



69 (05) 2012. Warsaw, 04/06/2012

What's New in KARAT:

- National reports on women's access to justice
- Belarus: Political issues from gender perspective
- Connect! Great success but still lots to be done
- KARAT at Wikigender

European Union:

- Feminist reactions to the financial and democratic crisis
- Poland: Progress in a long-awaited National Program of Action for Equal Treatment

Resources:

- UNRISD: Gendered impacts of globalization: employment & social protection
- PDCS: Heart and money beyond borders: fundraising from individuals for development and relief

Upcoming event:

- GEM-IWG program on engendering macroeconomics and international economics
- International congress of Belarusian studies "A turn to Belarus: ideas, methods, concepts"

Call for Action:

- CSW: Inform about women's rights violations in your country!
- Uzbekistan: Fear for safety of HRD Ms Gulshan Karayeva

Dear KARAT News Readers !

I would like to draw your attention to news about the feminist reactions to the current financial and democratic crisis which has a huge impact on people's, especially women's lives.

I also encourage you to visit KARAT's new website and to post your news on KARAT's Facebook profile. Remember that I am always looking forward to receive your news. Let all the KARAT members know what happens in your country concerning women's issues. Please send me a short paragraph till the end of each month. Have a nice reading !

Agnieszka Walko-Mazurek, KARAT Networking Officer

What's new in KARAT

National reports on women's access to justice

Though access to justice is basic for the human rights to be observed, the comprehensive strategies that would make it a reality for women in the CEE-CA Region are lacking.

The reports, developed by teams in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan coordinated by KARAT, analyze the factors which make justice-seeking a fiction for women who suffer from violations rooted in gender stereotypes. They focus on women's experience related to bride kidnapping (Kyrgyzstan), domestic violence (Azerbaijan, Tajikistan), denial of lawful abortion (Poland) and human trafficking (Uzbekistan). In all these cases using available laws to protect and claim rights becomes a real challenge for victims who generally face a risk of ostracism and seldom get support. Apart from the socio-cultural factors, women's subordinate economic position also limits their ability to make free decisions concerning justice-seeking.

Women's access to justice will never improve if the law reforms are not supported by effective policies that eliminate patriarchal approach to women and implement the measures empowering them to address police, law enforcement and courts. The Reports conclude with recommendations for system changes necessary to eliminate the discrimination against women in this area.

The national reports are available in English and Russian at [KARAT website](#) of Women's Human Rights Program.

Additional material on women's access to justice: [Gender Recommendations for Strengthening Access to Justice](#), [Women's Access to Justice in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia](#) (Russian version: [Доступ женщин к правосудию в странах центральной и восточной европы и центральной азии](#)).

Related websites: KARAT [OP CEDAW Toolkits](#), [OP CEDAW blog by Simone Cusack](#)

For more information please contact Aleksandra Solik at: aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl



Belarus: Political issues from gender perspective

A new feminist anthology: "Women in Politics: New Approaches to the Political" has been launched by Centre for Gender Initiatives "Adliga: Women for Full Citizenship". It addresses ongoing political issues in Belarus and post-Soviet states from the feminist perspective. It focuses on the problems of women's participation in political and public life of Belarus, as well as an ongoing confrontation with the post-socialist transition of this country at the turn of the 21st century.

At present, there is no Belarusian journal or online blog that openly discusses issues related to gender, power, politics and culture. This periodical publication seeks to fill this gap and to offer critical analysis of current events in Belarusian society and the post-Soviet countries.

The almanac first and foremost targets political and social activists. It also speaks to a generation of emerging scholars interested in political, social and cultural concerns related to women's participation in political movements in Belarus and gender studies in general.

The working languages of the almanac are Russian and Belarusian but some articles will be available in English shortly.

The electronic version of the almanac in Russian is available at: <http://adliga.info/newpolitics/>

For more information please contact Evgenia Ivanova at: evgenia.iva@gmail.com

Connect! Great success but still lots to be done

KARAT together with its members: [AUR A.N.S.R.U](#) from Romania, [Gender Studies](#) from Czech Republic, [GERT](#) from Bulgaria and [SCCD](#) from Slovakia have just finalized the implementation of the 3-year- project called [Connect! South East West Women for Development](#).



This initiative created an unique opportunity for the civil society organizations (CSOs) focused on women's rights and CSOs focused on development cooperation to work together in order to include gender equality and women's empowerment issues into debates about development policies and practices in EU New Member States (EU NMS). The actions within the project like regional and national dialogues, roundtables, debates, conferences as well as thematic publications have started the process of making development policy and practice in these countries more gender - sensitive and gender - responsive. However, there is still a lot to be done as the advocacy work towards decision makers in EU NMS is a long-term process and the policy changes cannot be ensured in short time.

You will find the short clip which is a summary of the project on KARAT's youtube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pa6Gg-CVKCE>

To understand various linkages between gender and development better KARAT recommends to the Polish readers the publication "Kobiety, gender i globalny rozwój" prepared by Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH) about the global development.

The publication can be ordered at PAH official website http://www.pah.org.pl/nasze-dzialania/285/wydawnictwo_pah or directly at KARAT Secretariat office.

The publication is a translation of English original "The Women, Gender and Development Reader".

For more information please contact Marta Gontarska at: marta.gontarska@karat.org.pl

KARAT at Wikigender

We are glad to announce that KARAT Coalition has its profile at [Wikigender website](#).

Wikigender is a project initiated by the [OECD Development Centre](#) to facilitate the exchange and improve the knowledge on gender equality-related issues around the world. It aims to highlight the importance of social institutions such as norms, traditions and cultural practices that impact on women's empowerment.

Wikigender is open to everyone and it invites users' active participation either by providing comments and suggestions, or by contributing new articles.

The source: [Wikigender website](#)

European Union

Feminist reactions to the financial and democratic crisis

The ongoing democratic and financial crisis has hit millions of women depriving them of economic and social security. The budgetary discipline has become a priority of EU making the European governments cut down public spending on health care, education and social services. The policy of saving has threatened not only economic independence of women but it has also caused a serious backlash on women's rights. This situation has provoked a strong feminist reaction in many European countries and beyond.

Poland: Bread instead of games!

In Poland there are feminist protests against the emphasis put by Polish government on the organization of football games "EURO 2012". A committee "Bread instead of games!" uniting number of influential feminist organizations and individuals in its official statement stresses the massive costs the Polish citizens will pay for EURO 2012. While costs related to "EURO 2012" accumulates up to billions of Euro at the same time the government is cutting on spending necessary to fulfill basic social needs. The prices of food, water, electricity, gas, transport, medicines are going up, and there is no funding for measures against unemployment, which is on the rise.

The costs of current financial crisis and enormous spending on football games has a particular strong impact on women, due to their already underprivileged economic position. "Bread instead of games" committee emphasizes that the state politics and city budgets cannot be subjected to the organization of sporting events. The committee demands the change of political priorities so that the people's everyday common needs such as cheap municipal housing, equal access to free education, free institutionalized childcare, care for the elderly, accessible health care, and affordable and efficient public transport can be satisfied.

The committee organizes debates about the socio-political consequences of the economic crisis and state's spending on "EURO 2012" games. On 10th of June 2012 it will also organize a big demonstration against anti-social policy of the state and cities where the football games will soon take place.

You can read the Statement of Polish feminist groups "[Bread instead of games!](#)" in English, Russian, Italian, German, Croatian, Polish and Ukrainian.

The source: "Bread instead of games!" official website <http://10czerwca.eu/>

Latin America, Caribbean and Spain: Fight for a truly inclusive and just democracy

The feminist women members of networks and organizations from Latin America, Caribbean and the Spanish state developed a powerful manifesto during the 5th Dialogues Consonants held in Madrid, Spain in April 2012.

In manifesto they express their deep concern about this new global capitalist system's crisis that keeps on exploiting people, privatizing natural resources and commercializing rights. The feminists call it a civilizational crisis as it covers not only economic and financial elements but also political, environmental, cultural and social ones. They call attention to the fact, that the governments seek to overcome the crisis by putting people's and especially women's priorities last. The crisis and governments' policies have negatively affected the social order letting the conservative traditional cultural practices re-emerge and increase the human rights violations. The states no longer guarantee

rights protection and the public policies cuts lead to redefining families in a very conservative way which makes it more difficult for women to exercise their rights and the gender equality's achievement.

The feminists demand the protection of Welfare states and its democratic institutions, people's ownership and sovereignty, and full respect for human rights. They call on the governments to respect and guarantee the gender equality and women's rights commitments, including sexual and reproductive rights, safe and legal abortion, and the right to be free from all forms of violence. They expect the states to stay in line with the ethical obligation to prevent improper and indecent accumulation of resources which results in increasing of poverty and inequality within and among the countries.

You can read [the Manifesto](#) in English or Spanish.

The source: [Wide Plus Newsletter](#)

Poland: Progress in a long-awaited National Program of Action for Equal Treatment

On 21–25 May 2012, the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment (GPET) consulted with civil society organizations (CSOs) and academics the priorities and content of the National Program of Action for Equal Treatment (NPAET) in main areas of rights such as: employment, access to healthcare, education, as well as access to goods and services. During the consultation meetings the general approach to anti-discrimination policy in Poland, including legal protection, was also thoroughly discussed.

KARAT's representatives participated in the consultations and contributed to the policy formulation related to advancement of the situation of women in the labor market (incl. prioritizing the need to address the problem of "working poor" among women), as well as in relation to sexual and reproductive health and rights (esp. eliminating barriers hampering women's access to lawful abortion services).

The formulation of the NPAET for the years 2013-2018 is very important in terms of defining anti-discrimination policies in the upcoming years, and thus KARAT welcomes the initiative of the 5-day open consultations organized by GPET. KARAT also hopes that the outcome document will include the burning issues highlighted by CSOs during the meetings.

Since 2005 the Polish government has not formulated nor implemented any National Program of Action for Women, despite ongoing advocacy of the CSOs. This resulted in the lack of long-term and comprehensive policy on advancing women's rights, and consequently the lack of significant progress in achieving gender equality.

For more information please contact Magda Pocheć at: magda.pochec@karat.org.pl

Resources:

UNRISD: Gendered impacts of globalization: employment & social protection

This paper reviews evidence on how key aspects of globalization processes have impacted the real economy, in terms of employment and social conditions of work for women and men across a wide range of countries.

You can read the publication [here](#)

PDCS: Hearts and money beyond borders: fundraising from individuals for development and relief

This publication presents a mosaic of experiences, examples and inspiration having to do with philanthropy and donations collected in the four Visegrad countries and the United Kingdom. Its main goal is to show how to raise funds for development and humanitarian work from private sources, particularly from individual donors. It brings examples of good practices while pointing out some difficulties and problems that need to be considered in the process.

You can download the publication [here](#)

Upcoming events:

GEM-IWG program on engendering macroeconomics and international economics

[The Gender and Macro International Working Group \(GEM-IWG\)](#) is calling for application for the Knowledge Networking and Capacity Development Program on gender, macroeconomics and international economics. This program aims to facilitate the integration of gender perspective into macroeconomic research and policy formulation.

Key activities of the 2012 program consist of a) an intensive Summer Institute to be held in Krakow, Poland on 17-26 July 2012, and b) an international symposium to be held in Krakow, Poland on 28-29 July 2012 on "Economic Crisis in Europe: Towards Gender-Equitable Macroeconomic Policy-making and Economic Governance". Up to 30 Fellows will be admitted to the program.

For more information visit the website: <http://www.gem-europe.eu/> or read a [pdf file](#).

International congress of Belarusian studies "A turn to Belarus: ideas, methods, concepts"

The Consortium of Belarusian and Lithuanian organisations under the auspices of the Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania) and "Political Sphere" Institute (Belarus) is pleased to announce a call for individual applications for the 2nd International Congress of Belarusian Studies "A Turn to Belarus: Ideas, Methods, Concepts", held on September 28-30, 2012 in Kaunas, Lithuania.

Around 200 scholars from around the world, engaged in studying Belarus and East-Central Europe region, are expected to participate. The Congress will bring together researches of social sciences and humanities, and offer the discussion of regional development issues, Belarus relations with other countries, and other topical problems.

For more information about the congress please visit its official website <http://istorija.vdu.lt/web/icbs/Title.html>

Call for Action

CSW: Inform about women's rights violations in your country!

Do you have an important case of injustice and discrimination you wish to bring to the UN's attention? The CSW Communication Procedure is a unique tool for individuals and organizations to use in order to raise awareness about injustice and discriminatory practices against women in any country in the world. Now it is a time to submit your claim. **The deadline is 1 August 2012.**

Any individual, non-governmental organization, group or network may submit communications (complaints/appeals/petitions) to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) containing information relating to alleged violations of human rights that affect the status of women in any country in the world.

The claims to the Commission must be submitted by 1st of August 2012 and they will be examined at its next session in February 2013.

For more information click at: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/communications_procedure.html#where

Uzbekistan: Fear for safety of HRD Ms Gulshan Karayeva

Take action on behalf of Ms Gulshan Karayeva - a human rights defender from Uzbekistan who was subjected to a physical attack, followed by a series of threats and intimidation.

For more information about this case and how to take action please visit a website [Front Line Defenders](#)

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): Centre for Gender Initiatives "Adliga: Women for Full Citizenship" from Belarus, WIDE Plus, EWL, AWID.

Edited by Agnieszka Walko-Mazurek

KARAT Coalition

ul. Rakowiecka 39A/ 14

02 521 Warsaw, Poland

phone: +48 22 8491647

fax: +48 22 628 20 03

Visit our website: www.karat.org

Find us on [Facebook](#)

To support our work please go to [DONATE NOW](#)