

KARAT NEWS

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OP CEDAW: OP CEDAW: resource guide now in Russian!



Our Rights Are Not Optional! Advocating for the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) through its Optional Protocol” is a title of the great resource guide successfully translated to Russian within the programme of IWRAP Asia Pacific (International Women’s Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific) with the support of KARAT Coalition. This easy-to-use publication seeks to contribute to the ratification process of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW as well as to its effective use at the national level. The guide contains practical information for the individuals, women’s rights NGOs and other actors advocating for women’s human rights.

The Resource Guide comes in three sections. Section A provides a general overview of the CEDAW Convention and its Optional Protocol; Section B details the legal, political and strategic dimensions in promoting the OP ratification; Section C focuses on enhancing advocacy and the treaty use. Set of handouts and the supplementary materials are available within the publication as well.

To download the guide please visit www.karat.org.pl

If you want to have it posted please write to Aleksandra Solik at: aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl

OP CEDAW: international capacity building training



An international training on the Optional Protocol to CEDAW organized by KARAT Coalition and IWRAP Asia Pacific for the women’s group from Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Poland took place in Warsaw on 10 -13 September, 2008. The organizers’ primary objective was to strengthen the potentials for using the OP as a tool for the protection and promotion of women’s human rights under CEDAW. The participants had an opportunity to increase their capacity on the technical requirements for filing a communication; analyze the observance of women’s human

rights at the national level as well as to consider the merits of potential communications (or requests for inquire procedure) to the CEDAW Committee. The need for the future cooperation and support with using the Optional Protocol has been identified while discussing the strategies for OP CEDAW promotion at the national and regional level. The meeting created also a room for the experiences exchange and learning about the participant’s countries laws related to discrimination.

The similar training is planned for the women’s NGO from the Caucasus and Central Asia region in 2009.

For more information about the project visit www.karat.org.pl or write to Aleksandra Solik at: Aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl

OP CEDAW: IWRAP AB and TOT in Warsaw

Meeting of the IWRAP Asia Pacific Advisory Group composed of the representatives of the different world region, followed by the Global Training of Trainers on the Optional Protocol to CEDAW took place in Warsaw on 14 to 15 and 16 to 18 September 2008. While the Training of Trainers aimed at developing the new education materials on the Optional Protocol for the women trainers worldwide, the Advisory Body – with Kinga Lohmann from KARAT as a Europe region representative - discussed the IWRAP Asia Pacific strategy for the following year. It was decided that the action plan for 2009 will

focus on the effective use of the Optional Protocol with the women submitting the communication or request for inquiries to the CEDAW Committee. KARAT took care about the logistics management for both events.

MakeITfair: education action



for people everywhere

MakeITfair campaign launched an educational material focusing on raising awareness about developmental issues in the production of consumer electronics, such as mobile phones, MP3 players and laptops. The material developed by all the partners of the Europe-wide campaign, will be translated into several languages and made available to teachers, educators and youth groups in Europe in October. KARAT Coalition is responsible for translation & dissemination of educational materials in Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary. The material, however, can be adapted for many European counties. KARAT Coalition strongly encourages interested member organisations to take up this opportunity.

For further information and the material copy please contact to MakeITfair coordinator at KARAT: monika.matus@karat.org.pl

MakeITfair: invitation to Prague

KARAT Together with MakeITfair campaign invites you to the Capacity Building Training in Prague on 14th October 2008. MakeITfair is a European awareness rising project about developmental issues in the production of consumer electronics. Aims of the training is to inform interested NGOs on current state of affairs; impact of growing demand for electronic goods on environmental issues, social & economic development in Southern countries and so called countries in transition, provide details about the campaign and finally about possibilities to cooperate. The special attention will be given to educational materials and possibilities of using them by interested organisations, groups and individuals. The official invitation can be found at www.karat.org.

For further information on the training and application form, please turn to MakeITfair coordinator at KARAT: monika.matus@karat.org.pl

Through their eyes, Through ours: deadline approaching



We would like to remind you that deadline for the photo competition organized by KARAT and partners addressing the socio-economic situation of women from: Albania, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia And Hercegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan is 15th October 2008. The competition is part of the project co-funded by European Commission "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". The winning works will be shown at the opening exhibition on 23rd of January 2009 at University of Warsaw Library. We are very pleased to inform you that the exhibition has received the honourable patronage of the First Lady of Poland - Maria Kaczyńska. Later the exhibition will travel to Slovakia, Germany and Please see the details at website www.karat.org.pl or contact Ewa Pintera ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl.

Fairplay: final international mobilization in Hong Kong



Play Fair activists from Poland (KARAT Coalition), Austria (Suedwind Agentur) and Germany (Inkota) together with the local Hong Kong organizations confronted the International Olympic Committee (IOC) with the petition calling to take up the responsibility for widespread and continuous exploitation of workers in the manufactures of Olympic-branded products. The event was a final of the Play Fair 2008 Campaign for positive action to clean up Olympic supply chains taking place in Hong Kong, China on 3 of August 2008.

The final day of Campaign included various activities i.e photo moment, speakers corner and posters showing the IOC lack of commitment to basic workers rights as unacceptable. Starting at the Olympic Piazza where activists dressed up for referees spoke against worker's rights violations, the action moved to IOC Headquarters to leave the signed petition with the IOC representatives.

The action's photos are available at:

http://www.playfair2008.org/index.php?option=com_rsgallery2&Itemid=86

If you want to know more write to Joanna Szabunko at: Joanna.szabunko@karat.org.pl

Fairplay: acting on Nike Human race



On September 31st, just before the start of the Nike Human race in Warsaw, KARAT Coalition activists organized a consumer action as a part of the *Fair Play in sporting goods industry* project. The aim of the action was to raise awareness among the runners and the spectators about the power the global sportswear brands like Nike have to stop the exploitation of workers in their supply chains. To prove that production of the "fair T-shirts" is possible the

activists were giving out T-shirts manufactured by the women's collective in Nicaragua with respect to worker's rights. To express their support many runners put on the "Fair play in sporting goods industry" stickers on their T-shirts. They also signed an appeal to Mrs. H. Jones, Nike vice-president, calling for a positive action for change.

We encourage you to join the appeal online:

http://playfair2008.org/index.php?option=com_chronocontact&chronofomname=ioc_form2

If you want to know more contact Joanna Szabunko at: Joanna.szabunko@karat.org.pl

Women in Supermarkets: the researched conducted



"Situation of women employed in super/hyper markets in Poland" is the title of the research report conducted in the frames of the project "Labour rights protection from gender perspective in super/ hyper markets in Poland". The research gave an updated information about the super/hyper markets' ways of acting that require a significant improvement, and about the current situation and working conditions there.

Main conclusion of the report is that, although the Polish labour law is acceptable, its implementation is improper and the labour rights protection system often fails. The most obvious cases of labour rights infringement include abusing the length of shifts and breaks between them or the amount of days worked without a day off. Furthermore, even though there were many cases won by the employees of super/hyper markets against their employers and it was claimed that the situation improved, the violations of the employees' rights are still widespread.

The report is available in Polish at www.karat.org.pl

To know more about the project contact Agnieszka Chmielecka at: agnieszka.chmielecka@karat.org.pl

Lobby for the better migration regulations

KARAT Coalition joined European Women's Lobby and a number of European and regional women's networks as well as some national migrant organizations from around the world to express its concern about the European Pact on Migration and Asylum that will be adopted at the EU Summit on 15 and 16 October 2008. As a result a joint letter to the heads of the UE institutions (Council, Commission, Parliament) and Ministers for Interior, Justice, Employment and Social Affairs of the UE Member States were produced. The letter calls the decidents to enrich the Pact with the human rights based commitments like the respect for human dignity and fundamental rights, opportunity for immigrants to participate in the society, etc..

You can use this letter for your lobbying. To know more or to receive the copy of the letter write to Kasia Staszewska at: kasia.staszewska@karat.org.pl

National/Member's News

Albania: better Gender Equality Law

After much of the discussion quota bill of 30% has been finally passed by the Albanian Parliament in the end of June 2008 as a new measure to the Gender Equality Law (GEL) adopted in the spring this year. It is a great success of the women's CSOs of Albania, particularly Millennium Women Network (MWN) and Albanian Coalition for Promotion of Women and Youth in Politics that came together to mobilize civil society, youth and leaders to support the adoption of the draft GEL in a timely manner, and to ensure that the core articles and special measures protecting and promoting women's empowerment remained in the law. The quota bill is a great step forward for advancement of women in decision-making process aligning with the international norms and standards: CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action or EU documents. In the context of the on-going Electoral Code revision in the country, it is also the very first time that this article will be discussed during the parliamentary sessions in autumn, so it can be included in the electoral code as well. Women's NGOs remain hopeful the article will be included in the new electoral code, and not be stuck in a gridlock of political debate.

For more information please write to Jeta Katro: jkatro@albmail.com

Czech Republic: action for normal births

"Even today, after almost 20 years of democracy, the maternity care in the Czech Republic fails to provide suitable alternatives for all mothers and babies" – claims Czech women's, parents, midwives and doulas organizations calling for a positive action for normal births. Birth outside large hospital is still considered unsafe, women have to comply with unnecessary routine interventions, are often separated from their babies after birth and independent midwifery is still suppressed by the state authorities. Number of organizations in Czech Republic are calling for the international support to initiate important changes by the dialogue with the Ministry of Health and other officials.

To express your support sign an online petition for improving the maternity care services in Czech Republic on: <http://www.normalniprood.cz/english.asp>

Georgia, Russia: women's reaction on war

"Women of Georgia, overcoming all informational barriers addressed Russian women with an appeal to stop infanticidal war and to turn to peace-building. This short news practically unnoticed by the largest media – is one of the most promising, along with Medvedev-Sarkozy plan and Saakashvily signing it" – saying the first lines of the Russian women statement, signed i.a. by the Association of Women Journalist - KARAT Member organization - that appeared in all Russian independent newspapers (around 2 mln copies) when the war in Georgia broke out in the beginning of August 2008.

“As long as human memory exists, every time, after the cannons stopped their cannonade, it is women who fire up a furnace, look after the wounded ones, teach the children to befriend a neighbor’s child – a yesterday’s enemy, and find words – not of hatred, but of compassion.... “

To read whole text of the statement in Russian go to: <http://www.ruj.ru/>

To get the statement in English write to Kasia Staszewska at: kasia.staszewska@karat.org.pl

Georgia and Ukraine: learning on EU Neighbourhood Policy

“The influence of European policy on Neighbourhood on development of Georgia” is the title of the workshop organized in Tbilisi, followed by the identical one – related to Ukraine - few days after in Kyiv in the mid July 2008. The events were organized within the framework of joint project of WOMNET, Eurostep and Approdev aiming at strengthening the public discussion in the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) countries in relation to the improvement of mutual relations between EC, authorities and NGOs. Two KARAT Member organizations: Center for Women and Development (Georgia) and Women’s Prospects (Ukraine) were coorganizing the events. During the two-day workshop participants were acquainted with the key principles of the ENP, ENPI application mechanism and other documents related to the country – EC relations. As a result the participants developed the recommendations on CSOs impact on ENP development at Georgian, Ukrainian, East European and European levels.

If you want to know more about the event in Georgia write to Shorena Dzotsenidze at:

sh_dzotsenidze@gmail.com

If you are interested in Ukraine turn to Maryna Saprykina at:

m_saprykina@mail.ru

Slovakia: reporting to CEDAW committee

Slovakia was one of the countries reporting to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) during its 41st session held in July 2008. Even though the Committee welcomed the Slovak Government progress on CEDAW implementation in the Committee Concluding Observation the state’s serious shortcomings were highlighted. The Committee concern areas were: limited access to the legal protection against discrimination, gender stereotypes in the society, poor sexual and reproductive health services, disadvantaged situation of Romani women, violence and trafficking. Filling up the Slovak state obligations under CEDAW was also addressed by the women’s and human rights NGOs via Shadow Report submitted to the Committee. Alliance of Women in Slovakia – KARAT member organization – was one of the Shadow Report carriers.

To read the Slovak state periodic report and the CEDAW Committee Concluding Observations go to:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws41.htm>

The NGOs Shadow Report can be downloaded from:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws41.htm>

UE News

EU accession concerns with Ukraine

The EU/Ukraine Summit that was hold in the Elysée Palace in Paris on 9th of September 2008 did not go much further with the membership perspective for Ukraine. The summit that was expected to adopt the declaration on the future of the EU/Ukraine Cooperation and Partnership agreement concluded that the legal basis of the EU and Ukraine relations will be referred as an “association agreement” that is “leaving the door open to progressive further developments in EU-Ukraine relations”. That is not what the Ukraine was counting for – specially after the Georgia crisis destabilization. But there are also

different voices among the UE states themselves. Olli Rehn, the EU's enlargement commissioner, had warned that Ukraine could become Russia's next target if it was not offered membership.

Source: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/enlargement/eu-keeps-door-half-open-ukraine/article-175221>

More women at the top of the European politics

5♀/5♂ No Modern European Democracy Without Gender Equality

2009 is an election year for a new European Commission and Parliament, where women are still under-represented. Within "50/50 Campaign for Democracy" European Women's Lobby is calling for a concrete action to increase women's presence in the politics. Many prominent persons from across Europe have already given their wholehearted support. You can also support this action by signing the on-line petition at: http://www.womenlobby.org/site/form_3.asp
Source: <http://www.5050democracy.eu>

Quality Jobs for all

With adoption of the own-initiative report by Garcia Pérez (PES, ES) on equality of men and women in the all 27 EU countries the Members of European Parliament agreed that the more effort is needed to boost the quality of jobs and reduce violence against women. The report was proposed in the Women's Rights Committee and adopted by 563 votes on 3 September 2008.

Source: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/briefing_page/33692-245-09-36-20080708BRI33691-01-09-2008-2008/default_p001c008_en.htm

Other News

Women's Forum in Accra

More than 200 women's rights organizations, gender advocates and experts from around the world gathered together at the Elking Hotel in Accra for a International Women's Forum to discuss the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The event was held before the Civil Society Forum to ensure women's participation at both the CSO Parallel Forum, August 31-September 1 and the 3rd High Level Forum (HLF3) on Aid Effectiveness, 2-4 September 2008. The statement that emerged is calling the officials for the concrete actions and further commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment in the Accra Agenda for Actions (AAA) serving as a further plan to improve the effectiveness of aid before the next HLF4, that will be held in 2012.

The Women's Forum Statement is available at:

<http://www.betteraid.org/downloads/Final%20Women's%20Forum%20Statement.doc>

Source: <http://betteraid.org/>

AAA not ambitious enough

Civil Society Organizations from around the world are expressing their disappointment with the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) that ministers have endorsed as a result of the 3rd High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Ghana. The document is still missing the critical commitments on gender equality, democratic ownership or tied aid. The AAA success depends also on the discussions that are going to take place later this year: UN MDG Summit in New York and the Financing for Development meeting in Doha.

To know more go to: <http://betteraid.org/> or <http://www.concordeurope.org/Public/Page.php?ID=4>

Information Sharing

Black Sea NGO Forum

Organized by the The Federation of Romanian Development NGOs (FOND) in cooperation with the NGOs from Georgia, Moldova and Russia the first Black Sea NGO Forum "Time to Meet" is going to take place in Bucharest, Romania from 31.10 to 02.11.2008. The aim of the event is to increase the level of dialogue and coordination among NGOs in the wider Black Sea region together with strengthening their capacity in order to influence regional and development strategies.

More information with the application form are available at: <http://www.blackseango.org/site/more.html>

Job vacancy at UNIFEM: evaluation consultant in Moldova

UNIFEM is currently looking an experienced professional to perform as an International Evaluation Consultant for its 36month SIDA funding project *Promoting Gender Equality in National Development Policies and Plans in Moldova*. Full description of the responsibilities can be found in the Terms of Reference at UNIFEM CIS Sub-regional office web-site www.unifemcis.org (announcements section). The deadline for applications is 26 September 2008.

Mapping studies on aid effectiveness and gender equality

Carried within the context of the EC/UN Partnership on Gender Equality for Development and Peace the new report *Mapping Aid Effectiveness and Gender Equality: Global Findings* provides an overview of the issues that emerged from the mapping studies in 12 diverse countries, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan among them. The report examines to what extent national gender equality priorities are reflected in national development strategies, donor country strategies and mechanisms for implementing the Paris Declaration at country level. It also analyses the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security adopted in 2000 to mainstream gender equality in policy responses to conflict and post-conflict situations.

The report is available at:

http://www.gendermatters.eu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=150&Itemid=87

Source: <http://www.gendermatters.eu/>

Get the EU funds

Tips nad Tricks: "How to access the European development co-operation funds" is a title of the 7th edition of the manual launched by The German Foundation for World Population (DSW). It is a comprehensive information on how to draw on EC resources available for Civil Society Organizations.

The publication is available at: http://www.weltbevoelkerung.de/en/offices/brussels/Tips_and_Tricks.php

Source: TRIALOG Information Service, July 2008

New WIDE publications

The Treaty of Lisbon from a Gender Perspective: Change and Challenges and *Key Feminist Concerns Regarding Core Labor Standards, Decent Work and Corporate Social Responsibility* are 2 new publications released by WIDE. The first one is a briefing paper presenting the main innovations in terms of institutional changes, policy perspectives and priorities that the Treaty of Lisbon is going to introduce if the EU Member States ratify it. The second provides a feminist analysis of workers rights issues in respect of core labor standards, the decent work paradigm and CSR in relation to UE trade policy.

Both publications can be downloaded from: <http://www.wide-network.org/>

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): WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (ALBANIA), WOMEN'S PROSPCET (UKRAINE), THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS (RUSSIA), WIDE, WUNRN, CONCORD, ASTRA, TRIALOG, GENDERMATTERS, DEEP,BCSDN, VAW MONITOR, NEWW

Edited by Kasia Staszewska