

KARAT NEWS

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KARAT has moved AGAIN !

After only 6 months KARAT's SECRETARIAT HAS MOVED AGAIN. This time it is for good! We hope to stay in our new, nice, and cosy office for many, many years.

Our new contact details: KARAT Coalition ; ul. Rakowiecka 39A/ 14, 02-521 Warsaw, Poland; tel/fax: (48) 22 8491647 ; e-mail: secretariat@karat.org.pl

New Karat Baby!

It is our great pleasure to let you all know that on 29.10 Julka from Karat Secretariat has given birth to baby Klara. Both mum and baby are fine and already home, while father concentrates on feeling proud.

KARAT at the WIDE conference

Representatives of KARAT joined the 2008 WIDE Annual Conference (AC) titled: *Feminist Visions for a Just Europe*" held in The Hague on October 9 – 11. Among others the sessions focused on: development policy, trade, migration, peacekeeping, feminisation of labour, and decent work. *Women organizing for changes in the working conditions: A case study by KARAT* was a title of the Strategy Session on the day 3 focusing on the KARAT's experience gathered within the 'women in supermarkets' project. The session met a great interest of participants and developed some interesting strategies for addressing the issue of the women's workers right violations in diverse countries.

The conference hosted by WO=MEN, the Dutch Gender Platform, and held in the shadow of the current financial crisis have managed to gather 200 feminist activists, academics, experts and gender equality professionals from around the world. Collective action between feminist advocates from East, West and South was emphasized during the event.

For more information please visit: <http://www.wide-network.org/> or write to Kasia at: kasia.staszewska@karat.org.pl

Women in Supermarkets: Advisory Body Meeting



The third and final working meeting of lawyers, NGOs, Unions, academics and decision makers forming the Strategic Action Advisory Body (SAAB) - an experts group of project *Labour right protection from gender perspective in the super/hypermarkets in Poland* - took place on September 24. It resulted in several recommendations addressed to the relevant institutions and ministries aiming at improving the working conditions of women supermarket workers. Further, SAAB recommended organization of workers rights trainings for the supermarket employees.

To know more contact Agnieszka Chmielecka at: agnieszka.chmielecka@karat.org.pl

Women in Supermarkets: workshop for the women workers

On 23-24 October 2008 KARAT organized workshop for women leaders of workers' movements and trade unions operating in supermarkets in Poland. Its aim was to activate women to cooperate and build alliances as well as to provide them with the legal tools to improve working conditions in their work places.

For more information please contact Agnieszka Chmielecka at: agnieszka.chmielecka@karat.org.pl

Women in Supermarkets: media success !

“Situation of women employed in super/hyper markets in Poland” is the title of the research report published by KARAT (in Polish). The report met with significant interest of the media and National Labour Inspectorate. Several articles were published in the local and national newspapers. A radio program „Better late than never” with Agnieszka Chmielecka, project coordinator as a speaker, was broadcasted in one of the most popular information stations in Poland.

For the articles or radio broadcast please contact Agnieszka Chmielecka at:
agnieszka.chmielecka@karat.org.pl

MakeITfair: roundtable in Indonesia



for people everywhere

KARAT as a partner of the project [MakeITfair](#) & ProcureITfair, will be present during international round table organized by [GoodElectronics](#) - International Network on Human Rights and Sustainability in Electronic held in Indonesia, a country where a lot of next generation electronics is produced. More information: Monika Matus at: monika.matus@karat.org.pl

MakeITfair: capacity building in Prague

In the framework of MakeITfair campaign KARAT organized a Capacity Building workshop on 14th of October in Prague, Czech Republic. Aims of the workshop were to inform interested NGOs on current state of affairs; impact of growing demand for electronic goods ; environmental issues, social & economic development in Southern countries and so called countries in transition. The workshop was successful with at least three new NGOs joining MakeITfair in the Czech.

To know more contact Monika Matus at: monika.matus@karat.org.pl

Fairplay: seminar

International workshop for the activists and multipliers from Poland, Germany and Austria organized within the joint project of KARAT, Südwind and CIR took place in Münster, Germany on 19 – 21 September 2008. Participants had a chance to learn about the Clean Clothes Campaign experiences, discuss the Corporate Social Responsibility's effectiveness in the South, take part in the Guided tour of critical consumption in the city of Münster and elaborate the strategies for action .

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

Fairplay: at the Warsaw Marathon



On 28 September 2008, just before the start of the 30th Warsaw Marathon Fairplay activists organized a consumer action in order to raise awareness about the power the global sport brands have to stop the exploitation of workers in their supply chains. The runners could sign the appeal addressed to the representatives of Nike, Adidas, Puma, Asics and New Balance calling for a positive action for change. To express the support some of the runners put on a “Right to Organize” sticker on their T-shirts, others agreed to wear a “fair T-shirt” manufactured by the women’s collective from Nicaragua. To see the pictures please go to: <http://www.kobietypraca.org/fairplay/>

Belarus: opposition against the election 'farce'

Belarus opposition leaders urged the EU not to recognise the results of the parliamentary elections of 28 September 2008 in which allies of President Alexander Lukashenko, seen as Europe's last dictator took all the 110 available seats. The opposition leaders pointed to representatives of opposition absence from election commissions and advance voting, all giving the authorities an opportunity to cheat.

Source: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/enlargement/belarus-opposition-calls-eu-recognise-election-farce/article-175819>

Croatia: demanding protection for equality

Several Croatian NGOs including B.a.b.e (KARAT member) appealed to the Parliamentary Constitutional Committee to protect the constitutional principle of equality of citizens of Croatia by Law. Pointing to media reports on violations discovered the National Audit Bureau in its report on the Audit of financial reports of political parties and independent candidates for 2007, the NGOs appealed to the institutions to file proper charges in all cases of violations committed by political parties and non-profit organizations. The appeal was followed by the expression of hope that the next year's findings of the Audit Bureau will be more positive and the actions of political parties more transparent, increasing the citizens' trust in political parties as pillars of democracy.

Source: <http://see.oneworldsee.org/article/view/151478/1/>

Czech Republic: protest

Czech Women's Lobby platform requests an investigation into the content and the footnote of the No. 26 E.U. grant competition announcement for the area 3.4. Equal Opportunities of Men and Women at the Labor Market and Reconciling Family and Professional Life (OP LZZ) published by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs on August 25, 2008. The request concerns the footnote that states: "Note: Projects may not be of political nature and must not promote any political or ideological aims, including feminist or masculinist ideologies."

The letter that the Czech Women's Lobby wrote to the Minister without portfolio Džamila Stehlíková who is also responsible for human rights and equal opportunities issues is available at: <http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?ID=23053>

Moldova: training on the Optional Protocol to CEDAW

Gender-Center and Women Political Club 50/50 (KARAT members organizations and project partners) were the organizers of the "OP CEDAW – instrument of women rights protection" capacity building workshop that took place on 11 October 2008 in Chisinau, Moldova. The workshop gathered 20 women from different political parties and NGOs who discussed the principles of CEDAW and OP, its benefits and potentials, technical requirements of filing a case under OP and examined the cases that can be potentially submitted to the CEDAW Committee.

For more information contact Valentina Bodrug-Lungu, at: lunguval@mcc.md

Ukraine: trainings on the Optional Protocol to CEDAW

"Application of CEDAW and the optional protocol to it as the efficient tool to overcome displays of discrimination in Ukraine" was a title of two trainings organized in Ukraine in October 2008 by the

Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports, Indiana University Parliamentary Development Project and the Ukrainian Women's Fund (the project partner of KARAT).

The first training gathered more than 40 persons from all the regions of Ukraine among them: the heads and deputy heads of regional departments responsible for gender policy; gender advisors to governors and heads of regional administrations representatives, gender resource centers in the regions, etc. The participants' active interest in the trainings pointed to the great need for addressing the topic. According to them the most important gains from the training was their improved understanding of how to apply the CEDAW Convention and its Optional Protocol to the cases they deal with as part of their work and how to transfer the texts of official documents into the popular language. They noted that more trainings is needed for those working at the local level.

The second training was addressed to gender focal points of Verhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) committee and of the Ministries of Ukraine.

For more info contact Olena Suslova at: uwf@uwf.kiev.ua

Women and Governance in the EE and CIS

As part the new "Women and Governance" program UNDP is currently implementing the project exploring women's political participation in the Eastern Europe and CIS. The project consists of extensive research and meetings with the decision makers in Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland, Ukraine, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan. A regional report coordinated by Wendy Harcourt, the ex-Chair of WIDE, covering governance and women's leadership issues will be developed.

One of the *Women in Politics* roundtables took place on 21st October in Warsaw, Poland. KARAT Coalition was invited to join the discussion.

More information: <http://europeandcis.undp.org/gender/genderandgovernance/show/DCA3E0CF-F203-1EE9-BF59DF40A4F1F4DC>

Czech Presidency and eastern partnership priorities

The future Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU starting on the 1st of January 2009 will be looking eastwards. During the conference organized on October 20th by PASOS (Policy Association for an Open Society) and European relations with Russia and other countries from the former Soviet block were at the heart of discussion about the EU's external priorities.

Source: Concord UE Monitoring Newsletter, 24.10.2008

EU and neighboring countries

"Implementing the Ljubljana Declaration: Guidelines for National Action" is a title of the outcome document from an international conference organized by European Citizen Action Service jointly with the National Foundation for Civil Society Development and Impact - European Centre for Cross-Sector Partnership in Zadar, Croatia. The conference focused on the development of civil society organizations in the Western Balkans and Eastern European EU Neighborhood countries. The ambition was to provide a toolbox for the EU, national governments and CSOs in their efforts to implement the Ljubljana Declaration agreed in April this year. The key message circulated around again recognized the civil society as an independent actor for policy making.

More info: <http://www.vesta.ba/en/node/155> or contact Kenan Hadzismic, at: kenan.hadzismic@ecas.org.

EU Equality Summit

Second annual European Equality Summit held in the context of the extension of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All was held on 29 - 30 September 2008 in Paris. Bringing together 400 high-ranking delegates and representatives from the field of equal opportunities it contributed to the fight against discrimination and the promotion of equality. It also made Europeans more aware of their right to equal treatment and of the benefits of diversity.

Conclusions and the report from the Summit: http://www.ue2008.fr/PFUE/lang/en/accueil/PFUE-09_2008/PFUE-30.09.2008/Sommet_egalite_compte_rendu

Pact on Immigration and Asylum adopted

After a discussion between NGOs and the decision makers the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum was adopted by the UE heads of state and government on 16 October 2008. The pact constitutes a roadmap defining five priorities on immigration: legal and illegal immigration, the fight against illegal immigration, border control, Europe of asylum, and synergies between migration and development. The document was criticized by the number of CSOs – including KARAT - mainly for its negative approach to migration and weak human rights based commitments.

More info: http://www.solidar.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13958&langue=EN&thebloc=19305

Better Maternity leave

Millions of women throughout Europe will be entitled to longer and better maternity leave under proposals unveiled today by the European Commission. The proposal would increase the minimum period of leave from 14 to 18 weeks and recommend to pay women 100% of their salary. In addition, women will have more flexibility over when to take the non-compulsory portion of their leave. There will also be stronger protection against dismissal and a right to return to the same job or an equivalent one after maternity leave. Finally, a right to ask the employer for flexible working patterns during or after the end of maternity leave will be introduced.

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=418&newsId=402&furtherNews=yes>

Other News

Call to Action for decent work

On October 7th the trade union movement organized a World Day for Decent Work gathering momentum worldwide to ensure decent work and decent lives for all. The Call to Action was signed by President of the European Commission and European Commissioner and Vice President. The action aims to call on leaders of governments and international institutions to protect stable quality jobs, reform trade and debt policies, fulfil aid promises and respect trade union rights. Campaigners are also calling on leaders to ensure access to social protection and rights for migrant workers worldwide.

The 2009 is significant for the decent work issues. It is the 10th anniversary of ILO gender equality action plan and the year when the International Labour Conference (ILC) will hold a general discussion on "Gender Equality at the Heart of Decent Work". In the lead-up to this, the ILO is launching a global campaign on gender equality and the world of work

More info: <http://www.ilo.org/gender/Events/Campaign2008-2009/lang--en/index.htm>

MDG 2008 review

"We face nothing less than a development emergency" UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said launching the New 2008 MDG Report. Halfway to the target date of 2015, it is clear that the world is not on track to meet the Goals, especially in Africa. High-level Event on the MDGs held in September by UN pointed out at the challenges of high food and oil prices and global economic slowdown threatens to reverse the progress already made.

More info: <http://www.un.int/wcm/content/lang/en/pid/6502>

Doha and Financing for Development

International Conference on Financing for Development with the primary aim to review the Monterrey Consensus will be held in Doha, Qatar on 29 November – 2 December 2008. This is the last high level event of 2008 geared towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals and meeting the Southern countries development needs. Number of European and Southern CSOs are strictly following the process calling the donors to strengthen their development commitments. Women's rights organizations are calling for putting the gender equality at the center of the financing for development process.

To know more please visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/>

Information Sharing

Publication: Progress of the World's Women 2008/2009

UNDP Progress 2008/2009 focuses on five key areas where the need to strengthen accountability to women is urgent: politics and governance, access to public services, economic opportunities, justice, and finally the distribution of international assistance for development aid

Available at: <http://www.unifem.org/progress/2008/pressCentre.html>

Politics and Gender Conference

The first Gender and Politics conference of European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Standing Group on Gender and Politics will be held in Belfast on 21-23 January 2009.

Conference program: http://www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr/standinggroups/ecpg_home.aspx

UNDP Kyrgyzstan conference

"Monitoring of civil society over international and national commitments of the Kyrgyz Republic on achieving gender equality" conference will be held by the UNDP Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek on 18.11.2008 to 19.11.2008. Approaches analysis for identifying the joint vision of state authorities and civil society mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of national commitments on gender equality are the Conference main objectives. Organizers are inviting and covering the participation costs of expert with the experience in the related area.

For more information and to participate, please contact Nurgul Asylbekova at na@dgov.undp.kg

Conference "Women and Governance in EE and CIS"

UNDP and the Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TIKA) are organizing a Regional Conference "Women and Governance in Eastern Europe and CIS" on 1-3 December 2008, in Istanbul.

To know more please email to: marcellaveneziani@libero.it

Women Peacemakers Program: Call for applications

Women Peacemakers Program (WPP) calls for applications on Nonviolence Education and Training for applicants from Latin America and Caribbean, Middle East, Europe, Caucasus and The Pacific. WPP will support for nonviolence trainings during 2009, by providing financial support, links to trainers and resource people, and/or training materials.

For the list of criteria and application form, please visit: http://ifor.org/WPP/education_nonviolence.htm

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), , UKRAINIAN WOMEN'S FUND (Ukraine), WIDE, WUNRN, CONCORD, ASTRA, TRIALOG, GENDERMATTERS, DEEP, BCSDN, VAW MONITOR, NEWW, EURACTIV,

Edited by Kasia Staszewska