

# KARAT NEWS

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### Through their eyes, Through ours: Exhibition opening !



KARAT together with other project partners has a pleasure to invite all of you to the opening of the exhibition "Through Their Eyes" which will take place at 6 PM on 23rd of January 2009 in University of Warsaw Library. The exhibition will address the socio-economic situation of women from Central Europe, Balkans and Central Asia. It will consist of photographs taken by 22 women artist from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The exhibition has received the honoured patronage of the first Lady of Poland Maria Kaczyńska.

The exhibition is part of the project funded by the European Commission "Through Their Eyes, Through Ours" implemented by KARAT together with GenderMediaCaucasus Journalists' Association (Georgia), Permaculture and Peacebuilding Center Ppc Shtip (Macedonia), Slovak Centre for Communication and Development (Slovakia), Women in Development Europe - WIDE (Belgium), WOMNET (Germany). Unfortunately we do not have funds to invite all the KARAT members to the event. Project partners and KARAT Board will be attending, but if you are at that time in Poland we encourage you to join the opening or see the exhibition between 23rd of January and 8 February 2009.

In 2009 and 2010 the exhibition will be also shown in Slovakia, Germany and in Belgium.

For more information write to Ewa at [ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl](mailto:ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl) or Anita at [anita.karat@karat.org.pl](mailto:anita.karat@karat.org.pl) or visit the project site <http://www.karat.org/index.php?pageld=278>

### KARAT Board election

KARAT member organizations are currently in the process of voting for the new Board. As terms of office of Nadezhda Azhgikhina, Pavilina Filipova, Jivka Marinova and Maryna Saprykina are coming to the end 4 new Board Members are going to be elected out of 6 candidates recommended by KARAT members during the nomination period. The results of the election will be announced on 11<sup>th</sup> of December.

KARAT Secretariat staff wish good luck to all the candidates !

### New Project: Gender in Development

We have a great pleasure to announce that a new 3 year EC project: *Building Support in New Member States for Gender-sensitive and -responsive European Development Co-operation* 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' ) has been approved ! The project is going to start in April 2009 with the primary objective to initiate the East-South-North cooperation and build capacity of women's NGOs to advocate for the full implementation of the EU gender equality policy in the NMS development cooperation agenda.

To know more write to Kasia at [kasia.staszewska@karat.org.pl](mailto:kasia.staszewska@karat.org.pl)

### New Project: Economic Rights are Human Rights

We are happy to inform you that a new project „Economic Rights of women are human rights” has just been launched. It promotes human rights in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Balkans with the special emphasis on economic rights of women. It will involve publishing of awareness rising materials and a panel discussion on economic rights of women held on 23rd of January 2009. The project is implemented together with Slovak Center for Communication and Development as a part of the EC

funded programme "Promoting Development in Europe: Towards a Critical Mass and Beyond" of Minority Rights Group International.

For more information turn to Ewa at: [ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl](mailto:ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl)

### **Felicitas and HWW in KARAT Secretariat**

Representatives of FELICITAS (Serbia) and HomeWorkers Worldwide (HWW, UK) visited our office in Warsaw in order to research the possibility of cooperation within the KARAT Economic Justice program. Women in the informal economy and migration were the issues discussed. The meeting, inspiring for both sides, concluded with mapping of the joint priorities and the will for cooperation.

To know more about the visit write to Kasia at: [kasia.staszewska@karat.org.pl](mailto:kasia.staszewska@karat.org.pl)

### **Social Watch: Launch of the first national report**



We are pleased to inform you that on 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2008 - the 60 anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - the first national social report of the Polish Social Watch Coalition (PSWC) will be launched in the Polish Parliament. The press conference is jointly organized by PSWC and Parliamentary Club of the Left Wing. This year's theme of the report are human rights (hr). Except from the general articles on hr challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the report addresses the major hr issues in Poland. It also includes country reports covering CEE/CIS region as well as developing countries to which Polish Development Aid is directed.

To attend the launch of the report contact Marta at: [info@karat.org.pl](mailto:info@karat.org.pl)

To learn more about Polish Social Watch Coalition go to <http://karat.org/index.php?pageId=303> or contact Magda at [magda.pochec@karat.org.pl](mailto:magda.pochec@karat.org.pl)

### **FairPlay: Activists seminar in Berlin**



FairPlay activists from Poland, Austria and Germany joined the International Activists Seminar *For fair labour conditions in the Sporting goods Industry* organized within the joint project of KARAT, Südwind and INKOTA in Berlin on 14 - 15 November 2008. Participants had a chance to get familiar with the street theater techniques - a great tool for the awareness raising street actions. The seminar concluded with the actions outside Adidas and Puma stores urging corporations to stop working rights violations in the their suppliers chains.

To watch the film from the action visit: <http://de.youtube.com/watch?v=W9Nwl5VBKe8>

To know more contact Joanna at: [Joanna.szabunko@karat.org.pl](mailto:Joanna.szabunko@karat.org.pl)

### **Ethical Clothes workshop**



*FairPlay in the garment industry. Is that possible?* was a title of a one day workshop organized in Warsaw on November 22. It provided young consumers with the overview of the working conditions in clothing industry which employs mainly women. A special emphasis was placed on the alternatives like the ethical garment market growing up in Europe. The participants meet with the representative of the ethical shop from Germany and visit Warsaw based store with environment friendly clothes. The workshop finished with the film screening and the debate engaging the trade union and NGOs representatives. In order to relax after the full day work the participants took part in the Clothes Exchange. It was a great way to clean up the closet from the clothes that are not used any more and get the new ones in the ecological and ethical manner.

To know more write to Joanna at: [Joanna.szabunko@karat.org.pl](mailto:Joanna.szabunko@karat.org.pl)

## MakeITfair: Roundtable in Indonesia



for people everywhere

KARAT as a partner of the project [MakeITfair](#) & ProcureITfair, took part in a Round Table organised by [GoodElectronics](#) - International Network on Human Rights and Sustainability in Electronic, held in Indonesia - country where a lot of next generation electronics is produced. Apart from Indonesian and international trade unions, Southern and Northern NGOs were present, as well as other institutions from the region. The meeting consisted of several workshops on topics such as precarious work, e-waste, dialogue with companies, urgent appeals actions etc. Participants visited local supply factories and a workers' residential area. One of the most important outcomes of the meeting was a common decision to organise effectively system of "urgent appeals" within the network.

For more information go to [www.godelectronics.org](http://www.godelectronics.org) or contact Monika at: [monika.matus@karat.org.pl](mailto:monika.matus@karat.org.pl)

## National/Members' News

### ARMENIA: Drafting new law on domestic violence



Women's Right Center (WRC) working group is currently finalizing its work on the Draft Law on Domestic Violence and a strategy for further promotion of the Draft and Package of Supporting Regulations. WRC, KARAT Member Organization, has been working with the professionals from state and public structures (Police, Ministry of Labor and Social Issues, Ministry of Justice, etc.) forming a working group elaborating the draft since early 2007. After the extensive work including roundtables, advocacy trainings and promotion of the document targeting the key officials, the WRC is planning to present the Draft to the National Assembly at the end of 2008. We are crossing the fingers for their success !

To know more about the project write to Susanna Vardanyan at [wrcarm@arminco.com](mailto:wrcarm@arminco.com)

### Poland: Women taking the Sejm



On the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of winning the voting right around 200 women united within the Women's Citizen Forum (Obywatelskie Forum Kobiet) initiative dressed up like the early 20 century suffragists took over the Sejm to draw the attention of the politicians to the problems women's political participation. "We want to remind everybody that the women have their own history. The voting right wasn't given to them for free, Polish women fought for that" said Agnieszka Graff, one of the action organizers. The performance was followed by the debate entitled "We'll by the MP's" joined by the ex-Government Plenipotentiaries for Equal Status of Women and Men removed by the decision of the Council of Ministers on November 2005. Although the women's participation in the national and local governance structures in Poland is very low (from 10 to 20%) out of the all the MP's and the government officials invited for the celebrations only one took up the challenge to join the debate.

To view the pictures from the action visit: <http://www.feminoteka.pl/photogallery.php?album=17>

### Ukraine and Uzbekistan: reporting to CEDAW

Ukraine and Uzbekistan are the CEE/CIS countries scheduled to report to CEDAW Committee at the 45<sup>th</sup> CEDAW session to be held in January 2010. Since the NGOs have now the opportunity to submit the alternative report or a list of critical issues they want to be raised with their respective governments, IWRAP Asia Pacific is currently looking an Ukrainian and Uzbek women's group interested in engaging with the CEDAW review process.

IWRAP Asia Pacific facilitates the participation of women in the CEDAW review through the programme "From Global to Local". To learn more about their work visit: <http://www.iwraw-ap.org/>

## Ukraine: LPW new working agenda



League Of Professional Women (LPW), KARAT Member Organization from Ukraine, has just held its annual meeting resulting in the new working agenda for 2008-2009. The main plans circulate around the field of Corporate Social Responsibility covering printing out the publication series, conducting the analytical research on women entrepreneurship, grant applications on CSR & human rights & business. All interested in the full English version of the annual report as well as in networking or becoming a project partner contact Olena Lazarenko at: [lpw@voliacable.com](mailto:lpw@voliacable.com)

## EU News

### Year for combating the poverty and social inclusion

KARAT welcomes the decision of the European Commission to design 2010 as a European Year for combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. Sixteen % of the population in EU – majority of them women– is currently at risk of poverty. The initiative will have a budget of at least 26 million euro and will work towards recognizing the right of excluded people to play an active role in the society and reinforcing the commitment of all major political players for the more concrete actions.

To know more visit: [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/emplweb/news/news\\_en.cfm?id=326](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=326)

### European Commission new Programme

The European Commission adopted new 2009 working programme with the issues of financial crisis response, climate change, migration and development on the top of the agenda. The priorities are structured around 4 pillars: growth of job, climate change and sustainable Europe, action on citizens, international support.

To view the Commission's 2009 Roadmaps visit: [http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/index_en.htm)

### EC Enlargement Package

The European Union "enlargement package" – annual strategy document explaining policy on EU-Enlargement –is now accessible together with the reports of the progress made by last 12 months by EU candidates and potential candidates: Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo.

To view the documents go to: [http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/press\\_corner/key-documents/reports\\_nov\\_2008\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/press_corner/key-documents/reports_nov_2008_en.htm)

## Other News

### CSOs Challenge the financial Crisis

In a context of unprecedented finances, climate and food crises NGOs around the world called for the European Union to fight for a Global Governance that would finally be democratic. Representatives of 10 000 NGOs from 82 countries in their "Messages from the world to the European Union" urged the UE to review its trade, agricultural, environmental and economic policies so that they contribute to a sustainable north and south development and to the fight against inequality.

To read the Messages go to: [http://www.coordinationsud.org/IMG/pdf/WorldmessagesEurope\\_EN.pdf](http://www.coordinationsud.org/IMG/pdf/WorldmessagesEurope_EN.pdf)

### AWID Forum

About 1500 women's rights leaders and activists from around the world met on November 14-17 in Cape Town, South Africa at the 11<sup>th</sup> AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development

“The POWER of Movements”. Organized every 3 years AWID Forum is one of the biggest event of its kind, serving as a strategize, networking, celebration, and learning space.

To view the documents and the testimonials from Cape Town visit: <http://www.awid.org/forum08/>

### **The 16 Days Campaign**

On November 25 international campaign of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence has started. This year theme is “Human Rights for Women ↔ Human Rights for All: UDHR60”. The 16 Days Campaign has been used as an organizing strategy by individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women. Since its start in 1991 over 2,000 organizations in approximately 154 countries have joined the action.

For more information and to receive a Take Action Kit go to:

<http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/about.html>

### **UDHR turns 60**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) turns 60 on 10 December 2008.

If you want to join UN system-wide advocacy campaign launched by the UN secretary General in 2007 to commemorate this anniversary related public information documents, photographs, background information and ideas for activities are available at:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Pages/60UDHRIntroduction.aspx>

## **Information Sharing**

### **WIDE paper on FfD**

WIDE position paper towards the Financing for Development process and ongoing now International Conference in Doha to review the Monterrey consensus can downloaded from: <http://www.wide-network.org/index.jsp?id=400>

We encourage you to use this document for your lobbying activities.

### **WIDE mapping study**

With regard to the upcoming 2009 UN climate Change Conference that is going to replace the Kyoto Protocol WIDE is currently looking for the suggestions for paper, resource persons and partners working or planning to work around the issues of gender equality and climate change.

With any recommendations or interest to work on this topic contact Isabelle Gentilhomme at [isabelle@wide-network.org](mailto:isabelle@wide-network.org)

### **CCC Newsletter**

‘Threads’ – New, completely redesign, biannual newsletter of Clean Clothes Campaign is now ready to download from <http://www.cleanclothes.org/ftp/Threads-01.pdf>

Have a nice read!

### **The Global Gender Gap Report**

Produced by the World Economic Forum the 2008 Global Gender Gap Report is examining the women’s situation in 130 countries providing this way an insight into the gaps between women and men in over 92% of the world’s population.

Publication can be reached at:

<http://www.weforum.org/en/Communities/Women%20Leaders%20and%20Gender%20Parity/GenderGapNetwork/index.htm>.

### **Radio 1812**

Radio 1812 is the global radio broadcasting event organized on December 18 (International Migrants Day) with the primary aim to make migrant voices heard. Radio 1812 team is inviting everybody interested in the issues of migration to join the action.

For more details visit <http://www.radio1812.net/> or contact [radio1812@december18.net](mailto:radio1812@december18.net)

### **Summer Course in Budapest**

Central European University in Budapest invites for a graduate Summer Course on "WORK AND INEQUALITY IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY" to be held in June 29 to July 10 2009. Detailed description of the course is available at: <http://www.sun.ceu.hu/work> . The deadline to apply is February 16.

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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): LEAGUE of PROFESSIONAL WOMEN (Ukraine) WIDE, CONCORD, VAW Monitor, NEWW, DEEP, BCSDN, EURACTIV, FEMINOTEKA, NOTICIAS / NOUVELLES, BCSDN, CCC

**Edited by Kasia Staszewska**