

# KARAT NEWS

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KARAT Secretariat would like to pay a tribute to Yana Poliakova, brave Belarusian human rights activists, died just before the International Women's day on 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2009. Yana's story shows that our fight for women's human rights and gender equality is still far to be won. Nevertheless, we still do hope for the time, when we 8<sup>th</sup> of March could be celebrated every day...

## What's new in KARAT ?

### OP CEDAW: partners meet in Warsaw



The strategic meeting of the partners involved in KARAT's project focusing on the promotion of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW in Eastern European and Central Asian countries took place on 27-28 March in Warsaw. The meeting was attended by the project partners from **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan** as well as by the women from **Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan** delegated by Women's Support Center from Kyrgyzstan collaborating with KARAT on the OP CEDAW since previous year. The strategic partner in

the project – International Women's Action Watch Asia Pacific was also represented. During the meeting the aims and the action plan of the project were thoroughly discussed and the detailed decisions related to the next project event – the training on the Optional Protocol to CEDAW – were made. The training aims at providing women activists and lawyers with skills related to using the procedures under the Optional Protocol in order to counteract the discrimination against women. Thus the training will contribute to building the capacity of women's NGOs to better protect women's human rights. The call for applications for participation in the training will soon be announced.

2009 is the second year of the project's implementation. Therefore the newly established partnership will build on the experience gained last year by KARAT and women's organizations from Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Like in 2009, also this year, part of the project activities will be conducted in cooperation with [IWRAP Asia Pacific](#) the organization focusing on CEDAW for over 15 years. Since not all the Central Asian countries represented in the project are parties to the Optional Protocol to CEDAW, one of the project aims is to support the women's NGOs is to convince their authorities to ratify these document.

To know more about the project write to Ola at: [aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl](mailto:aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl)

### “Thought Their Eyes”: all photos available



Now all the photographs which formed the exhibition held in Warsaw in January 2009 as part the “Through Their Eyes Through Ours” project are available on KARAT's website.

You can access them at:

[http://www.karat.org/karat/img/fckimages/Through%20Their%20Eyes%20\[tryb%20zgodności\].pdf](http://www.karat.org/karat/img/fckimages/Through%20Their%20Eyes%20[tryb%20zgodności].pdf)

For more information about the exhibition or the project write to Ewa ([ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl](mailto:ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl))

### Women is Supermarkets: new resources



“Discrimination, mobbing, sexual harassment in super/hypermarkets” is a title of the new awareness rising booklet produced within the project „Labour rights protection from a gender perspective in super/hypermarkets in Poland”. Knowledge about the gender based discrimination and worker's rights is very low in that sector of employment where up to 90% of the staff are women. This small publication aims to fill this gap and empower the women workers. It also targets different labour market stakeholders who often ignore the legal obligations.

Up to 90% of the super/hypermarkets staff are women. The research conducted by KARAT in 2008 showed that in supermarkets not the law but its implementation is improper and in result - labour rights protection system often fails. The most obvious infringements include extending the length of shifts, not observing require amount of time between them, the number of days worked without a day off, mobbing. To know more write to Agnieszka at: [agnieszka.chmielecka@karat.org.pl](mailto:agnieszka.chmielecka@karat.org.pl)

## MakelTfair: youth push for change



The objectives of the MakelTfair Youth Round Table held from 13 to 15 March in Amsterdam were not only to inform the participants about the misconduct within the electronic products cycle but also to provide them with tools enabling to act as youth organizations and as EU-citizens. You can see a short movie from this meeting at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKuxUYzY-g0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKuxUYzY-g0)

MakelTFair is a European campaign, raising awareness about developmental issues in the production of consumer electronics, such as mobile phones, MP3 players and laptops where the majority of employees are women. Because of its interest in improvement of women's working conditions globally KARAT takes part in the campaign as a partner from Central Eastern Europe. We know that it is not very easy to put pressure on multinational companies to make them change their behaviors and take full responsibility for their acts, but with mass movement it works! Helps us by simply signing a postcard available at <http://makeitfair.org/take-action/email-action-2> and disseminating this information to your friends and networks. Please take a minute for this.

To know more about the project please write to Marta at: [marta.gontarska@karat.org.pl](mailto:marta.gontarska@karat.org.pl)

## Social Watch: training for effectiveness



How to attract the media? What is an effective policy influencing strategy? Where we are now and where do we want to be as Social Watch Coalition? These were the concerns addressed by the training on Lobby, Advocacy and Campaigning organized by KARAT for members of the Polish Social Watch Coalition on the 26th March. Participants had a chance to get familiar with visibility and communication techniques, listen to the reflections of the TV reporter and strengthen their practical skills for effective engagement in the policy making process. The training build on the experiences gained during the development of the first national report of the

Polish Social Watch Coalition (PSWC) *Czas na prawa (Time for Rights)* which was launched in the Polish Parliament on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2008.

The report and PSWC are parts of the international Social Watch mandate aiming at struggling for social, economic and gender justice worldwide. KARAT coordinates the production of an annual national report and daily functioning of the coalition in Poland.

Interested to become a PSWC member? To know more write to Magda at: [magda.pochec@karat.org.pl](mailto:magda.pochec@karat.org.pl)

## Gender and Development project postponed

Bad news. Three year EC project: *Building Support in New Member States for Gender – sensitive and – responsive European Development Cooperation* that was planned to start in April has been postponed due to the problems with rising the own contribution. Project was submitted by One World Action (UK) in partnership with KARAT and member organizations from Bulgaria (GERT), Czech Republic (Association for Equal Opportunities), Slovakia (Slovak Center for Communication and Development) and Romania (Org 'AUR'). The final decision about the commencement of the project will be taken in June.

To know more about KARAT and Gender & Development write to

Kasia at: [kasia.staszewska@karat.org.pl](mailto:kasia.staszewska@karat.org.pl)

## Networking & WIDE AC

Networking is power! With this belief Kasia Staszewska, KARAT Coalition Networking Officer, joined the Training Capacity Building of Networks, organized by WIDE on 20 and 21 March in Brussels. The training focused on networking best practices and building WIDE as a network. The participants - representatives of WIDE platforms and member organizations - had an opportunity to come together,

have discussions and become empowered. Besides the learning of practical tools to be used in every day work it was a great chance to bring new energy to the relations usually maintained via electronic means.

**Women In Development Europe (WIDE)** is a European feminist network of women's organizations, development NGOs, gender specialists and women's rights activists. WIDE monitors and influences international economic and development policy and practice from a feminist perspective. **KARAT is a regional platform of WIDE** (Central & Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States) and WIDE's strategic partner.

Since we all believe in the power of networks, KARAT is currently identifying gender experts on care economy in our Region to participate in the WIDE Annual Conference. Should you be one or have a person to recommend please write ASAP to Kasia at: [kasia.staszewska@karat.org.pl](mailto:kasia.staszewska@karat.org.pl)

## Members' News

### ADLIGA (Belarus): tribute to Yana Poliakov



Devastating story. Salihorsk human rights defender **Yana Poliakov** - educated, brave, and full of energy woman – after being beaten by the police has committed suicide at night of 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2009.

Yana Poliakov was an activist of the Civil Campaign "Our House" and volunteer in Center for Gender Initiatives "ADLIGA: WOMEN FOR FULL CITIZENSHIP". It is also important to mention that Yana Poliakov was a member of MP candidate Olga Kozulina initiative group (daughter of famous Belarus opposition politician Alexander Kazulin) during the last "parliamentary elections".

To stop her activity physical and psychological violence was used. In November 2008 there were many reports about persecution of Yana Poliakov by law enforcers. Yana stated that she had been detained for her oppositional activities and beaten in police department several times. Nevertheless, Yana was not afraid to bring this issue to the court, despite the fact that her offenders were part of the legal system. For this she had been convicted to two and a half years of "restraint of liberty".

On March 4 Salihorsk court in the presence of "OUR HOUSE" campaign activists found her guilty of violating article 400, part 2 of Criminal Code - "deliberate false accusation". The court condemned Yana Poliakov to two and a half years of restraint of liberty (so called "chemistry") and demanded to compensate "moral damage" of police officer who was one the main offenders.

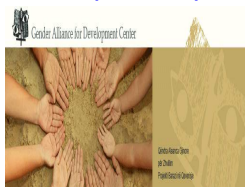
"This verdict was a shock for Yana, - Valery Shchukin, human rights defender of "Our House", commented. I spent a day with her after the trial, and she kept saying one thing: "I am not going to be a prisoner". It was a real a shock for a normal person. I remember the first time when I was imprisoned. That time my wife was ashamed to go out, it seemed to be a shame for her. I attended many trials, but this trial was a real lawlessness."

Next day the "main" state newspaper published a slashing article about Yana representing her as a vain person attacking respected policemen. One day later having lost hope for the state "justice" she committed the last act of resistance...

This is a devastating story of a brave women humiliated by the dominant system of injustice. As women's right activists we pay tribute to Yana and her work.

Source: Olga Karatch: [karatch@yandex.ru](mailto:karatch@yandex.ru)

### GADC (Albania): research on unpaid work



Gender Alliance for Development Center has recently published a research on unpaid work in Tirana, Albania. The study is called "The division of the private and public life in the Albanian households"-a gender-based approach. Published

in Albanian and English it is among the first studies in the country aiming to present through review of current literature and empirical data the separation of both spheres for girls and boys, women and men in today's Albanian households.

The research is available at:

[http://www.gadc-al.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=27&Itemid=41&lang=en](http://www.gadc-al.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27&Itemid=41&lang=en)

To know more write to Eglantina at: [tina@gadc-al.org](mailto:tina@gadc-al.org)

### WIDM (Belarus): the history book



“On the Way to Democracy and Gender Equality” is a title of the book by Women’s Independent Democratic Movement (PA WIDM) on it's history and work conducted for the last 15 years. The book contains the research and experts’ presentations majority of which were so far available only in a limited number of copies, different issues of the “We are Women” Newsletters and thematic collections of WIDM.

The history of WIDM has passed through different periods of activities, connected with both social and political processes in the country, changes in Belarusian legislation, as well as general international trends on women’s rights and development of gender equality. The years of 1992 to 1995 were a period of energetic political activities, aimed at democratization of the society and women’s integration in political and public activities. Activities during 1995 – 2001 were closely connected with the UN advancement of the Beijing Platform for Action as a key tool in the protection of women’s rights and gender equality achievement. During those years, WIDM built up its policy activities in accordance with the up-to-date women’s agenda. The third, current period is focused more on the active influence of women’s movement on the decision-making process in the sphere of women’s rights and gender equality, through monitoring of governmental implementation of the international agreements, lobbying for women’s economic and social interests and advancement of gender policy in Belarus.

This book of 400 pages is available in Russian. For a copy please write to Ludmila at: [petina@open.by](mailto:petina@open.by)

### LPW (Ukraine): Newsletter Winter 2009



Interested in the Ukrainian women's organizations working in the field of CSR ?

The new Newsletter of League of Professional Women is available on:

<http://lpw.org.ua/en/news/?pid=575>

Have a nice reading !

## World

### CSW 53<sup>rd</sup> Session

The fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 2 to 13 March 2009. This time the priority issue was: *The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities between Women and Men, including Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS*. *The Gender Perspectives of the Financial Crisis* came as an emerging issue. In the agreed conclusions, already available on-line, Commission reiterated CEDAW with its Optional Protocol as well as Beijing Platform for Action, and called for the full implementation of the outcome documents of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, the 2000 Millennium Summit, the 2002 World Summit on Children and the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development.

CSW again faced significant mobilization of the grassroots organizations and large women networks. Among them was WRAW Asia Pacific – KARAT strategic partner on OP CEDAW project – which co-organized a workshop in conjunction with the 30th anniversary of CEDAW: *Achievements and Continuing Challenges Towards the Realisation of Women's Human Rights*.

To know more about the CSW visit: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/53sess.htm>

For the report form the IWRAP AP workshop write to Kasia at: [kasia.staszewska@karat.org.pl](mailto:kasia.staszewska@karat.org.pl)

### European NGOs mobilize for G20

Put people first! These were the words that mobilized over 35,000 people to get out to the streets of London on March 28 just before the G20 meeting. Few days after the summit the biggest European NGOs agree: little progress have been made and some mechanism to control the financial markets have been established, however there is still long way to go to protect the rights of the most vulnerable, particularly women and children. Extraordinary amount of 1.1 trillion of dollars will be made available for the International Financial Institutions, from which only 50\$ billion earmarked for the low - income countries. It is not enough! Still a lot of work have to be done to monitor the delivery of the promises and to advocate for the real reform of the international financial institutions that would really 'put the people first'..

To know more read the G20 communique: [http://www.londonsummit.gov.uk/resources/en/PDF/final-communique or reactions to the G20 Summit from GCAP and Parters:](http://www.londonsummit.gov.uk/resources/en/PDF/final-communique%20or%20reactions%20to%20the%20G20%20Summit%20from%20GCAP%20and%20Partners)  
<http://www.whiteband.org/blog/archive/2009/04/03/reactions-to-the-g20-summit-from-gcap-and-partners/>

### Stories from 8th of March



As usually, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, women around the world spread their message for gender equality, world free of violence and discrimination. This year was not different. Africa, Asia, America, Europe – everywhere – women made their voices heard. There is no hierarchy here. Everybody counts. Grassroots next to the professional women's networks, women in power next to the marginalized ones. According to Agence France Presse the biggest 8<sup>th</sup> March demonstration was held in Poland. Over 6000 women marched that day the streets of Warsaw demanding (i.a.) to keep the catholic church away from politic, stop the gender based violence and refund the in-vitro fertilization Demonstration – 'Manifa' – gathered the maximum number of people since its first edition in 2000. KARAT was also there :)

## Special

### European gender pay gap campaign !

<http://ec.europa.eu/equalpay> This is a website of Gender Pay Gap Campaign launched by the EU on 3 March 2009. The aim is to inform and fight the difference between men's and women's hourly earnings within economy as a whole. Across Europe women earn on average around 17% less than men and in some countries the gap is widening.

The gender pay gap also has an important impact on lifetime earnings and on women's pensions. Earning lower pay means having a lower pension and it causes a higher risk of poverty for older women. The gender pay gap is the consequence of ongoing discrimination and inequalities in the labour market which, in practice, mainly affects women. It is linked to a number of legal, social and economic factors which go far beyond the single issue of equal pay for equal work.

Equal pay for equal work is one of the European Union's founding principles. If you want to find out more about the campaign, or if you want to act as an information relay, you can consult the website for the materials available. You can also download and print a range of campaign communication tools or ask for the communication kit to be sent to you by post.

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=681>

## Funding

### **ROGRESS: Combating discrimination and promoting equality**

Support to national activities aiming at the identification of good practices in combating discrimination and promoting equality, budget heading 04 04 01 04 - Anti-discrimination and diversity. Public institutions and CSOs from 27 EU Member States, candidate and potential candidate countries (Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey provided that the memorandum of understanding is ratified) can apply. Deadline: 25 - 05 - 2009

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=630&langId=en&callId=199&furtherCalls=yes>

### **John Humphrey Award**

International Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development presents the John Humphrey Award each year to an organization or individual from any region of the world for outstanding achievement in the promotion of human rights and democratic development. The Award consists of a grant of \$30,000, and a speaking tour of Canadian cities to help increase awareness of the recipient's human rights work. Deadline: April 20, 2009.

More information: [http://www.dd-rd.ca/site/humphrey\\_award/](http://www.dd-rd.ca/site/humphrey_award/)

## Vacancies

### **Project Officer in KARAT Secretariat**

KARAT Secretariat in Warsaw, Poland is seeking the Project Officer. Interested applicants should submit their CV ( English or Polish) and Cover Letter in English to [anita.seibert@karat.org.pl](mailto:anita.seibert@karat.org.pl)

Deadline for applications: 20 April 2009. To know more about the position visit: [www.karat.org](http://www.karat.org)

### **Programme Officer in Mama Cash**

Mama Cash is opening new positions: Programme Officer Economic Justice and Programme Officer Learning and Evaluation. To know more about the positions please visit:

<http://www.mamacash.org/page.php?id=796>

### **Gender experts for Central Asia, Caucasus and SEE**

UNICEF Regional Office for East and Central Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States is looking to build up its roster of area experts with specific skills in gender analysis and on gender related issues in development, social policy and humanitarian sectors. Interested experts should have Masters level or above with a record of research; work experience and language skills. Interested participants should send a copy of their CV and an example of a research or policy paper to: Angela Raven-Roberts PhD, at: [aravenroberts@unicef.org](mailto:aravenroberts@unicef.org)

## Resources

### **[www.genderindex.org](http://www.genderindex.org)**

This is a home to the SIGI - Social Institutions and Gender Index – a new way of assessing on gender equality in the developing world by the OECD. Detailed country profiles explore the situation of women and men in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Central- and Southeast Asia.

### **ILO: Global Employment Trends for Women**

According to the new annual report of ILO: *Global Employment Trends for Women* (GET) the economic crisis is expected to increase the number of unemployed women by up to 22 million in 2009. At the same time, the ILO said that the global economic crisis would place new hurdles in the path toward

sustainable and socially equitable growth making decent work for women increasingly more difficult, and called for “creative solutions” to address the gender gap. [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms\\_103456.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_103456.pdf)

### **EPAC VAW new website**

On the occasion of the International Women's Day, the European Policy Action Centre on Violence against Women (EPAC VAW) launched a new website: <http://epacvaw.org> presenting the European Observatory of experts on violence against women, data and reports on the situation in thirty countries from the European Union and neighboring countries, current news, as well as a wealth of resources on different forms of violence against women.

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### **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): ADLIGA (Belarus), GADC (Albania), WIDM (Belarus), WIDE, AWID, EURODAD, GCAP WUNRN, CONCORD, ASTRA, VAW Monitor, NEWW, OECD, Mama Cash, BSCDN, EWL, IWRAW A-P ,

**Edited by Katarzyna Staszewska**