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### **KARAT's General Assembly**

We have a pleasure to inform you about KARAT's General Assembly which will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2010 in Bucharest, Romania. It is our first General Assembly since 2003 and the extraordinary occasion to exchange updates on our work for the past years and discuss the future of the Coalition. This is going to be a fantastic opportunity to finally meet face to face for the large number of KARAT members who do not work on joint projects. What is more, it will be a chance for many of us to finally meet each other in person. We will choose new Board members, discuss KARAT's activities, obstacles and achievements since 2003, talk about the common implementation of KARAT's Program and about many other current issues.

The General Assembly of KARAT Coalition will be hosted by KARAT member organization "AUR" - The National Association of Human Resources Specialists. Thanks to the financial support of Global Fund For Women and OAK Foundation, almost 30 organizations will send their delegates to Bucharest. KARAT Secretariat is looking forward to meet them.

Due to many obligations related to the organization of our GA, we were unable to dedicate a lot of time to this edition of the KARAT News. It is shorter than usually but we hope that you will find it interesting.

### **Regional Dialogue on gender sensitive EU Development cooperation**

KARAT Coalition in partnership with One World Action organized the Regional Dialogue on gender sensitive and responsive EU Development cooperation in New Member States (NMS) on 12-13 May, 2010 in Warsaw.

The aim of the Dialogue was to increase the capacity of women's organizations in NMS to generate stronger collaboration between women from East, South and West on gender equality in development policy and practices. 35 participants mostly from NMS (Bulgaria, Czech Rep., Poland, Romania and Slovakia) as well as from UK discussed the challenges of the NMS development cooperation from gender perspective. The meeting was also attended by several representatives of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and representative of MFA from UK. The important contribution to the Dialogue by women from Zambia, Georgia and Ukraine clearly demonstrated the similarity of the problems women face in the Global South and in the Eastern Europe, and a need to launch the South-East cooperation.

For more information please write to Marta at: [marta.gontarska@karat.org.pl](mailto:marta.gontarska@karat.org.pl)

### **Public event on women in the South and East**

The event "East and South: Through their eyes, through ours" addressed to the general public was organized by KARAT and OWA in a famous vanguard public space in Warsaw (Nowy Wspaniały Świat) on 13 May, 2010. Our guests: Lumba Siyanga from Women for Change (Zambia), Jilda Ebanoidze from Caucasus Development Group (Georgia), Carolina Gottardo from One World Action (UK/Colombia) and Beata Bublewicz (the Polish Parliamentarian), participated in the debate.

The debate aimed to raise public awareness on challenges for women in the South and the East, and challenges for the development cooperation. It focused, among others, on the women's responses to the displacement caused by the war and it was illustrated by the examples from Tanzania, Zambia and Georgia. The event was a great opportunity to inquire the Polish Parliamentarian about gender perspective in Polish Development Aid. The public event was moderated by Adam Leszczynski, journalist experienced in development issues from well-known Polish

daily "Gazeta Wyborcza". The exhibition accompanying the event depicted pictures of displaced women in Tanzania, and Georgia as well as economic situation of women from Eastern European countries.

For more information please write to Marta at: [marta.gontarska@karat.org.pl](mailto:marta.gontarska@karat.org.pl)

### **KARAT and OWA meet the Polish Development Departments in MFA**

KARAT and One Word Action arranged a meeting with officials from two departments of Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA): Department of Implementation of Development Program and Department of Development Cooperation on 14 May, 2010. The meeting chaired by Agata Czaplinska, a Vice-Director of the Department of Implementation of Development Programs was attended by KARAT and OWA representatives, Lumba Siyanga from Women for Change (Zambia) and Simon Williams, Policy Adviser from Department for International Development (UK).

The meeting was focused on gender equality in the development cooperation. We noticed a quite opportunity to introduce the gender strategy in the Polish development cooperation related to an arising interest of the Ministry in this area. The outcome of the meeting included the concrete commitments of Polish government, including between others, to mapping of gender experts in Poland and to cooperate with them on development issue, and building the capacity of the staff of the Development Departments in the area of gender equality.

For more information please write to Marta at: [marta.gontarska@karat.org.pl](mailto:marta.gontarska@karat.org.pl)

### **KARAT's program for CEDAW – the first meeting of new project partners**



Despite the volcano eruption and the resulting flight problems the inception meeting of the three-year KARAT's program focused on promotion of CEDAW and its mechanisms took place as it had been planned on 29-30 April in Warsaw.

The meeting was a first opportunity for all project partners to meet and discuss in depth the project strategy, objectives and actions to be taken on regional level and in the project countries: Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The project aims in particular at addressing women's rights through advocating and lobbying for implementation of CEDAW Committee's Concluding Observations and at improving women's access to justice also through building capacity to use the procedures provided by the Optional Protocol to CEDAW.

During the meeting the special attention was given to the CEDAW training of trainers that will be organized in November 2010 on regional level for women's activists from project countries.

For more information please write to Ola at: [aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl](mailto:aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl)

### **New blog about women in Balkans!**

As a result of the data gathering tours which took place in Macedonia and Serbia in February 2010, the blog <http://balkanwomen.blogspot.com> about women in Balkans has been created. The author of the blog is Katarina Medlova from Slovakia (she is also the author of the photo).

Data gathering tours are the part of the project "Through Their Eyes, Through Ours. Rising public awareness about development problems faced by women in countries of EU Neighborhood, Central Asia and Eastern Europe" co-

financed by EC. The tours in Balkans were supported by local partner of KARAT – Permaculture and Peacebuilding Center Shtip, while those in Caucasus by Gender Media Caucasus Association.

Interested to know more? Write to Ewa at: [ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl](mailto:ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl)

## Reminder - Photo Bank



KARAT Coalition team is going to create Photo Bank (as a part of the project “Through Their Eyes, Through Ours”) which will include photos depicting women from developing countries of Central Asia and Eastern Europe. The idea of its creation has raised from the fact that the access to photos presenting women in non-stereotypical way is limited. There is a need for a bank of photos which NGO-s and other institutions could use for their publications, presentations, websites and other tools.

KARAT is going to collect photos on on-going basis and make it available for different institutions (NGO-s, media) who want to use them in the purpose of awareness

raising, sharing the knowledge, promotion of human rights and development issues.

We would like to encourage you to send us your photos presenting women in different socio-economic context. We will describe them with the information about author of the photography and about the place where they were taken, and with the short explanation about what they present.

For more information please contact: [ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl](mailto:ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl)

## Members' News

### “Sana Sezim” (Kazakhstan): training seminar on human trafficking

On April 19th-24th in the city of Shymkent, the Legal Center for Women’s Initiatives “Sana Sezim” held a seminar, implemented as part of the EU-funded project “Legal education in the field of combating human trafficking”. Among the participants of the seminar there were representatives of state agencies, nongovernmental organizations and media.

The participants discussed the following topics: human trafficking as a transnational organized criminal activity, legislation to prevent human trafficking at international and national levels, addressing human rights, non-governmental and international organizations to prevent human trafficking, stereotypes and myths associated with trafficking and how to overcome them, helping victims of trafficking and sexual violence, ethics of working with the victims of trafficking, post-traumatic stress disorder and some others related to this problem.

The training was conducted by the experts from the partner organizations; the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Poland and NGO “Orken Ortalygy” (Almaty, Kazakhstan).

To know more write at: [akhadicha@gmail.com](mailto:akhadicha@gmail.com)

### **Ukraine: a claim against Prime Minister prosecuted by Kateryna Levchenko, the president of “La Strada-Ukraine”**

To prosecute such a claim was her immediate decision after having read the Prime-Minister's words: “Some people say that our government is big, others that there are no women in it, there is no one to look at during the Cabinet of Ministers' meetings. Just the boring. **With all my respect to women, implementing the reforms is not for them**”.

According to Kateryna Levchenko, Mykola Azarov's expression “is the public speech of the high level official that results in violation of her rights and her personal legal interests, blocking her constitutional right to participate in the administration of state affairs and is the demonstration of the real discrimination.” It also violates the Ukrainian Law on Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men as well as the international law ratified by Ukraine.

Kateryna Levchenko adds that the problems that Ukrainian women face in everyday life - gender stereotypes in the society, domestic violence, discrimination at labor market, undeveloped social sphere etc. - are continuously ignored by the state.

Kateryna Levchenko is now waiting for the court's decision concerning the claim.

### **Georgia: new Gender Equality Law too weak on violence against women**

Gender Equality Law passed by the Parliament of Georgia in March 2010 provides for the establishment of national women's machinery, the enhancement of women's security, equality in the labour market and the strengthening of women's political participation. The law also introduces gender-responsive planning and budgeting on the part of the government.

However, the experts say it will do little to combat the domestic violence that is rife in the country. The new law will broaden the definition of family members who could be accused of violence, make it easier for people to be recognized as victim of violence, and will establish crisis centre. , but these measures are too weak to combat VAW in the long run.

Khatuna Chitanava from the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association whose organization participated in drafting the Gender Equality Law, said that the bill had been heavily amended and in its current form it was mainly of symbolic importance.

Sources:

[http://www.unifem.org/news\\_events/story\\_detail.php?StoryID=1070](http://www.unifem.org/news_events/story_detail.php?StoryID=1070)

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,,GEO,,4bb06c981d1,0.html>

### **Groundbreaking European Court Decision on Violence Against Women**

In a landmark case *Opuz vs Turkey*, the European Court of Human Rights has found the country in violation of its obligations to protect women from domestic violence, and for the first time has held that gender-based violence is a form of discrimination under the European Convention. On 9th September 2009 the judgment became final.

The case was brought by Nahide Opuz who with her mother suffered years of brutal domestic violence at the hands of her husband. Despite their complaints the police and prosecuting authorities did not adequately protect the women, and ultimately Ms. Opuz's mother was killed by the perpetrator.



While acknowledging the existence of laws in Turkey criminalizing domestic violence the Court emphasized the need for such laws to be implemented in practice. The Court observed that “the overall unresponsiveness of the judicial system and impunity enjoyed by the aggressor indicated that there was insufficient commitment to take appropriate action to address domestic violence”.

For more information go to: <http://www.interights.org/opuz>

## Events

### **WIDE Annual Conference “Migration in the Context of Globalisation: Women’s Human Rights at risk”**

Women today account for almost half of the migrant population globally. Female migration patterns have changed, with more women migrating as ‘autonomous’ actors - a trend that is called the feminization of migration. Many women choose to migrate as a way to deal with poverty and discrimination. Migration is a gendered process, with gendered modes and paths, gendered interests and motivations and gendered forms of remittances.

WIDE Annual Conference “Migration in the Context of Globalisation: Women’s Human Rights at risk”, which takes place in Bucharest, Romania, 3-5 June 2010, will critically assess how in times of crises, migration, trade, economic development and globalization impact women’s lives.

Kinga Lohmann, an Executive Director of KARAT Coalition believes that this conference is an important space to discuss women’s sexual and labour trafficking in and from the Eastern Europe. “The debate on migration in Europe, which takes into consideration different perspectives and experiences of migrant women coming from the Global South or Eastern Europe, is badly needed. (...) The growing phenomenon of trafficking of women’s labour force in Eastern Europe urgently requires responses to this new slavery by European and migrant women”.

Organisers of the conference choose Romania as a host country of the WIDE Annual Conference 2010 to make sure that voices of the migrant women from Central and Eastern Europe, as well as from CIS countries are heard.

The Conference will be hosted by "AUR" - The National Association of Human Resources Specialists (Karat Coalition member organization) and co-organised with KARAT coalition.

More information: <http://www.wide-network.org>

### **“Gender Check!” – the exhibition at Zachęta National Gallery of Art in Warsaw, Poland**

How were women workers depicted on the socialist posters in the 1960s? How did female artists see themselves during the transition period after 1989? How do images influence our views on gender roles? If you are interested, visit Zachęta - National Gallery of Art in Warsaw. Until June 13, the gallery presents the first comprehensive exhibition featuring art from Eastern Europe since the 1960s based on the theme of gender roles. It is titled "Gender Check! Femininity and Masculinity in the Art of Eastern Europe".

20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the curator Bojana Pejic, along with a team of experts from 24 different countries, has put together a selection of over 400 works including paintings, sculpture, installations, photography, posters, films and videos. With over 200 artists, the exhibition paints an exceptionally diverse picture of a chapter in art history that could act as an important addition to contemporary gender discourse.

"Gender Check" follows the changes in the representation of male and female role models in art - especially as they develop under different socio-political conditions. The exhibition looks at both official and unofficial art from the Baltic

to the Caucasus, from the 1960s, through the decisive events of 1989, to the present, and demonstrates how it tackles gender.

More information: [www.zacheta.art.pl](http://www.zacheta.art.pl)

## Resources

### A new occasional paper by Social Watch

"It is time to put an end to the gender blindness of current economic policies" - concludes a new occasional paper by Social Watch, entitled "Putting gender economics at the forefront. 15 years after the IV World Conference on Women". The publication was launched in March 2010 in New York to mark the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The paper argues that the economic and financial crisis has deepened gender inequalities even further and now it is time to design and implement a new development paradigm with equal rights and opportunities for everyone.

The paper contests the view of classical economics that measures wealth through the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) indicator, arguing that "it is necessary to redefine macroeconomics and recognize that the monetary economy is just the tip of the iceberg that rests on an extensive care economy in which the main work force is female".

You can read the publication here: <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/11750>

### WIDE Annual Report 2009

WIDE has presented its Annual Report 2009. This publication combines the overview of the network's activities implemented throughout the year 2009. Annual Report 2009 shows how WIDE network used the multi-dimensional (economic, financial, social and environmental) crisis to de-legitimize the current neo-liberal economic and trade system from a feminist perspective. All the activities carried out in 2009 by WIDE were in accordance with this goal.

You can download WIDE Annual Report from here:

[http://62.149.193.10/wide/download/WIDEAR2009\\_withoutFinancial.pdf?id=1158](http://62.149.193.10/wide/download/WIDEAR2009_withoutFinancial.pdf?id=1158)

### UNIFEM YouTube Videos on Violence Against Women

Every week UNIFEM's Say NO – UNiTE to End Violence Against Women YouTube channel features a different video on YouTube that speaks on the issue.

You can watch the videos here: <http://www.youtube.com/saynotoviolence>

### AWID: Young Feminist Wire

The Wire is a hub of information by, about, and for young feminists: tools and resources, opportunities and calls for participation, news and updates, in addition to collaborative activities. It also features blog posts, interviews, directories, and a registration form that allows you to plug in to a network of young activists and older allies.

While access to the internet remains a challenge for many around the world, the increase of web usage and changing nature of information sharing offers fantastic opportunities to network for women's rights. Already, young feminists have been using cyberspace creatively to create discussions and tools around gender equality.

If you are a young women aged 30 years old or under, working on gender equality in whatever capacity, wherever you are in the world, you can register to join the Wire community.

AWID also tailored its posts to enable women's rights activists of all generations, who are interested in young women's activism, to connect, learn more, and become allies. It has also strategically positioned this portal to facilitate connections and collaborations across borders.

You can access the wire here: <http://yfa.awid.org>

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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): NGO "Sana Sezim" (Kazakhstan), ASTRA, WIDE, AWID, IWRAW, WUNRN.

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