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## What's new in KARAT ?

### **Development effectiveness in our region - survey completed**

KARAT Secretariat has finalized the regional survey within the wider initiative: *Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness Thematic Consultation on CSOs working in Gender Equality and Women's Rights*. 41 organizations from 17 countries of Eastern Europe, Balkans, Caucasus and Central Asia contributed to the survey through the electronic questionnaire and a few face to face interviews. The variety of views provided by women's and development organizations from both, donor (EU NMS) and recipient countries of the region resulted in an interesting analysis of the gender equality and women's rights aspect of the development cooperation in our region. Although development issues, gender issues and the link between those two are still quite new topics in the majority of the countries taking part in the survey and the key word of the findings of the survey is 'awareness' or rather lack of it, it seems that there is interest and need to explore them.

KARAT thanks all the organizations taking part in the survey for their valuable input.

Based on the data gathered by KARAT a regional report has been prepared and it will feed into the general Open Forum report on this thematic consultations which will be the basis for the follow up activities before the 4<sup>th</sup> High Level Forum on aid effectiveness taking place in Bussan, South Korea, at the end of this year.

As soon as the final report is ready we will inform about it in KARAT News, meantime for more information please contact Joanna at [joanna.szabunko@karat.org.pl](mailto:joanna.szabunko@karat.org.pl).

### **3rd Strategic Meeting around Polish CEDAW reporting process**

On 13<sup>th</sup> of April, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Meeting of women's rights advocates, activists and experts took place in Warsaw. The meeting focused on discussing thematic priorities of the alternative report on the government's implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW). Polish Government reported to the CEDAW Committee in January 2007 and was bound to submit its next periodic report on the implementation of CEDAW by September 2010. The office of the government plenipotentiary for equal treatment of men and women (that coordinates the elaboration of the government report) informed KARAT that the report would be soon finalized and assured that KARAT along with its partner organizations in Poland (working on alternative report) would be involved in social consultations of the draft document.

During the strategic meeting it was decided that the alternative report will emphasize, among others, the following issues linked to women's human rights: newly introduced so called "antidiscrimination" law that does not provide women with adequate protection from discrimination (e.g. it excludes the area of education and so called "private life"), trends on the labour market (mainly intensification of law and female worker's rights violation), as well as situation of diverse groups of women (including rural women, migrants and LBT).

To learn more about the process of the Polish alternative report elaboration, please contact Magda Pocheć at: [magda.pochecc@karat.org.pl](mailto:magda.pochecc@karat.org.pl)

To learn more about the Project please visit: [http://www.karat.org/karat\\_20\\_en.html](http://www.karat.org/karat_20_en.html)

### **Moldova: Campaign "Women Can Do It! Run for Elections – Be the CHANGE!"**

Political Club of Women – 50/50 is starting a Campaign "Women Can Do It! Run for Elections – Be the CHANGE!", to encourage and support women future candidates for the Moldavian Local Elections planned for 5 June 2011.

The campaign will consist of round tables organized all over the country with the participation of women from different political parties or independent candidates for mayors and local or regional councilors, as well as women who want to get involved in the political and public life of their community. A "Guide for successful women in the electoral campaign" will be distributed among the participants.

The Campaign is organized within the project "Women Can Do It – Balanced Participation of Women and Men in Decision Making" with the support of Norwegian People's Aid and United Nations Democracy Fund.

For more information, please contact Olga Sirbu at [office@club50.md](mailto:office@club50.md)

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### **Armenia. 'Respect women. Stop violence' exhibition**



On April 07, 2011 Women's Rights Centre from Armenia organized an exhibition called "Respect women, stop violence", which was presented at Charles Aznavour square (in front of cinema Moscow).

The aim of exhibition was to raise public awareness on the negative influence of domestic violence against women and children. During the exhibition silhouettes of 7 women with attached true stories on them were exhibited and the passersby were handed informative leaflets and booklets on domestic violence phenomenon.

Below you can find some e-links on the exhibition:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVc0a-xuFR4&feature=youtube\\_gdata\\_player](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVc0a-xuFR4&feature=youtube_gdata_player)

<http://www.a1plus.am/en/social/2011/04/7/women-violation>

To learn more, please contact Women's Rights Centre at: [info@wrcorg.am](mailto:info@wrcorg.am)

### **Uzbekistan: CEDAW on agenda**

CEDAW Convention provided the basis for the training organized this month in Tashkent for the lawyers and social workers engaged in the issues of women who suffered from human trafficking and domestic violence. These two areas of women's rights violations are among the main concerns addressed by the CEDAW Committee in its concluding observations to Uzbekistan as a State Party to the Convention.

Moreover the Committee requested the State to report on the implementation of its recommendations aimed at combating violence against women under the expedited procedure. The training in Tashkent was a good opportunity to promote the National Action Plan on the Implementation of the CEDAW Committee Concluding Observations adopted by Uzbek Government in 2010. It was organized by the organisation Istiqbolli Avlod within the initiative coordinated by KARAT Coalition and aimed at improving the implementation of CEDAW in the Region.



More information: Liliya Khamzayeva [lkhazayeva@mail.ru](mailto:lkhazayeva@mail.ru)

### **Poland. Fundamentalists for complete ban on abortion**

Attempts to make further restrictions regarding the law on abortion has been taken recently by the fundamentalist forces in Poland. A draft law introducing a complete ban on abortion was submitted in Polish Parliament, together with 450 thousand signatures of support collected mainly before or after Sunday masses. Polish abortion law is one of the most restrictive in Europe and far more restrictive even in practice than on paper. Although it allows for a pregnancy to be terminated under three conditions - including for medical reasons and when it results from a criminal act - legal abortion is almost unavailable for women. Nevertheless, the fundamentalists and the Catholic Church still find the yearly number of 500 pregnancy terminations (in a nation of 10 mln women in reproductive age) unacceptable and are calling for further restrictions. Just few years ago the fundamentalist right wing politicians tried to introduce a provision protecting "life from the moment of conception" into the Constitution of Poland.

More information: Aleksandra Solik [aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl](mailto:aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl)

More on abortion law in Poland available at:

[http://www.federa.org.pl/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=236&Itemid=146](http://www.federa.org.pl/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=236&Itemid=146)

### **Czech Republic. Roma Women welcome Council of Europe's Statement**

On March, 03, Council of Europe issued a statement in which welcomes Czech Government expression of regret for unlawful sterilisations of women, mainly Roma and has called for action in facilitating the women who have been sterilized without their consent a reparation in line with international standards. Czech organization "Ostrava Group of Women Harmed by Forced Sterilization" expressed its enthusiasm to such a statement and stresses the fact that Commissioner Thomas Hammarberg called the former Czech state policy "a gross systematic violation of human rights". The paper issued by the Group as an answer to Council of Europe's statement. The Group puts weight to the real possibilities for reparation from Czech State and calls the government to take steps to compensate the forced sterilization of women as per Commissioner Hammarberg's recommendations.

Read Commissioner Thomas Hammarberg statement here:

[http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/News/2011/110303CzechRepublic\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/News/2011/110303CzechRepublic_en.asp)

Read Ostrava Group of Women harmed by Forced Sterilization here:

[http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007\\_2271](http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2271)

### **Polish member of UN HR WG on the Issue of Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice**

The United Nations Human Rights Council named 5 new members the Working Group on the Issue of Discrimination Against Women in Law and Practice. They are: Emma Aouij, Mercedes Barquet, Kamala Chandrakirana, Frances Raday and Eleonora Zielińska. Eleonora Zielińska is a Polish expert on anti-discrimination law. She has actively worked for anti-discrimination law in Poland, novelization of abortion law and women's rights (incl. preparation of Polish government report for Beijing conference). She is a professor of gender studies on Warsaw University and in her academic work she is promoting gender mainstreaming and equal rights of men and women. The Working Group was established in October 2010 with the resolution on discrimination against women. The Council called upon states to "fulfill their obligations and commitments to revoke any remaining laws that discriminate on the basis of sex and remove gender bias in the administration of justice, taking into account that those laws violate their human rights to be protected against discrimination".

Read more about the Working Group and the resolution here:

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=10405&LangID=E>

## Resources

### **'Blueprint for UN Women'. Report from Oxfam and VSO UK**

At 55<sup>th</sup> Commission on Status of Women Oxfam and VSO UK presented the outcomes of their global civil society survey on women's needs, priorities and expectations concerning UN Women and country level resolutions. The report consists of views of a hundred civil society organizations, including very local, grassroots and women's rights organizations from 75 countries. The survey concerned the priorities of a new established UN body UN Women and its solutions it provides on a country level.

The outcomes focus mostly on obliging UNW to work with governments in order to deliver equality of rights and development for women. Mostly head voices say the work should focus on stopping the violence against women and focus on facilitating rural women with laws and real possibilities in order to change their life.

Read more: <http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressrelease/2011-02-24/violence-against-women-must-be-top-priority-un-women>

The report can be downloaded here:

[http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/blueprint-un-women\\_final-survey-report\\_feb2011\\_2.pdf](http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/blueprint-un-women_final-survey-report_feb2011_2.pdf)

### **'Towards a future without fundamentalisms' - a new publication from AWID**

A new publication from Association of Women's Rights in Development has proposed a new publication concerning fundamentalisms and religious constraints. The book focuses on the growing impact that religious fundamentalisms of every religion get on international level, including the international human rights system. It also shows how women's strategies of resistance challenge influence the movements in the society and politics.

The report is based on 18 case studies presented in the "Feminists on the Frontline" series and shows exceptional set of feminist strategies across regions and different religious traditions.

Read more about the publication: <http://awid.org/Library/Towards-a-Future-without-Fundamentalisms2>

Download the PDF: [http://awid.org/Media/Files/Towards\\_a\\_Future\\_-Eng](http://awid.org/Media/Files/Towards_a_Future_-Eng)

### **UN Women called to promote ESCR**

International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and ESCR-Net group call UN Women to include economic, social and cultural rights into a mainstream policy of UN Women. The organizations advocate for building a common UN Women framework and recruiting for programming on economic, social and cultural rights. They also provide a set of 6 areas of focus for the new UN body and 10 concrete recommendations. Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and ESCR-Net group have expressed their position in a statement towards UN Women titled "Call for UN Women to Design its Policy and Program on Women's Economic Empowerment from an Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Perspective" which was issued in March.

Read more about the call and download the recommendations, please visit: <http://www.awid.org/News-Analysis/Issues-and-Analysis/Advocacy-with-UN-Women-Promote-ESCR-in-Strategy-and-Program>

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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): Political Club of Women – 50/50 (Moldova), Women's Rights Centre (Armenia), Istigbolli Avlod (Uzbekistan), ASTRA, AWID, EWL, WIDE, WUNRN.

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