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Advocacy for CEDAW implementation in Poland 2010-2012

KARAT has a pleasure to announce its new Project within its Women's Human Rights Program. The Project is related to the CEDAW reporting process in Poland where the Polish government is due to be reviewed in 2012. The Project includes production of the Shadow Report in coalition with national women's rights organizations and advocacy for the priority critical women's rights issues in Poland (e.g. adoption of parity and anti-discrimination act, reproductive rights). The Project also aims to assess women's access to justice and eliminate barriers that hamper litigation of their rights.

The Project is funded by Open Society Institute - Budapest.

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

Regional Consultation on the implementation of CEDAW Concluding Observations in Europe and Central Asia



On 1-3 July, European Consultation on the implementation of CEDAW Concluding Observations (COs) organized by IWRAW Asia Pacific in cooperation with KARAT and WIDE took place in Warsaw, Poland. During this 3-day meeting women's rights advocates from EU member states, CEE countries and Central Asia shared their strategies on using Concluding Observations (issued by the CEDAW Committee after the reviewing session of the given state), to keep the governments accountable for complying with the obligation to fully implement CEDAW Convention at the national level. The meeting was attended by 32 women from 17 countries, including KARAT's members.

Previous member of the CEDAW Committee – Shanthi Dairiam from Malaysia – was also present at the Regional Consultation, sharing her expertise and experience. Participants will carry out follow up activities for the implementation of CEDAW COs on national level. We will keep you updated on further developments via KARAT News.

The full report from the meeting will be available soon and if you are interested to learn more get in touch with Aleksandra Solik at aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl

Through Their Eyes Through Ours: Notes from Georgia



Mila O'Sullivan who was one of the participants of data gathering tours to Caucasia that took place as part of "Through Their Eyes, Through Ours" project has produced a report from her tour titled "Notes from Georgia:

Respecting Women as Equal – a Way Forward". In this interesting piece of writing Mila states that "When it comes to social transformation and particularly gender equality as a prerequisite to development, Georgia can be portrayed as a traditional society with some deeply embedded patriarchal values. Yet, traditions are not static and one can notice Georgia is undergoing a social change. While *de jure* gender equality framework is being strengthened, progress towards *de facto* gender equality situation remains a great challenge especially in the rural areas."

You can read the entire article by Mila [here](#).

The article as well as awareness raising materials produced using the data gathered will also be available on KARAT's website soon.

3rd General Assembly – materials & photos available online



All the materials from the KARAT's 3rd General Assembly, that took place in June 2010 in Bucharest (Romania), are now available online on our website. You will find there:

- the report from the GA,
- about 40 photos,
- a film summarizing KARAT's activities and development (2004-2010),
- the list of participants,
- reports from working groups that elaborated on how to link KARAT's Program with members' activities,

and many other materials.

You can access them here: <http://www.karat.org/karat,17,en.html>

For more information please write to Ewa at: ewa.kaminska@karat.org.pl

KARAT on Facebook



KARAT Coalition now has its own Facebook profile. We will use it for more informal communication (as compared to KARAT's webpage) with members, friends and supporters of KARAT. For example the facebook profile provides easy to use facilities for placing photos, films, and disseminating event invitations. Therefore KARAT Secretariat would like to encourage those of you who have Facebook profiles to become fans of KARAT. KARAT Facebook profile is available at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Karat-Coalition/101262886598399?ref=ts>

For more information please write to Anita at: anita.seibert@karat.org.pl

KARAT in the Coalition for Equal Chances in Poland

KARAT Coalition is taking part in the work of the Coalition for Equal Chances in Poland - an unofficial platform of a number of Polish well-known NGOs promoting human rights and equality. It has been created in response to the fact Polish government's work on the project of equality law is of substandard quality, disappointing and not always transparent.

The Coalition is coordinated by Polish Society of Anti-Discrimination Law and monitors the preparation of the project of equality law. It also tries to initiate a substantial dialogue with the government. Unfortunately, by now its voice has been ignored.

Poland still does not have any equality law. There is only a very general statement in the Constitution referring to equality.

To know more, please contact Ola at: aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl

Gender Alliance for Development Centre (Albania): Shadow report submitted to CEDAW Committee

A group of representatives from the Albanian women's rights NGOs has participated in the 46th Session of the Committee of CEDAW. The delegation presented the recommendations based on the shadow reports on the periodical report of the Albanian government. One of the shadow reports has been initiated by the Gender Alliance for Development Centre (member of KARAT Coalition).

The authors of the Shadow Report listed a number of problems faced by Albanian women. The question of unemployment and informal work was among them. The Albanian NGOs delegation has underlined that economic empowerment of women is a very important step towards the elimination of gender discrimination and gender based violence.

You can find the Shadow Report here: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws46.htm>

To know more, please write to Mirela at: margimandriti@gadc.org.al

Gender Studies, o.p.s. (Czech Republic): Love is all that matters. Or is it?

A short, animated movie "Love is all that matters. Or is it?" was made during a project "Diversity against Bullying". This project (coordinated by Poradna pro obcanstvi, obcanska a lidska prava and Gender Studies) aims to strengthen the position of individual members of the communities of sexual minorities, by promoting their rights to equal treatment and by strengthening a diverse, pluralistic and tolerant society. The movie was used as an integral part of lectures/discussions held at various high schools; the lectures/discussions focused on dealing with homophobia and enabled a needed discussion on a topic of sexual diversity.

You can watch the movie here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_Dm5wH4AR8

To know more, please write to Alexandra at: alexandra.jachanova@genderstudies.cz

Women Support Centre (Kyrgyzstan): A new project in response to the political upheaval

Women Support Center (WSC) and Women-Entrepreneurs Support Association (WESA) are launching a new large project, titled "Accountability of Government and Involvement of the Women's Movement for Women's Political and Economic Empowerment".

In Kyrgyzstan, with the women's right movement facing major hurdles caused by the political upheaval and ethnic conflict, this project will address the need for strengthening the participation of civil society organizations in monitoring the fulfillment of gender equality commitments in the country. The project, which will directly impact more than 40,000 internally displaced women, community leaders, local government representatives, civil society activists and community members, will also advocate for gender-sensitive legislation to promote women's political participation and sustainable livelihoods, particularly in response to increased violence against women in the midst of conflict. The project aims to increase women's access to political and economic rights guaranteed by national and international legal documents.

The project is funded by the UNIFEM.

For more information please write to Aigul: aaaigul@gmail.com

EU: European Institute for Gender Equality officially opened

On 20 June, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) in Vilnius (Lithuania) was officially opened. The EIGE is a new EU Agency which supports the EU Institutions and Member States in promoting gender equality and fighting discrimination based on sex. It collects data and statistics on gender-equality issues and help the European Commission make evidence-based policy decisions. The EIGE is the first EU agency based in one of the Baltic States.

The official EIGE website: <http://www.eige.europa.eu>

UN Women Born

On 2 July 2010 the United Nations General Assembly voted unanimously to create a new entity to accelerate progress in meeting the needs of women and girls worldwide. The establishment of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women — to be known as UN Women — is a result of years of advocacy by the global women's movement and negotiations between UN Member States. It is part of the UN reform agenda.

The new Gender Equality Entity to be headed by an Under-Secretary General, will consolidate the four existing UN bodies on women and increase operational capacity at the country level. It has gained increased funding for work on women's empowerment and advancement. The UN currently has four separate entities dedicated to women's issues which will be combined in the new entity: the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), and the Office of the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI).

UN Women will, among other issues, work for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls, empowerment of women, achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.

UN Women will be operational by January 2011.

The official UN Women website: <http://www.unwomen.org>

Funding

AWID Initiative “Where is the Money for Women's Rights”. How about corporate support?

This year, AWID Initiative Where is the Money for Women's Rights has been working on a series of briefs to provide up to date information on important trends in different funding sectors, including preliminary data on the impact of the financial crisis and to explore its implications on resource for women's organizations.

Brief 1 on Trends in Bilateral and Multilateral Funding has been already published. You can access the publication [here](#).

This series will include a brief on corporate funding and social corporate responsibility programmes that support women's rights and gender equality initiatives. The previous AWID's researches have shown that corporate funding remained the most controversial source of funds amongst women's organizations. AWID wants to go deeper into the subject and analyze the situation of the sector and its approach to women's rights and gender equality.

In order to enrich its research, AWID would like to hear about women organization's experiences with corporate support. If you would like to share your story with AWID, write to funder@awid.org

UN body treaty reform. Share your views with IRAW Asia Pacific!

IRAW Asia Pacific invites you to share your views on reforming the UN treaty body system which is a subject of the recent discussion. It has prepared the questionnaire and an on-line survey-blog inviting your feedback on specific questions.

The idea behind the survey is that it is essential to make sure that the experiences and recommendations of national level women's groups, who use the treaty body system to bring about greater protection and accountability for human rights at the national level, are considered in the reform process.

The questionnaire is available here: <http://treatybodyreform.wordpress.com>.

Special

Amnesty International's petition: Gender and the Millennium Development Goals

Amnesty International is calling to put human rights and gender at the heart of the global effort for the Millennium Development Goals and the fight against poverty. Anyone who supports this appeal is invited to sign the petition prepared on occasion of the United Nations MDG Summit that will take place in September.

You can sign the petition here: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/appeals-for-action/put-human-rights-heart-global-fight-against-poverty-1>

Resources

CONCORD: "Penalty Against Poverty..."

CONCORD's AidWatch Report 2010 titled "Penalty Against Poverty. More and better EU aid can score Millennium Development Goals" states that gender equality is a key factor in fostering sustainable development. It has been proved that poverty can only be eradicated through gender-sensitive development policies. Despite this fact, CONCORD points out that gender remains a marginal issue in official aid effectiveness processes and that gender equality is still perceived as a by-product of development processes, rather than as an instrument to improve people's lives.

CONCORD is pushing the EU to maximize its contribution to the MDGs, reminding it that there is still time left to shape up before the UN MDG Review Summit in September. CONCORD has also prepared concrete guidelines that the EU needs to follow to achieve better aid effectiveness.

You can read the publication here: <http://www.actionaid.org/assets/pdf/concordreportlight.pdf>

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 Alliance for Development Centre (Albania), Gender Studies, o.p.s. (Czech Republic), Women Support Center (Kyrgyzstan), AWID, CONCORD, IWRAW, WIDE, WUNRN.

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