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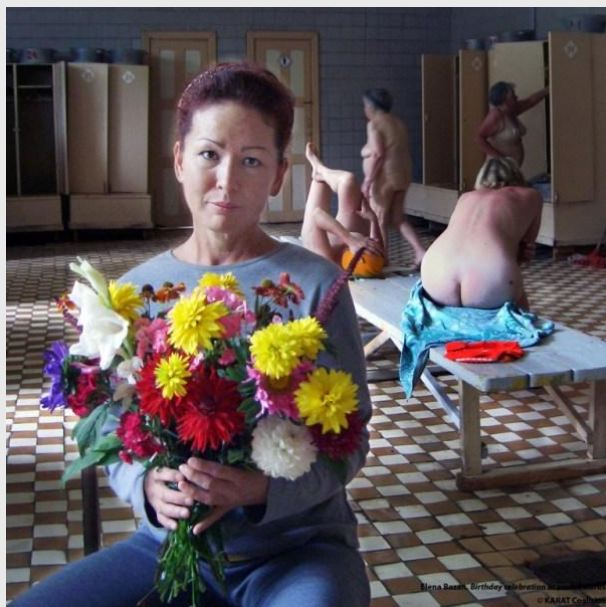
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## What's new in KARAT ?

### Photos available for use



KARAT Coalition would like to announce that the Photo Bank, created as a part of the project “Through Their Eyes, Through Ours”, is now available. It includes 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 from this region 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, in the purpose of awareness raising, sharing the knowledge, promotion of human rights and development issues.

#### [More information](#)

You can still share your photos with us if you want to make them recognized and contribute to the promotion of human rights and development activities. If you are interested in

adding your photos to the Bank, please write to Ewa Pintera at: [ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl](mailto:ewa.pintera@karat.org.pl)

### Conclusion of the project “Through Their Eyes, Through Ours”

The project “Through Their Eyes, Through Ours. Raising public awareness about development problems faced by women from developing countries in the EU Eastern Neighborhood, Balkans and Central Asia” is coming to the end in March 2011. The project has resulted in many tools and materials presenting the socio-economic situation of women from the countries of Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Balkans and Caucasia (movie, photos, blogs, printed publications etc.).

We would like to encourage you to use in them your work, we particularly recommend the exhibition “Through Their Eyes” which consists of 39 photos taken by women who are the citizens of the above mentioned region.

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

#### [Project's website](#)

### National Dialogues about gender and development in Bulgaria and Romania

As a part of “Connect!” project two National Dialogues on gender and development issues which will take place in Sofia, Bulgaria and Bucharest, Romania in mid February 2011.

The one-day events are aimed at building bridges between women's rights and development issues, women's movement and Non-Governmental Development Organizations (NGDOs). The partners from Sub-Saharan Africa will exchange their experience with EU New Members States (NMS) activists and officials to improve their understanding of the role of gender in development cooperation. This kind of dialogue is especially important in NMS which are the new donor countries.

More details will be available soon on KARAT's website.

If you want to know more on National Dialogues please contact Marta at: [marta.gontarska@karat.org.pl](mailto:marta.gontarska@karat.org.pl)

### **Gender Studies o.p.s. (Czech Republic): “Company of the year: Equal Opportunities 2010”. Announcement of the Award**

“Company of the year. Equal Opportunities” has been awarded by the Czech non-governmental organization Gender Studies since 2004. Its purpose is to motivate companies to see equal opportunities for women and men as one of the cornerstones of their own development and the development of their employees. And of course, it also endeavors the companies to implement these principles in their policies. Gender Studies offers qualified consultancy and experience in this field.

[More information](#)

For details, please contact Alexandra at: [alexandra.jachanova@genderstudies.cz](mailto:alexandra.jachanova@genderstudies.cz)

### **Political Club of Women 50/50 (Moldova): Gender Equality Prize**



On the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2010 the "Political Club of Women 50/50" organized the “Women Can Do It Bal” and gave the Gender Equality Prize to a group of actresses who created a theatre performance called "CASA - M" which raises the problem of violence against women. The scenario is based on the real cases from all around the country.

The Jury has also decided to give the prize to a political party in the future. What is more, two diplomas will be given to mass media that contributed to the promotion of gender equality in Moldova.

For more information please write to Olga Sirbu at [olea2004@msn.com](mailto:olea2004@msn.com)

### **Women’s Independent Democratic Movement (Belarus): Call for Action. The prisoners of conscience should be immediately released**

Women’s Independent Democratic Movements is asking for your solidarity with the Belarusian women - prisoners of conscience, charged with “organizing mass disorder” following a post-election demonstration in December and kept in custody. They are expected to face trial in two to three months. Those women are:

- Irina Khalib, a prominent journalist, wife of the ex-presidential candidate Andrei Sannikov and mother of three-year-old son;
- Natalia Radina, the editor of Charter 97 website, who has serious health problems and does not get necessary medical aid;
- Anastasia Palazhanka, the vice-chairperson of the NGO “Molodoi Front” (Young Front).

Please, write to president Alexander Lukashenko (contact@president.gov.by or ul.Karla Marksa 38, 220016 Minsk, Belarus) and call the Belarusian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release the persons detained during the peaceful protest; to conduct an investigation on each case of violence; to bring those responsible to justice; to put an end to persecution of political opposition in Belarus.

If you want to know more, please contact Ludmila Petina at: [petina@open.by](mailto:petina@open.by)

### **UN WOMEN Agency begins its work**

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 UN Women - the UN agency dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women - officially began its work. This new organization consolidates and scales up UN actions to achieve gender equality, offering the promise of accelerated progress in realizing the rights of women worldwide.

Formally known as the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UN Women emerged from agreement by UN Member States (General Assembly resolution), backed by strong advocacy from the global women's movement. The UN Women Executive Director is Michelle Bachelet, formerly President of Chile.

UN Women will work with UN Member States to agree on international standards for gender equality, and help countries implement those standards. It will assist other UN agencies engaged with a broad spectrum of development issues to integrate gender equality priorities in their activities. UN Women declares that it would like to work closely with civil society partners.

[UN Women Official Webpage](#)

### **Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life: Call for nominations**

The Women's World Summit Foundation celebrates this year its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and invites you to submit nominations for the 2011 special edition of the prize for women's creativity in rural life, honoring creative and courageous women and women's organizations around the world working to improve the quality of life in rural communities.

Your nomination(s), following the guidelines published on-line, must arrive no later than 31 March 2011 via the post.

[More information](#)

### **Hungary: anti-choice constitution?**

The recently elected government of Hungary has put forward a draft document for a new constitution that would guarantee the right to life from conception. The new constitution would include clauses defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

An ad-hoc parliamentary committee in charge of drafting the constitution has presented the draft document for debate in the Hungarian National Assembly. When the document is approved by the parliament, new changes to the constitution will only be possible if two subsequent parliamentary votes on identical changes with a two-thirds majority on each occasion will take place. The governing party, Fidesz, has 263 of 386 seats in the National Assembly. It rules in a coalition government with the Christian Democratic People's Party.

Hungary currently has quite liberal abortion law. An anti-choice constitution would mean a nearly unprecedented change for any EU country.

*Source: ASTRA Network*

### **New Polish anti-discrimination law below standards**

Despite continuous and determined protests of the civil society mobilized in the Coalition for Equal Chances, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December the President has signed the so called 'anti-discrimination' law titled 'act on the implementation of certain provisions of the European Union in the field of equal treatment'. The title of the act itself displays lack of political will among Polish decision-makers to introduce comprehensive law that would effectively protect individuals from discrimination. In fact, civil society is highly disappointed with the new law that is below international human rights standards and differentiates the level of protection from discrimination for various groups. For instance, 'anti-

discrimination' act does not provide protection for girls and women in education. In practice it means that applying different standards for women and men at universities wouldn't be considered as discriminatory in the light of the new law. Women's groups claim that the act violates women's right to be free from all forms of discrimination in all fields of life, the right that is guaranteed by the ratified by Poland Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Source: KARAT

## Resources

### **EUROSTAT: Women's participation in the labor market in the EU in 2009**

More than 20% of women aged 25-54 are outside the labor market, half of them for family reasons. These data come from a report issued by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, focusing on people outside the labor market. The rates vary greatly between Member States.

You can check these statistics [here](#)

### **The European Report on Development 2010**

The European Report on Development (ERD) 2010, "Social protection for inclusive development", has officially been launched on 07 December 2010 at the European Development Days in Brussels.

The ERD 2010 deals with the issues of poverty, inequality and social protection, with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. Many African countries are stuck in a situation of constant poverty and are increasingly vulnerable to external shocks, such as climate change, food and fuel price volatility, or the recent financial crisis. These shocks are undermining progress towards the MDGs, and increasing demand for new and more substantive social protection programs in many African countries. Social protection is thus rapidly becoming a priority in the development agenda, both for donors and local governments.

The report is available [here](#)

### **European Women's Lobby: "FEM21 - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Feminist. The Anniversary Magazine"**

On the occasion of its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the European Women's Lobby has released a magazine exploring the meaning of feminism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The spectrum of topics raised in the magazine is broad, for example *Women: Voters, Tax-Payers... Decision-Makers?; Motherhood and Disability; Valuing Women's Work: Outside the home, inside the home, and the importance of choice; Homeless Women: Stories of flight and survival; Equal Rights, Equal Voices: Migrant women in the EU; Multiple Discrimination, Lesbian and Trans Women*, and many others.

You can read the magazine [here](#)

### **Feminoteka: "Women on the green island. Economic crisis in Poland from the gender perspective"**



Poland is sometimes described as the rapidly developing and enriching "green island", surrounded by the countries facing the problem of financial crisis. The new publication by Feminoteka raises the problem of the recent economic crisis from the gender perspective. What was the impact of worldwide crisis on women's situation in Poland? Are women especially affected by the changes in global economy?

The report is available [here](#)

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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 Studies o.p.s (Czech Republic), Political Club of Women 50/50 (Moldova), Women's Independent Democratic Movements (Belarus), ASTRA, EWL, Feminoteka, WUNRN.

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