

# KARAT NEWS

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### Board elections results



Within the participation of 65% of KARAT member organizations **Zuzana Jezerska** (Slovakia), **Michaela Marksova – Tominova** (Czech Republic), **Katerina Milenkova** (Macedonia) and **Susanna Vardanyan** (Armenia) were elected as the new Members of the Board for 2009-2011. They replaced Jivka Marinova (Bulgaria), Pavlina Filipova (Bulgaria), Nadezhda Azhgikhina (Russia) and Maryna Saprykina (Ukraine) whose term of office came to the end.

Many thanks to the leaving Board Members and good luck to the new ones. KARAT secretariat is looking forward to our cooperation !

### KARAT Board Meeting

Ex-Board Members and the newly elected ones met last weekend: 23-24 January in Warsaw, Poland at a fruitful meeting. This time the priority was given to further elaboration of the KARAT's program for the years 2009-2012 based on the thematic objectives agreed on the previous meeting in May: *Gender economic and social justice ; Women's human rights ; Gender focused development cooperation and Organizational and strategic empowerment.*

KARAT Secretariat would like to thank all the Board and Advisory Body Members for their great contribution.

The MAIN AGREEMENTS from the meeting will be available soon at: <http://www.karat.org/>

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

### New KARAT Members

Six applications recommended by existing members KARAT were positively reviewed by the Board on January 24, 2009. Thus, Center for Gender Initiatives "ADLIGA: WOMEN FORFULL CITIZENSHIP" (Belarus) , "Women Support Center" (Kyrgyzstan) and Citizens' Association Felicitas (Serbia) were accepted as new organizational members of KARAT Coalition. Additionally 3 persons with the long-standing relationship with KARAT were accepted as the Individual Honorary Members: Mirjana Dokmanovic (Serbia) , Barbara Limanowska (Poland) and Ewa Rutkowska (Poland). Welcome !

KARAT membership expanded to 57 organizations in 24 countries. Full list of KARAT members:

<http://www.karat.org/index.php?pagelD=229>

### Social Watch: Report Launch



On 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2008 – 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - the first national report of the Polish Social Watch Coalition (PSWC) was launched in the Polish Parliament. Focusing on major human rights issues in Poland, including articles on global human rights challenges, the report has been presented to the chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee of Justice and Human Rights, Ryszard Kalisz.

The report is available in Polish and you can download it from our website:

<http://www.karat.org/index.php?pagelD=383>

KARAT is one of the focal points and coordinates the Social Watch Coalition in Poland. To know more write to Magda at: <http://www.karat.org/index.php?pagelD=383>

## Through their eyes: Exhibition is open !



The opening of the *Through Their Eyes* photo exhibition focused on the socio-economic situation of women in the CEE & CIS took place on the 23rd of January 2009 in the lobby of the Library of Warsaw University. The international jury awarded 3 authors:

I prize: „Refugee Mothers” by Mariam Amurvelashvili from Georgia

II prize: “Birthday celebration at work” by Elena Bazan from Belarus

III prize: “Poverty Trap” by Olga Ciskariszwili-Soselia from Georgia.

KARAT Secretariat would like to congratulate the winners! The awarded photographs can be viewed on our website. The opening was also an opportunity to launch the new project publication: *Through Their Eyes. Images of the economic situation of women from the developing countries of Central Europe, the Balkans and Central Asia*. The publication ( English version) is available online at: <http://www.karat.org> You can visit the exhibition in the Library of Warsaw University till 8 of February, 2009. Later this year photos will travel to Slovakia and Germany.

Should you like to host the exhibition in your country or at any event you organize please contact Ewa at: [ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl](mailto:ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl)

## OP CEDAW: Partners strategic meeting



The project partners from Belarus, Georgia, Moldova Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan working together to build the regional women’s NGOs coalition on the Optional Protocol to CEDAW, met during the second project strategic meeting organized by KARAT in Warsaw on 5-6 December 2008. The aim of the meeting was not only to evaluate the implementation of the project at regional and national levels but also to discuss and develop the strategy for the year 2009 and further. The participants decided that during the second project year they will focus on reaching out to women’s NGOs and other relevant actors in their countries to disseminate the information on procedures available under the OP CEDAW. Will to get involved in the regional initiatives related to CEDAW 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary was also expressed.

In 2009 the project partnership will be enhanced by inviting new partner organizations from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

For more information contact Aleksandra at: [aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl](mailto:aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl)

## Women is Supermarkets: Seminar and publication



*Women’s labour rights protection in super/ hypermarkets in Poland* was a title of the seminar for the trade union activists, NGOs and labour law experts held in Warsaw on 15 January 2009. Addressing the violations identified by the prior research, Strategic Action Advise Body (SAAB) presented its recommendations for the amendments to the law and its implementation: extension of the period during which breaches of labour rights can be prosecuted up to 10 years, strengthen

barriers for obstructing the functioning of trade unions in supermarkets, development of the new model for categorizing work related health problem, and others..

Recommendations together with the legal analysis of the labor rights protection are published with the KARAT & project partners report: *Working conditions and labour rights protection from gender perspective in supermarkets in Poland*. The report is available in Polish on [www.karat.org](http://www.karat.org)

Report and SAAB recommendations met great media, internauts and Polish women NGOs interests.

To learn more about the project write to Agnieszka at: [agnieszka.chmielecka@karat.org.pl](mailto:agnieszka.chmielecka@karat.org.pl)

## Regional /Members' News

### Gender Action Plan in EBRD

With regard to the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) commitment to launch a Gender Action Plan (GAP) in 2009 a half day "Gender, civil society and women's entrepreneurship" consultation workshop was organized in London on 4 December 2008. The report from the first ever civil society organizations meeting on gender in the EBRD did not indicate how the CSOs' recommendations will be incorporated into the GAP nor when the final document will be released.

To view EBRD's report from the gender workshop, visit: <http://www.ebrd.com/oppo/ngo/new/index.htm>

For CSOs comments on the draft Gender Action Plan, including submission from CEE Bankwatch Network, Georgian Gender for Social-Economic Development Association and Serbian Femina Creativa, go to: <http://bankwatch.org/project.shtml?apc=147579-----1&d=n>

To read the draft EBRD Gender Action Plan, visit:

[http://bankwatch.org/documents/draft\\_EBRD\\_Gender\\_Action\\_Plan\\_06\\_08.pdf](http://bankwatch.org/documents/draft_EBRD_Gender_Action_Plan_06_08.pdf)

To know more about the consultation process, write to EBRD NGO Relations Unit at: [NGO@ebrd.com](mailto:NGO@ebrd.com)

### Czech Republic: position on Anti-Discrimination Directive

Sixty one Czech non profit organization, among them Gender Studies o.p.s. (KARAT Member) signed a petition urging the government to adopt July EC Anti- Discrimination Directive aiming to institute the policies on equal treatment in areas other than the workplace (age, disability, sexual orientation, religion /belief) in all members states. Czech Government – the only one that has not fully implemented the EU anti-discrimination directives – viewed this as " *an unnecessary piece of legislation*" stating that " *Protection against discrimination should be a job of the national governments of the member states, [as this is an issue of] national traditions and social consensus*". In response the roundtable expert discussion was organized on the November 30<sup>th</sup> and a larger public debate on all grounds discrimination fighting is planned.

To know more about the NGOs position contact Linda Sokačová: [linda.sokacova@genderstudies.cz](mailto:linda.sokacova@genderstudies.cz)

### GEORGIA / MOLDOVA: OP CEDAW seminars



KARAT partners in Optional Protocol to CEDAW project: Women's Political Resource Center (Georgia) and Gender-Center with Women Political Club 50/50 (Moldova) organized series of events aimed at promoting OP as a women's rights protection tool at the November / December turn

The training organized in Georgia in cooperation with Bar Association targeted lawyers, women's and human rights NGOs activists and the representatives of political parties. The training, which met with huge interest and prized for its innovative approach, provided the women's rights advocates with the knowledge on

how to use CEDAW as an additional tool to counteract discrimination against women.

The seminar in Moldova: *OP CEDAW - an instrument of women rights protection* organized with the support of Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child was attended primary by the representatives of Gender Focal Points from different ministers. During the seminar the need to raise awareness among the judiciary system officials emerged.

To know more about the activities around OP CEDAW in Georgia contact Nana Mzhavanadze at: [wprc@wprc.org.ge](mailto:wprc@wprc.org.ge) . For Moldova turn to Valentina Bodrug-Lungu at: [lunguval@mcc.md](mailto:lunguval@mcc.md)

### MOLDOVA: ProGen Alliance – Elections 2009

Five women NGOs from Moldova including Political Club of Women – 50/50 and Gender Center have launched the civic initiative **ProGen Alliance – Elections 2009** in order to draw political parties attention on the UE recommendations on gender balance in decision making processes. Development

of the Code of Conduct for the Equal Elections for the political parties to sign, gender monitoring of the coming parliamentary elections and the public information campaign are planned.

To know more about the initiative write to Valentina Bodrug-Lungu at: [lunguval@mcc.md](mailto:lunguval@mcc.md)

### **Poland: against the 'Bioethical Act'**

Representatives of women and parents right organization supported, i.a. by KARAT Board Members, came together on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of January to express their protest against the proposed bioethical act (known as Gowin's Act) aiming to regulate the in vitro fertilization with the ban of embryos refrigeration. Outside the Polish Parliament women and men convinced that adoption of Gowin's Act will be devastating for every couple dealing with infertility problem, Polish transplantology, democracy and the rule of law. Women organizations and individuals united in the Social Committee to Support the Citizen Project on the In Vitro Fertilization Act and are currently collecting the signatures for the alternative project.

To join the Committee or express your support visit:

<http://www.federa.org.pl/?page=news&newsid=588&lang=1>

## **EU News**

### **Czech Presidency Updates**

<http://www.eu2009.cz/en/> is the new website with all the updates from the Czech presidency of the Council of the European Union. In the course of 2009 many strategic decisions are expected: official Eastern Partnership launch and implementation of the new gender equality legislation concerning maternity leave, self-employed workers and ban on discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation in media, education, social protection, and in access to goods and services.

To read more visit: <http://www.eu2009.cz/en/> or <http://www.womenlobby.org/site/hp.asp?langue=EN>

### **Your voice in Europe**

'Your Voice in Europe' is the European Commission's website serving as a 'single access point' to a wide variety of consultations, discussions and other tools which enable you to play an active role in the European policy-making process.

To check the latest consultation process visit: <http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/index.htm>

### **EU legislation failed**

EU Commission has started infringement procedures against Austria, Lithuania, Slovenia, Hungary, Italy and Malta since they have not fully implemented EU law prohibiting discrimination in employment on the grounds of sex. They can be taken to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) if they fail to respond or the response would not be satisfactory to the Commission. The main problems are definitions of direct and indirect discrimination; rights of women on maternity leave; and the functioning of equality bodies.

Source: EWL European & International News in Brief December

## **Other News**

### **FfD good but not enough**

'Good but not enough' was the title of the press release by the Women's Working Group on Financing for Development issued as an assessment of the outcomes of the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Doha, Qatar on 29 November -2 December 2008. Significantly due to the work of the women organizations (WIDE, AWID, IGTN, DAWN, FEMNET) the final conference



document goes beyond the Monterrey Consensus recognizing gender equality as a fundamental human right and an issue of social justice "...essential for economic growth, poverty reduction, environmental sustainability and development effectiveness". But still there is a lot of work to be done and there will be a constant follow-up from women organization starting from the Conference on the Global Financial and Economic Crisis and its impact on Development to be held in New York in May 2009.

The Final women's statement on FfD Summit Doha and its Press release can be found at:

<http://www.wide-network.org/index.jsp?id=356>

Source: WIDE E-newsletter, November 2008

### **Global Social Watch report launch in Doha**



The international SW Report *Rights is the Answer* was launched on December, 1 in Doha, Qatar, as part of the International Conference on Financing for Development organized by the United Nations. New 2008 report argues that an approach based on human rights is the only way to overcome the current global financial, food, energy and climate crises, and provides examples of how the current financial architecture has ignored or openly violated those rights and triggered spiraling inequity all around the world. To view the report go to:

<http://www.socialwatch.org/en/informelmpreso/index.htm>

### **CEDAW and Migrant women Workers**

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopted a General Recommendation No.26 on women migrant workers during the last session, on 4 November 2008. Recommendation recognizes the gender specificity of migration and provides a list of recommendation for the governments, specially in terms of circumstances contributing to the vulnerability of many women migrant workers.

Full text of the recommendation: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/comments.htm>

Source: EWL European & International News in Brief December

### **Civil society about GFMD**

Over 200 CSOs from around the world participating in the Peoples' Global Action event on Migration, Development and Human Rights produced a document "PGA Joint Civil Society Declaration on Migration, Development and Human Rights" criticizing the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), which was held at the same time in Manila, Philippines. CSOs call on the governments to ensure equality and non-discrimination for migrants and recognize their human rights, whether or not they are in "regular" or "irregular" status.

Document is available at: <http://www.migrantwatch.org/Activities/GFMD2008section.html>

## **Information Sharing**

### **New ASTRA report on the RH in the region**

New ASTRA report on Reproductive Health Supplies in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Macedonia, Poland, Russia and Ukraine reveals unique data showing that participating countries do not have specific laws regulating access to RH supplies or regarding SRHR in general.

The report is available at [http://www.astra.org.pl/ASTRAreport2008\[1\].pdf](http://www.astra.org.pl/ASTRAreport2008[1].pdf)

### **Albania: Project Newsletter**

The Network Against Gender-Based Violence and Trafficking in Albania has published a newsletter *Making it Real: Implementing the Law Against Domestic Violence in Albania*, detailing progress toward the implementation of the law against domestic violence in the country.

The Newsletter is available at: <http://www.stopdhunes.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/untf-albania-project-newsletter-november-20081.pdf>

### **CEDAW related Publications**

International Women's Rights Action Watch - Asia Pacific (IWROW) has issued the second edition of the resource guide on the Optional Protocol to CEDAW. It can be downloaded from: [http://www.iwraw-ap.org/documents/resourceguide/Our\\_Rights\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.iwraw-ap.org/documents/resourceguide/Our_Rights_Guide.pdf)

An interactive CEDAW benchbook offering a good resource on Philippine judicial decisions and providing guidance on domestic application is available on: <http://cedawbenchbook.org/>

### **Updates with TRIALOG**

TRIALOG Information Service (TIS) addressed to NGOs and individuals interested in development issues in the context of EU enlargement contains updates about the funding opportunities, open partner searches for joint projects, job vacancies, and many others..

You can check it at: <http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/>

### **Summer Courses: Hungary , Croatia**

Central European University in Budapest is organizing Summer Course ( June 29 – July10) on WORK AND INEQUALITY IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY. Application deadline is February 16 Detailed information is available at: <http://www.sun.ceu.hu/apply>

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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): Olga Sirbu from Women Political Club 50/50 (Moldova), Valentina Bodrug-Lungu from Gender Center (Moldova), Klara Sikorova from CEE Bankwatch Network, Linda Sokačová from Gender Studies o.p.s (Czech Republic), WIDE, CONCORD, VAW Monitor, EWL, NEWW, DEEP, BCSDN, NOTICIAS / NOUVELLES, BSCDN, ASTRA WIDE, WUNRN, CONCORD, ASTRA, VAW Monitor, NEWW

**Edited by Katarzyna Staszewska**