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What's new in KARAT?

[Regional Consultations on CSOs and Women's Rights](#)

[Recommended tool from the Project "Through their eyes, through Ours"](#)

[CEDAW reporting process in Poland: mobilization of civil society organizations](#)

Members' News

[Macedonia: Conference "Politics of the states and international organizations for female entrepreneurship"](#)

[Ukraine: Growing Inclusive Markets Report](#)

World

[55th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#)

[No women in the Egyptian Constitutional Committee](#)

[UN Statement: Governments must pay more attention to people's voices](#)

[Women protesting in Egypt and Middle East](#)

[Tajikistan Tightens Marriage Rules](#)

Events

[Manifa: International Women's Day March in Poland](#)

[European conference on Roma women in Central and Eastern Europe](#)

Resources

[New publication about gender jurisprudence](#)

[World's Women 2010: Trends & Statistics](#)

What's new in KARAT ?

Regional Consultations on CSOs and Women's Rights

KARAT, within the global initiative of Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness <http://www.cso-effectiveness.org/>, is coordinating the thematic consultations on Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working on Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Central Eastern Europe and CIS Region. This global, fully participatory initiative started in late 2009, and will culminate at the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea. Gender equality and women's rights are recognized by the Open Forum as vital to any effective development strategies, and for that reason these thematic consultations are being conducted in various regions around the world. The findings of the survey coordinated by KARAT will allow to identify the regional points of view, needs and recommendations which will be included in Regional and Global Reports. Thus, the CEE/CIS perspective on gender equality and women's rights could influence the global process on Development Effectiveness.

We will greatly appreciate if you join us in this initiative by completing the [survey](#). To learn more, please contact Marta Gontarska at marta.gontarska@karat.org.pl

Recommended tool from the Project "Through their eyes, through Ours"

One of the tool which we would like to recommend in this issue of News is a movie "Her Story" made by Paulina Jędrzejewska. The movie is a documentary depicting socio-economic situation of women in Georgia. It has been translated in English and Polish.

The project "Through Their Eyes, Through Ours. Raising public awareness about development problems faced by women from developing countries in the EU Eastern Neighbourhood, Balkans and Central Asia" has been closed at the end of February 2011. The project resulted in many other tools and materials presenting socio-economic situation of women from the countries of Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Balcans, Caucasia: movie, photos, blogs, publications. All of them you can find on our website: www.karat.org
For more information please contact ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl

CEDAW reporting process in Poland: mobilization of civil society organizations

On 17th of February 2011, a 2nd strategic meeting of civil society organizations (CSOs) gathered in informal Coalition around CEDAW reporting process took place in Warsaw. The meeting was a part of KARAT's Project "Advocacy for the implementation of CEDAW in Poland 2010 – 2012". The meeting was focused on the concept and methodology of work on the alternative report. The structure of the report was discussed and agreed upon. KARAT's contribution to the report, apart from the chapter on women's employment in Poland, will be inclusion of the issue of women's access to justice.

To learn more about the project visit our website: <http://www.karat.org/karat,20,en.html> or get in touch with Magda Pocheć at magda.pochec@karat.org.pl

Members' News

Macedonia: Conference "Politics of the states and international organizations for female entrepreneurship"



The National Council for gender equality (Republic of Macedonia) celebrated the 8th of March by organizing a conference "Politics of the states and international organizations for female entrepreneurship". The conference was held on 1st of March 2011 in Skopje, and was an occasion for exchange of experience with Greek organization SEGE on the field of promotion of women entrepreneurship. The conference focused on practical aspects of the issue, such as trainings for women, opening funds, lobbying

for improvement of governments politics and the role of regional networking in working on women entrepreneurship.

To learn more, please contact Savka Todorovska (National Council for Gender Equality, Macedonia) at sozm@mt.net.mk

Ukraine: Growing Inclusive Markets Report

League of Professional Women (Ukraine) in collaboration with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has prepared a Report on how inclusive business models create opportunities for all in Emerging Europe and Central Asia. The report was launched in Istanbul on March 11, 2011. Growing Inclusive Markets Report is a regional tool built on the analysis of case studies of business in Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), which have successfully implemented an inclusive business model, which is a model of for-profit business that acts on poverty reduction through inclusion of low income communities in its production chain.

The case study written by Dr. Olena Lazorenko, Director of International Consulting Company, Ltd. And President, NGO "League of Professional Women" (LPW) is published on UNDP Growing Inclusive Markets website where it can be downloaded under: <http://cases.growinginclusivemarkets.org/documents/20>

More information about the Program: <http://www.growinginclusivemarkets.org/>

World

55th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

From February 22nd to March 4th the 55th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) took place in New York. The priority theme of this years session was access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's full employment and decent work. As the Commission principle is global policy-making, the session gave an outcome in the form of agreed conclusions being an analysis of the priority theme and containing concrete recommendations for States and non-government organizations, but also for other entities of the UN System.

During the Session a new entity of United Nations was launched: UN Women, which is an entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women created in June 2010 as a part of a reform of UN agenda aiming at bringing together different resources and mandates to achieve a greater impact. It is a result of advocacy of Civil Society Organizations gathered in Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign. The head of UN Women is previous president of Chile Ms Michelle Bachelet.

The outcome document of CSW55 – the Agreed Conclusions – is available for download at:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/55sess.htm#agreed>

The speech of M. Bachelet at the launch of UN is to be watched at:

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2011/02/michelle-bachelet-official-launch-of-u-n-women.html>

To learn more, please contact Magda Pocheć, who participated in this years CSW Session as Karat representative:

magda.pochec@karat.org.pl

No women in the Egyptian Constitutional Committee

The Egyptian Constitutional committee starts working while neglecting and excluding female legal experts. Over sixty institutions signed the statement in disapproval of the criteria and formation of the Constitutional Committee, as the committee does not include a single female expert. Such an action leads to posing a critical question over democracy and the main goals of the revolution that has from the beginning been aimed at broadening the rights of all citizens, equality and freedom.

Read more: http://ecwronline.org/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1&lang=english

UN Statement: Governments must pay more attention to people's voices

United Nations Office at Geneva has issued a statement prepared by a group of independent experts on human rights and extreme poverty, on February 3rd, 2011. The document concerns the recent wave social movements motivated by discontent when the social needs are not being met:

"Recent events in several countries are an expression of the frustration felt by many individuals whose voices have been neglected or ignored by their own Governments. Over the past several weeks, men and women in many countries, including Belarus, Egypt and Tunisia, have expressed grievances related to, among others, lack of employment opportunities and infringements on the right to an adequate standard of living, including the rights to food and housing, which have been exacerbated by the increasing cost of food and other basic commodities. They have also denounced the denial of their right to participate meaningfully in decision-making, underscoring the indivisibility of all human rights: civil, cultural, economic, political and social (...)"

Read the complete statement and the list of experts here:

http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/%28httpNewsByYear_en%2970F1F281CEA60719C125782C00528BB8?OpenDocument

Women protesting in Egypt and Middle East

Several hundred people showed up for a pro-women demonstration in a major Cairo square on Tuesday. Egyptian activists, aware of their significant role in overthrowing Hosni Mubarak's regime, had called for a Million Woman March, demanding "fair and equal opportunity for all Egyptian citizens -- beyond gender, religion or class." In response, there was a counterdemonstration of men who insulted women and tried to make them go back home. Egyptian activists demand a fair treatment regardless the religion, job or class. Women, as well as men were the victims of violent police interventions, and women's demonstrations played a breakthrough role in conflicts with police forces. Read more: <http://edition.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/meast/03/08/egypt.women/index.html>

Similar to Egyptian protests took place around Middle East, as leaders and rights activists have been praising the role of women in the protests that toppled dictators in Tunisia and Egypt and appear on the verge of pushing through major changes in other nations in the Middle East and North Africa.

Read more: <http://www.egyptuprising.info/2011/03/09/middle-east-protest-women-demonstrate-in-egypt-libya-yemen-photos/>

Tajikistan Tightens Marriage Rules

The changes in law are designed for making it harder for foreigners to marry locals and are mostly aimed at Afgan and Chinese nationals who are the biggest group of foreigners marrying Tajik. Changes concerning the access to buying property and settlement in Tajikistan, including also some enforced prenuptial agreements are aimed at – at a long sight – diminishing the fiction marriages taken in order to be able to get a Tajik passport that opens door to visa-free travel to other parts of CIS and Russia. Receiving a residence, as a consequence of a marriage with local, was also a way to get to run a business more easily, as it entitled the foreigner to buy property. Changes in law are supposed to prevent fiction marriages, as official statistics indicated, that one in five marriages with foreigners has ended over last five years.

Read more: www.wunrn.com

Events

Manifa: International Women's Day March in Poland

On Sunday, the 6th of March, in Warsaw and other big cities almost 6 thousand of women and men marched in 12th yearly Women's Solidarity March Manifa organized by an informal Group "Porozumienie Kobiet 8 Marca" (8 March Women's Alliance). This year's motto was "Enough exploitation! We terminate the service" with postulates to end hiring workers on junk-contracts, to create more public-funded daycares and preschools for children and to ensure proper working conditions for super- and hypermarkets workers. Manifa statement was shortly expressed in Kinga

Lohmann's speech, where pointed out how the current economic trends in the labor market affect women, particularly those from the feminized, very low paid professions. The insecurity, precarity, flexibility and intensification (more 'sophisticated' form of exploitation) in the formal jobs e.g. in the supermarkets do not guarantee economic security and to overcome of a vicious circle of being 'working poor'.

Manifa was dedicated to Izabella Jaruga-Nowacka, a Polish Parliament member, Equal Status of Men and Women Plenipotentiary, Minister of Social Policy killed in an Polish President's aircraft crash at the Smolensk Airport.



See more information here: <http://www.manifa.org/> (in Polish only)

European conference on Roma women in Central and Eastern Europe

The European Women's Lobby and the Hungarian Women's Lobby have the pleasure to invite you to a European conference on Roma women in Central and Eastern Europe that will take place in Budapest on 7th April 2011.

As Roma inclusion has become a priority at the European level in the recent years, we believe it is crucial that attention is paid to the specific situation of Romani women and that their interests and rights become part of the actions taken by decision-makers at the national and EU levels.

The objectives of the conference are to highlight the need to have gender and the specific needs of Roma women at the heart of the implementation of the European Roma strategy that will be announced in June 2011 and to expose the main issues affecting Roma women and girls in Central and Eastern Europe and offer a platform for national and European decision-makers as well as Roma women's organizations to discuss them.

Interpretation is provided.

Registration is until 4 April (at email: noierdek@noierdek.hu)

For more information, please contact Alexandra Jachanova Dolezelowva at: alexandra.jachanova@genderstudies.cz

Resources

New publication about gender jurisprudence

Center for Justice and International Law CEJIL has presented a new volume of the *Summaries of Jurisprudence* addressing principles of protection of women against gender-based violence.

The publication is compiling international standards in this area and provides a research body by presenting different contexts of gender-based violence being present around the world despite the advances in the normative filed. It bases on case studies which are the background for presenting the response of human rights protection systems such as Inter American Commission and Inter American Court of Human Rights; European Court, CEDAW and the some of the International Tribunals.

You can find the pdf version available in English and Spanish here:

http://cejil.org/sites/default/files/Summaries%20of%20Jurisprudence%20-%20Gender-based%20Violence_0.pdf

World's Women 2010: Trends & Statistics

United Nations Statistics Division has launched the 5th Issue of "The World's Women" Report for year 2010. The report shows the inequalities in the status of men and women in such areas as population and families, health, education, work, power and decision-making, violence against women, environment and poverty. The "World's Women 2010" provides information about changes, that has been made in comparison to previous years and highlights that progress towards gender equality has been made in some areas, such as school enrolment, health and economic participation, but also precisely identifies critical areas where there is still a lot to be done in order to close the gender gaps, such as power and decision-making and violence against women.

This is an interesting informative statistic tool concerning the advancement of implementation of law and policy.

Learn more: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/Worldswomen/WW2010pub.htm>.

You can also download the publication here:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/Worldswomen/WW_full%20report_color.pdf

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

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