinau.

Experts from Austria, Belarus, Moldova, Slovenia, Sweden and Ukraine shared good practices and lessons learned on how political leaders and the electorate can benefit from a focus on women's role in political and economic life. The discussions highlighted how gender equality contributes to economic growth, the impact of quotas and non-quota mechanisms, the key role of women leaders and associations in promoting women's participation in politics, and how the media can have a greater impact by promoting women. The roundtable discussion resulted in recommendations to help Moldovan leaders and civil society better strive for gender equality in the political and economic fields.

For further information please contact Rita Naseniece at: rita.naseniece@osce.org.

Uzbekistan: a new National Action Plan on the implementations of CEDAW

The Uzbek Prime Minister signed a new National Action Plan on the implementations of the CEDAW Convention (based on the latest CEDAW Committee observations). It is declared that the Plan will be implemented in close cooperation with local NGOs. This fact will definitely provide women's organizations with a green light for our further CEDAW related activities in Uzbekistan.

To know more, please write to Liliya (from "Istiqbolli Avlod" – a KARAT Member): lkhamzayeva@mail.ru.

Former Chilean President Bachelet to Head UN Women

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed former Chilean president Michelle Bachelet to head United Nations Women (UN Women), a newly created entity to oversee all of the world body's programmes aimed at promoting women's rights and full participation in global affairs.

Ms. Bachelet, Chile's first female president who prioritized women's issues throughout her tenure and since leaving office has been working with UNIFEM to advocate for the needs of Haitian women following January's devastating earthquake, was chosen over two other candidates. Many voices have praised her appointment to the post.

The official UN Women website: http://www.unwomen.org

Resources

Gender Studies, o.p.s. (Czech Republic): New Publication: Family Policy

New publication by KARAT's Czech member Gender Studies: "Family Policy: Parental and Maternity Leave in the Context of Work-Life Balance and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men" discusses the essential conditions of a system of maternity and parental leave that observes the principles of equal opportunities and work-life balance. They include, for example, effective and well-functioning network of child care services and positive flexibility in the job market. Policy recommendations to improve the position of parents in the society and to make the child care network more efficient are included.

The publication is available here: http://www.en.genderstudies.cz/gender-studies/publications.shtml

To know more, please write to Linda at: linda.sokacova@genderstudies.cz.

Human Rights Watch: Report About Interethnic Violence in Kyrgyzstan

The Human Rights Watch Report "Where is the Justice? Interethnic Violence in Southern Kyrgyzstan and Its Aftermath" states that some government forces acted, knowingly or unwittingly, to facilitate attacks on ethnic Uzbek neighborhoods in the violence in southern Kyrgyzstan in June 2010. Local law enforcement agencies also failed to provide appropriate protection to the Uzbek community. The government's investigation into the violence, which left hundreds dead and thousands injured, has been marred with abuses, while new ethnically motivated attacks are taking place in the south.

The report is based on more than 200 interviews with Kyrgyz and Uzbek victims and witnesses, lawyers, human rights defenders, government officials, and law enforcement personnel. It also analyzes satellite imagery and photographic, video, documentary, and forensic evidence.

The report is available here.

WIDE: Mobilizing for Gender Justice Beyond the MDGs Campaign – Blog Officially Launched!

WIDE has officially launched its "Mobilizing for Gender Justice Beyond the MDGs Campaign". Ten years after the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Declaration was signed by 189 countries, the United Nations is celebrating MDG+10 Review Summit on 20-22 September 2010, in New York.

WIDE keeps a critical view on the MDGs framework as a narrow and minimalist focus for measuring development and the advancement of gender equality and women´s rights. WIDE considers that the MDGs leave aside the structural nature of poverty as well as the structural nature of gender inequality.

More information: UN Watch Blog

Czech AidWatch Report 2010

The Czech Forum of Development Cooperation (FoRS), is launching the annual AidWatch report ahead of the UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The report called How the Czech Republic Eradicates Global Poverty focuses on the MDGs from various points of view.

The Czech development cooperation has progressed rapidly since its revival in 1995. However, this report shows that the economic and pro-export interests of the Czech Republic have dominated during those five years. The gender dimension is still missing.

The full report will is available in Czech on the webpage of FoRS and an English summary will be available soon.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

KARAT Secretariat would like to sincerely thank the following for their contributions to the News (forwarding information and providing us with 'original' information): Federation for Women and Family Planning (Poland), FEMINA CREATIVA (Serbia), Gender-Center (Moldova), Gender Studies, o.p.s. (Czech Republic), Information Centre of the Independent Women's Forum (Russia), "Istiqbolli Avlod" (Uzbekistan) "Sana Sezim" (Kazakhstan), "Women's Independent Democratic Movement" (Belarus), Women's Rights Centre (Armenia), ASTRA, CONCORD, IWRAW, WIDE, WUNRN.

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