



48 (02) 2010. Warsaw, 20/04/2010

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What's new in KARAT ?

The latest changes at the KARAT Secretariat

The beginning of 2010 was marked with structural changes within KARAT's Secretariat.

The current Networking Officer - Kasia Staszewska has decided to pursue her individual engagement in the development and women's movement that better corresponds to her character and personal self-realization. Consequently, she quits the post of Networking Officer and Coordinator of the project by 28th of February 2010. During two year of her work at KARAT, she demonstrated to be very engaged and committed to her work, as well as terrifically efficient and competent. Many KARAT's members and the Secretariat have very much appreciated her tremendous contribution to stimulating the networking. Kasia will stay with us for next three months as a close collaborator and consultant for the project on gender in development implemented in partnership with One World Action. I wish her all the best in her future career and personal life.

Since then Ewa Kaminska at: ewa.kaminska@karat.org.pl will be a person responsible for the contacts with KARAT's members.

There is also another change. We regret that due to diminished funds for administration (related to a reduced number of the projects in 2010) we were constrained to suppress the post of the office manager by the end of January, and administrative duties have been shared among the staff. On behalf of KARAT I would like to thank Agnieszka Sterne for her two year challenging work and wish her all the best.

Kinga Lohmann

Herstory of European Feminist Forum

The monograph on European Feminist Forum was written by six European Feminists coming from different backgrounds, cultures, countries or continents who were excited to 'construct' a feminist vision for a social, economic and political justice in Europe. The publication "points to some of the core feminist debates in Europe around solidarity, affinity, movement organizing, body politics and sexualities, economic precarity, funding and migration. The main conclusion from the EFF experience is that there is no one European feminism but a plurivocality of European women's voices that are taking up feminism in different themes and activities. Nor is there a clear one Europe. (...) Similarly, the EFF emphasizes that there is no such phenomena as 'European feminism'. Nor is there agreement about what 'wave' of feminism we are in, or indeed if it is good idea to talk about waves."

The EFF initiative as a project is over, but a debate on rebuilding and re-politicizing the European feminist movement has continued.

KARAT was actively involved in this European feminist initiative since the beginning and contributed to writing its herstory, which was just published (by the end of 2009).

Duting, Gisela, Harcourt, Wendy, Lohmann Kinga, McDevith-Pugh, Lin, Semeniuk, Joanna and Wieringa, Saskia (2009) *The European Feminist Forum. A herstory (2004-2008)*. Aletta – Institute for Women's History, The Netherlands.

The publication is available here: http://europeanfeministforum.org/IMG/pdf/EFF_Herstory_web.pdf

KARAT's program for CEDAW

In March KARAT completed the process of recruiting partner organizations for the three-years project being a part of its CEDAW program. The project aims at developing and implementing the strategies for effective use of CEDAW mechanisms in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Its agenda includes activities on regional and national level which embrace CEDAW and OP CEDAW regional trainings of trainers, follow-up events organized in the project countries and actions taken to assess women's access to justice in the countries involved.

The partners organizations that will coordinate project activities on national level are: Gender Association "Symmetry" (Azerbaijan), Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan, Public Foundation "Panorama" (Tajikistan), "Generation of the Future" (Uzbekistan).

The rules for cooperation are to be developed during the strategic meeting that will take place on the 29th -30th of April in Warsaw. The meeting will provide forum for discussing the project strategy, its objectives and activities, including actions to be conducted on national level, and timetable of the steps to be taken.

For more information please write to Ola at: aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl

Regional meeting on CEDAW Committee's Concluding Observations postponed due to volcanic ash

We regret to inform you that the *Regional Consultation on the Implementation of the CEDAW Committee's Concluding Observations in Europe* which was about to take place on the 26th-28th of April in Warsaw has been postponed due to volcanic ash over Europe that caused extreme delays in flights and unabled participants and trainers to travel for the meeting. The meeting has been organized by International Women's Rights Action Watch IRAW Asia Pacific in cooperation with KARAT Coalition and WIDE Network. The meeting was about to bring together women's groups, academics and activists from the European region, with an emphasis on countries in which KARAT and WIDE have a focus.

The Consultation aims to assess the status of CEDAW application and to consider how to further use CEDAW and other human rights instruments in the work of participants' organizations. It will provide a space to examine the successes and barriers related to promoting and monitoring the implementation of the Concluding Observations of the CEDAW Committee in the selected countries in the region as a process for holding states accountable to their obligations under CEDAW. Further, the potential for strengthening the existing alliances as well as building the new ones, and developing national and regional strategies for promotion and protection of women's human rights, including effective state implementation of the Concluding Observations, will be explored during the meeting.

The new timing of the Regional Consultation will be settled as soon as possible.

For more information please write to Ola at: aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl

KARAT in Clean Clothes Campaign

On February 23rd and 24th, KARAT took part in the Euromeeeting of the Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC) as a representative of Clean Clothes Polska (CCP). It is the first Eastern European coalition in the CCC network. Together with three other Polish NGOs (Polish Humanitarian Organization, Polish Green Network and fair trade association eFTe) KARAT has established Clean Clothes Polska in order to continue the campaign for the improvement of the working conditions of women in garment industry.

KARAT is responsible for the international cooperation of CCP and for the first time it took part in activities planning and decision making of CCC. One of the topics discussed during the meeting was Gender Policy and strategy of CCC which is particularly important issue in the network acting for the improvement of working conditions in garment

industry where about 80% of workers are women. KARAT is involved in CCC Gender Working Group which has recently developed CCC Gender Policy Statement available at: <http://www.cleanclothes.org/about-us/what-we-believe-in/gender-policy-statement> and is currently working on CCC Gender Strategy aimed to be implemented within the network in Europe and by partners in producing countries.

For more information contact Joanna at: joanna.szabunko@karat.org.pl

Polish Social Watch Coalition evaluates Social Development in Poland



On February, 26th Polish Social Watch Coalition (PSWC) launched its 2009 Report on Social Development in Poland at the panel debate that took place in the premises of Political Critique in Warsaw, Poland.

The discussion focused on the different perspectives regarding goals of social development: the one PSWC outlined and presented in its Report, as well as the vision elaborated in the governmental green paper “Poland 2030”. Among the speakers were Coalition members, academics and coauthor of “Poland 2030”.

This year Report is a product of Coalition’s debates on definition and understanding of social development. It consists of theoretical introduction as well as case studies illustrating interconnections between different dimension of development, including: access to housing, education and employment.

Data gathering tours in Balkans completed

The participants of data gathering tours in Balkans have completed their tours in Macedonia and Serbia. With the support of local organization Permaculture and Peacebuilding Centre Shtip, they visited the towns Shtip, Zurnovtzi, Rusinovo in Macedonia and Bor and Belgrade in Serbia. The collected materials such as photos, interviews, records are the base for awareness raising tools, which will be created by the end of April, 2010. The following tools are being produced:

- a movie about the socio-economic situation of women in Balkan countries (by Elizabeth Dimitrova from Bulgaria),
- a blog with the photographs: real life reportage about Macedonian women (by Katarina Medlova from Slovakia),
- a blog with the photographs: stories of Balkan women living in different settings - poor suburbs, rural areas, city agglomerations (by Barbara Vodopivec from Slovenia). The blog is already available under the link: <http://tihezgodbe.wordpress.com/> .

The data gathering tours are the part of the project “Through Their Eyes, Through Ours. Raising Public Awareness about development problems faced by women from developing countries from Eastern Neighborhood, Balkans and Central Asia” co-financed by European Commission.

Interested to know more? Write to Ewa at: ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl

Small size exhibition “Through Their Eyes” is already available!

The exhibition “Through Their Eyes”, depicting the socio-economic situation of women in Central Asia and Eastern Europe, has become so popular that KARAT has decided to print the small size exhibition which is much easier to transport and enables us to show it in many places.

If you are interested in renting the exhibition, please write at ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl.

The slideshow of photos is available here: <http://www.karat.org/karat,6,Photography+exhibition,en.html>

Members' News

Political Club of Women 50/50 (Moldova): Gender Equality Prize



Political Club of Women 50/50 has launched the Gender Equality Prize. The aim of this Prize is to stimulate the interest of political parties and public persons from Republic of Moldova to promote gender equality and to facilitate their way to the Gender Equality Prize of the Council of Europe.

GE Prize will be awarded each year to recognize successes achieved by the political parties and public persons in supporting gender equality and promoting women in decision making.

Any non-governmental organization, institution or individual is entitled to nominate political parties or public persons to participate in the contest. Also, any political party may submit the application for the contest on its behalf.

The winner of the Gender Equality Prize will be chosen by an independent and impartial jury, composed of three persons, two experts in gender equality and a public personality.

To know more contact Olga at: office@club50.md

League of Professional Women (Ukraine): the new pilot project

League of Professional Women is conducting the three months pilot Project “Women Initiative for Senior People from Capital and Small Towns of Kyiv Region”, supported by Canada Fund of Local Initiatives, the Canadian Embassy in Ukraine and by the Department of Social-Humanitarian Policy, Kyiv Regional Council.

The Project is aimed at formation of pilot model of measures to overcome social isolation of pensionable age people, in particular, women.

For more information contact Olena at: lpw@iatp.org.ua or visit the website: <http://lpw.org.ua/en/announces/?pid=559>

Moldova: National Program on Gender Equality for 2010-2015

In Moldova a National Program on Gender Equality for 2010-2015 was adopted. The program is a strategic document defining the goals of gender equality policies in the Republic of Moldova until 2015 and establishes priorities for action in this area. In accordance with international standards, it will ensure the promotion of equal opportunities for women and men in the economic, political and social life, which is the main component of respect for fundamental human rights.

For more information contact Valentina from Gender Center at: lunguval@mcc.md or visit the website: www.mmprsf.gov.md

The 45th CEDAW session – Concluding Observations

The Concluding Observations for the 45th CEDAW session are now available. The Concluding Observations are divided according to themes/issues so it is easy to see how the Committee has dealt with each of them.

The Concluding Observations can be downloaded at the website of the OHCHR at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws45.htm>.

Resources

KARAT: Russian version of the reports on the working conditions of women employed in the super/hypermarket chains in Poland

The reports on the working conditions of women employed in the super/hypermarket chains in Poland, developed in 2008-2009 within the project conducted by KARAT, will soon be available in Russian at “Women’s rights in supermarkets” bookmark of KARAT’s website. Now they are available in Polish and English. You can find them at: <http://www.karat.org/karat,8,What+is+new%3F,Reports,en.html>

Social Watch: The Gender Equity Index 2009

The Gender Equity Index 2009 computed by Social Watch shows that the gender gap is not narrowing in most countries and a majority of the countries that show progress are those that were already comparatively better. The distance between the countries and regions in the better and worse relative situations has widened in the last years.

The GEI, produced annually by Social Watch from international available and comparable information, was designed to make visible gender inequity situations and monitor their development over time. It ranks countries and regions according to their performance in education, economic activity and empowerment - three dimensions closely linked to gender inequality.

More information: <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/11748>

UNIFEM: Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence Against Women and Girls

This online resource in English, French and Spanish, is designed to serve the needs of policymakers, programme implementers and other practitioners dedicated to addressing violence against women and girls. The Centre is an initiative of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), bringing together the valuable contributions of expert organizations and individuals, governments, United Nations sister agencies, and a wide range of relevant actors. You can access it here: <http://www.endvawnow.org>.

A new joint report: "Bringing Human Rights to Bear in Times of Crisis: A human rights analysis of government responses to the economic crisis"

It has been more than two years now since the start of the largest financial meltdown and global economic recession in over fifty years. And yet, how have our governments responded to this crisis in such a way as to uphold people's fundamental dignity and human rights?

The Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), the Center of Concern, Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR), the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey (CWGL) and the International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net) jointly release a new report.

This report aims to deepen our understanding of how governments have conducted themselves and how effective economic policies have been in defending and strengthening the enjoyment of human rights in a time of multiple and interlocking social and economic crises.

You can download the report here: http://www.escr-net.org/usr_doc/HRResponsestoEconCrisis_Final.pdf

The European Women's Lobby: a photo competition

In the framework of its 20th anniversary celebrations, the European Women's Lobby has announced the launch of a photo competition looking to expose the visions of young women of the world they live in. The competition seeks images that make a creative and powerful statement on the theme of "21st Century Feminism".

For more details check:

http://www.womenlobby.org/site/1abstract.asp?DocID=2692&v1ID=&RevID=&namePage=&pageParent=&DocID_sousmenu

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): Gender-Center (Moldova), Political Club of Women 50/50 (Moldova), League of Professional Women (Ukraine), WIDE, AWID, IWRAW, VAW Monitor.

Edited by Ewa Kamińska

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