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Dear KARAT News Readers !

Welcome after the holiday break. Few important announcements to made. 1) every 10<sup>th</sup> of the month is the new date when you can expect the News to come. 2) KARAT annual report for 2008 is ready. You will be able to find it on our website or you can ask me directly about it. 3) We are now moving our website to the different server. That is why it is temporary out of working. It should be ready soon, but meantime you can visit KARAT website on the new address (only for the moment !): <http://www.karat.webserwery.eu/>

Remember also that I am always looking forward to receive your news. Sending me a short paragraph is enough ☺

Best regards and have a nice reading,

Kasia Staszewska, KARAT Networking Officer & Project Coordinator

## What's new in KARAT ?

### OP CEDAW: KARAT at the UN CEDAW Session in NY



Thanks to the strategic cooperation between KARAT Coalition and IWRAW Asia Pacific KARAT had an opportunity to attend the 44th session of the UN CEDAW Committee in New York on 20 July – 7 August as an observer. On that time the Committee examined the reports of [11 States parties](#) with Azerbaijan as the only country from the CEE/CIS region whose report was considered. The CEDAW session was preceded by the workshop for women's NGOs organized by International Women's Rights Action Watch within the [Global to Local](#) program conducted continuously since 1997. The participants of the workshop gained the very practical knowledge about the functioning of the Committee. They not only learned how to reach the Committee members with country specific information important for women's NGOs in their states but could use these skills in practice during the informal meetings between CEDAW and NGOs as well as during the lunch briefings organized by the organisations and attended by the members of CEDAW. To know more write to Ola at: [Aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl](mailto:Aleksandra.solik@karat.org.pl)

### Gender and Development in NMS: first meeting



The first meeting of the partners involved in the project *Building Support in New Member States (NMS) for Gender-sensitive and responsive European Development Co-operation* took place in Warsaw on 16-17 July 2009. The project is one of the pioneering initiatives in the Region aiming to contribute NMS women's voice to development cooperation debates. The project leading organization is One World Action – an international development agency based in London, UK. Activities are going to be implemented in partnership with KARAT and in collaboration with four KARAT member organizations from: Bulgaria (GERT), Czech Republic (Gender Studies O.P.S. & Association for Equal Opportunities), Slovakia (Slovak Center for Communication and Development) and Romania (Org 'AUR'). During the meeting partners discussed the aims and agreed on the action plan for the project. The first publications on the NMS development cooperation system from the gender perspective will be released in the beginning of 2010. Regional dialogue for the NMS women's organizations and Sub-Saharan African representatives is planned for April 2010. There is also a new 'friendly' name for the project – Connect ! East South West women for development.

The primary objectives of the project is to build the capacities of women's rights NGOs to advocate for the full implementation of the EU gender equality policy in the government's development assistance and initiation of the South- East -North cooperation on women's rights in development. Interested to know more? Write to Kasia at: [kasia.staszewska@karat.org.pl](mailto:kasia.staszewska@karat.org.pl)

### Through Their Eyes – Exhibition in Bonn and web based tools.



An event is approaching and electronic materials have been just produced within the project "Through Their Eyes Through Ours". Firstly, another photo exhibition will be organised in Germany by the project partner WOMNET. This time it will be in Bonn, and it will be open on 25<sup>th</sup> of September. For more details please write to Sabine at [sabine.guertner@womnet.de](mailto:sabine.guertner@womnet.de). Please also check KARAT's website for detail regarding the exhibition (venue, opening hours etc). Secondly: A YouTube movie [Economic Rights of Women are Human Rights](#) have been published! We encourage you to view it at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8bWHSqdlf8>. We would also appreciate it you will distribute it through your contacts. For more information write to Ewa at: [Ewa.Pintera@karat.org.pl](mailto:Ewa.Pintera@karat.org.pl). And finally a facebook profile for the project "Through Their Eyes Through Ours" has been set up. It already has over 100 fans. If

you have a facebook profile yourself you can become fan of the project. The link to it is <http://www.facebook.com/business/dashboard/#/pages/Through-Their-Eyes-Through-Ours/160321620952>. you can also make a link to it on your profile and encourage your friends to become fans. For more information write to Anita at: [anita.seibert@karat.org.pl](mailto:anita.seibert@karat.org.pl)

*Through Their Eyes Through Ours* aims to raise public awareness in the EU about the development problems faced by women in the developing neighboring countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Balkans via production and presentation of photo exhibition picturing women in their economic context. Should you like to use the photos or show the exhibition in your country do not hesitate to contact Ewa at: [ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl](mailto:ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl)

### Women in Supermarkets: English reports and radio promotion



Findings on women rights in Polish supermarkets presented in: *Situation of female employees in super- and hypermarkets* (research report) and an abridged version of the publication *Work conditions and respecting of employees' rights in supermarkets in Poland from the gender equality perspective* are finally translated into English. Research gives an updated information about the way that supermarkets work, employment conditions and employees' rights violations. Second publication is a legal analysis on the labour rights protection system with regard to women labour rights violations in the markets in Poland. Publications will be available very soon on our website. You can also write to Agnieszka with a sending request: [agnieszka.chmielecka@karat.org.pl](mailto:agnieszka.chmielecka@karat.org.pl)

This subject constantly meets a significant interest of the media. On 18.08.2009 Elżbieta Fornalczyk, women leader of a first strike in a polish supermarket in February 2008, Lech Obara, lawyer *pro bono* representing supermarket employees and Agnieszka Chmielecka, KARAT's project coordinator, were broadcasted in a very popular public radio station in Poland. Although the recognition of the worker's rights violation is still far from being an important issue for public/consumers, nevertheless, thanks to our activities, the awareness is rising and we believe that it could have an impact on the way the supermarkets employers act.

### Make ITfair: DELL workers go on strike



KARAT as project partner in makeITfair campaign (<http://makeitfair.org/>) became interested in the situation of woman workers in DELL factory in Łódź, Poland. Press alarm about dismissal of 400 workers, modification of the working week from 5 to 6 day long and really low wages was confirmed by the DELL workers during the short KARAT research. Nevertheless, it is very important to stress that they are very much aware of their labour rights and determined to fight for change. The interest of KARAT to support workers rights in electronic industry is due to the fact that almost 70% of the workers are woman and the trade unions are generally weak in this sector. We keep close the progress of events in Łódź and keeps an eye on DELL management. To know more write to Marta at: [marta.gontarska@karat.org.pl](mailto:marta.gontarska@karat.org.pl)

### Social Watch: Polish Social Watch Coalition (PSWC) update



It's been over a year since PSWC had been established and thus we have underwent a major evaluation of our activities and daily functioning, including communications and methodology of work on annual report which is our major activity monitoring the compliance of Polish government with internationally agreed social development and gender equality goals. During strategic meeting on July, 9, members of PSWC came to conclusion that the coalition needs to invest more in its identity and mission and use its annual report for those purposes as well. A discussion with the aim of elaborating common understanding of social development has been launched. Social development will be also the theme of this year report according to editorial committee decision taken at the meeting on August, 11. Editorial Committee involves 6 members of the coalition, representing following organizations: ADT Fourth World, Amnesty International, International Commission of Jurists, KARAT, NEWW, Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej.

For more information, please contact Magda at: [magda.pochec@karat.org.pl](mailto:magda.pochec@karat.org.pl)

## Members' News

### Gender Association "Symmetry" (Azerbaijan): UN CEDAW Session in NY

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) reviewed the fourth periodic report of Azerbaijan during its 44th session in New York. "Symmetry" was a member of the NGOs representation and presented their position on the state women's rights compliance during informal meeting with the United Nations agencies. According to the Committee Azerbaijan, despite conflict, has put in place a lot of measures to achieve gender equality. But as "Symmetry" said there are still a lot of areas to work on. The most important focus areas according to the KARAT member organization are: equal rights law regulation, labour market, violence against women and reproductive health. The detailed information on how the review proceeded, including the comments and questions from the experts (CEDAW Committee members) and the government's responses can be found on: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/wom1744.doc.htm>. The Concluding Observations of CEDAW Committee for the 44th CEDAW session are now available! For Azerbaijan at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/co/CEDAW.C.AZE.CO.4.pdf>. To know more contact Gulnara Mamedova at: [gmamedova@gmail.com](mailto:gmamedova@gmail.com)

### Women's Prospects (Ukraine): CSR case competition

International study in 2009 proved that the introduction of CSR helps company to improve financial performance by: strengthening the company's reputation (77%), attracting talents (55%), providing feedback to public expectations (35%), improving operational efficiency and reduce costs (34%), strengthen the market position (33%).

The goal of CSR Case competition is to demonstrate how CSR decisions is related to business strategy of the organization and how it could strengthen company market position. The First All-Ukrainian Competition of Business Cases on CSR will run from 30 June to 30 September 2009. Best cases will be awarded by decision of the international jury, which included experts from 6 countries: Poland, Turkey, Britain, Belgium, Norway, Ukraine and be present in the final publication. Business cases are welcome for submission on the following issues: gender equality, organizational governance, eco-initiative, employee development, community, human rights and protection of consumer rights. Best business cases will be incorporated in the first CSR text-book which the Centre for CSR Development is preparing. Participants of the CSR cases could be the Ukrainian and international companies working in Ukraine, universities, business schools, NGOs, media, writers, etc. More details at [http://www.csr-ukraine.org/csr\\_case\\_competition.html?lang=en](http://www.csr-ukraine.org/csr_case_competition.html?lang=en). Interested to know more? Write to Maryna Saprykina at: [ms@csr-ukraine.org](mailto:ms@csr-ukraine.org)

## World

### UN gender equality reform postponed?

The decision on the creation of the new UN gender equality entity is in danger to be postponed over to the next session of the UN General Assembly in September 2010, despite the recommendations of the UN Secretary General and the NGOs around the world that the UN General Assembly should approve the creation of the new entity during the current session ending on 14th September 2009. Although no government has been openly opposing the establishment of the new entity in the consultations earlier this year, it not seems that some governments have decided to block the process. These countries are implying that the gender equality reform should be considered together with the other issues related to the wider reform of the UN system, and using the gender equality reform as a bargaining tool to reach more favorable decision on the other issues at the table, financing and governance.

The supporters of the gender equality reform are outraged and pursue a global campaign for Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) in the U.N. system. GEAR is calling UN parties for so called "composite entity" by consolidating 4 existing UN women's rights entities into a single structure ; funding commitment for the new gender equality structure; establishment of the Executive Board; and systemic and ongoing civil society involvement in the



process. GEAR supporters are calling UN member states to move swiftly to adopt a resolution on the reform of the gender equality architecture before the end of this 63rd session of the UN General Assembly by September 14, 2009. More information and the sample of the GEAR support letter are available at: <http://www.un-gear.eu/home.shtml>

### **Gender more in the center of decent work**

At the 2009 ILO International Labour Conference delegates from governments, employers' and workers' organizations held a general discussion on gender equality in the world of work. This was a conclusion of the one-year global campaign to highlight the central role of gender equality in ILO Decent Work Agenda and in the work of its constituents – governments, employers' and workers' organizations. Report and conclusions of the ILO Committee on Gender Equality including a resolution concerning gender equality at the heart of decent work, which proposes that the Governing Body give due consideration to the conclusions when planning future action on gender equality were adopted in June 2009. GENDER ( ILO Bureau for Gender Equality) will present to the Governing Body at its November 2009 session a decision paper, which will outline the conclusions and identify priorities for Office action. This is a big step forward for the ILO more gender responsive actions. More information together with the Committee report is available at: <http://www.ilo.org/gender/lang--en/index.htm>

## **Special**

### **Beijing + 15 Events**

Despite a big 1995 success in Beijing and adoption of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* the implementation of these victories remains challenging. With 2010 quickly approaching, women's organizations around the world are talking about activities for the 15th Anniversary of the Beijing Conference. There will not be a separate General Assembly, however, the theme for the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be: "Review and appraisal of the implementation of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action* and the outcome of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly." In preparation for this review questionnaires from ECE governments about their laws, policies and practices related to gender were collected and the regional meetings to discuss the achievements and setbacks were planned. As far as the Europe/CIS/North America Region the NGO Interactive Roundtables in conjunction with the UN-ECE Beijing +15 Regional Review Meeting are going to be held in Geneva on October 30-31. Provisional agenda and NGO registration form are available at: <http://www.ngocsw-geneva.ch/> Regional Meeting for ECE member states will be held just after it, on November 2-3. The content will address the following themes: regional review of progress in implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action ; gender-sensitive economic policies in the context of the economic and financial crisis; gender and the corporate sector; new partnerships, networks, and alliances for gender equality. More information and documents are available at: <http://www.unece.org/gender/documents/Beijing+15/Documents.html> Finally UNECE member responses to the questionnaires as well as comments and reactions by NGOs can be found at: [http://www.unece.org/gender/National\\_Reports.html](http://www.unece.org/gender/National_Reports.html)

KARAT Secretariat plans to be in Geneva to fulfill its watchdog role and demand that governments implement the commitments made in the *Platform for Action* 15 years ago.

Source: overview of the regional activities by Center for Women's Global Leadership available at:

<http://blog.choike.org/eng/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/b15.pdf>

## **Events**

### **The Black Sea NGO Forum 2009**

The Black Sea NGO Forum - "NGOs in Times of Crisis" – is going to be held again in Bucharest, Romania, on 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009. The Forum aims at increasing the level of dialogue and cooperation among NGOs in the wider Black Sea region, as a means of strengthening NGOs and their capacity to influence regional and national policies.

The Forum host is FOND - Romanian Federation of Development NGOs. Agenda and further information are available at: <http://www.blackseango.org/pagini/index.php>

### **Civil Participation in Europe**

Council of Europe's Conference of INGOs, the Slovenian Ministry for Public Administration and the Centre for Information, Co-operation and Development of NGOs (CNVOS) are organizing a *Civil Participation in Europe* conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 12-13<sup>th</sup> November 2009. The conference will focus on the ways and means for NGOs to participate in decision-making and the use of a brand new instrument - the Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process, which was recently approved by the Conference of INGOs. Applicants should represent national NGOs, working on the areas covered by the programme and be based in Slovenia, Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Serbia, Switzerland, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" or Turkey. Deadline to apply is September 15<sup>th</sup>. More information: [http://www.coe.int/T/NGO/default\\_en.asp#](http://www.coe.int/T/NGO/default_en.asp#)

### **Gendering violence**

The Department of Sociology of the Uppsala University (Sweden) organizes an international conference entitled 'Gendering Violence - Feminist Interventions in Contemporary Research' in Upsala, on 2-4 December 2009. The deadline for abstract submission is September 14. Deadline for registration is 1<sup>st</sup> of October. For more details visit the conference website: <http://genderingviolence.soc.uu.se/>

## **Funding**

### **UNIFEM: Gender Equality Fund**

UNIFEM is announcing the first call for proposals for the Fund for Gender Equality, a multi-donor initiative dedicated to the advancement of high-impact gender equality programmes that focus on women's economic and/or political empowerment at local and national levels. Governmental and non-governmental bodies with programmes in countries and/or territories in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Arab States, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States are eligible. To know more visit UNIFEM website: <http://www.unifem.org/>

## **Resources**

### **Human Rights in Ukraine – 2008**

This report, a joint work of the human rights organizations working in the country, covers the human rights situation in Ukraine in 2008: from the impact of the political and economic crisis to the condition of the NGOs. Read it at: <http://helsinki.org.ua/files/docs/1246102509.pdf>

### **Development effectiveness and Czech EU presidency**

Report from the Czech Forum for Development Cooperation (FoRS) Conference on the occasion of the Czech Presidency of the European Union: "Civil Society Organisations Development Effectiveness" is finally available on-line. We strongly recommend the 'gender and development' and 'migration and development' parts. The resources are available on: [http://www.fors.cz/en/eu\\_presidency/seminars\\_conferences/international-conference-on-cso-development-effectiveness](http://www.fors.cz/en/eu_presidency/seminars_conferences/international-conference-on-cso-development-effectiveness)

### **Financing for Development and Women's Rights**

This is the new WIDE publication that reviews the current debates about development, as well as the background for this new aid architecture, and analyses the international frameworks for financing for development and women rights, as well as governments' commitments for resources: <http://www.wide-network.org/index.jsp?id=454>

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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): Gender Association "Symmetry" (Azerbaijan), Women's Prospect (Ukraine), WIDE, AWID, WUNRN, TRIALOG, ASTRA, VAW Monitor, EC/UN, BSCDN, EWL, Center for Women's Global Leadership

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