

# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

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**Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women**

**Prepared by:** GAATW International Secretariat

**Photo:** Taken from GAATW-IS' visit at the Technical Training Institute in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2016

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# FOREWORD

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2016 has been a year committed to re-structure and revive the composition of the GAATW-IS team. Five new colleagues joined the IS to support our work in two regions – South Asia and South East Asia, and our advocacy and communications work.

Of the work we did in 2016, the engagement with members and partners continued through our current projects in Asia and LAC in particular. Our thematic areas in Accountability, Access to Justice and Power in Migration and Work remained as key priorities in designing new projects and proposals.

As a reflection of our work last year, it is worthy to highlight that GAATW works on labour migration and human trafficking from a feminist perspective. GAATW had observed that major changes in the context that migration has become a highly politicized issue. It appears as if most destination states are calling for an end to internationalism and pluralism. A narrow nationalism seems to be gaining ground all over the world. On the other hand, countries of origin are becoming more and more dependent of remittances from migrant workers. War and on-going conflict is adding to the precarity of people on the move.

These macro issues have impacted on our advocacy work. Even though we are engaged in some policy advocacy work, we are not sure what impact it will have on the lives of migrating people. We hope to strengthen our international advocacy efforts and remain vigilant of the political, economic and social factors that greatly influence migration policies and state-interventions on migration and anti-trafficking around the globe.

## SUMMARY OF GAATW PROGRAMME ENGAGEMENTS IN 2016

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GAATW has three thematic priorities designed to promote the human rights of all women who are impacted by migration from a feminist perspective, including through monitoring of all stakeholders engaged in anti-trafficking efforts. our work in 2016 has focussed on the three key areas: 1) INCREASING ACCESS TO JUSTICE THROUGH NON-DISCRIMINATION APPROACHES: Broadening spaces for trafficked persons and migrant workers to practice their human rights by improving access to justice and combating all forms of discrimination that impact women's ability to exercise her human rights as they relate to trafficking, 2) ACCOUNTABILITY: Advocating for the accountability of anti-trafficking stakeholders in all responses to trafficking to end harms caused by repressive anti-trafficking assumptions, policies and measures, 3) POWER IN MIGRATION AND WORK: Centring an analysis of women's power in their labour and migration to better assess the impact of migration and labour impact on women, and to work towards labour and migration processes that reflect migrants' needs, aspirations and capabilities

# ACCOUNTABILITY

GAATW's Accountability programme aims to increase accountability of anti-trafficking stakeholders in implementing anti-trafficking measures, ensuring that they are accountable to the persons whose human rights they purport to protect. To do this GAATW and its members have been constantly engaged in review of various anti-trafficking measures and initiatives and its impact on trafficked persons. It has carried out a number of research studies to understand trafficked person's perceptions and views on the measures and initiatives intended to benefit them.

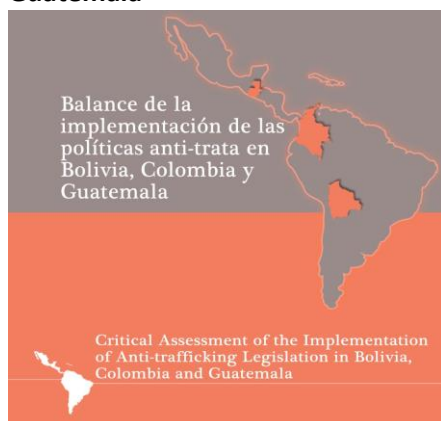
GAATW's 2007 report Collateral Damage highlighted that anti-trafficking initiatives have had numerous negative, rather than positive, impacts on trafficked persons, as well as other groups. Furthermore, GAATW's 2010 review of anti-trafficking reports found that measures routinely failed to incorporate an assessment by the person who had been trafficked. GAATW carried out another participatory research project "Towards greater accountability - Participatory Monitoring of Anti-Trafficking Initiatives" in 2013 across Latin America, Europe, and Asia to look at the assistance work of the Alliance members from the perspective of trafficked persons. Some of these Studies shows that testimonies of victims reflect the gap between the legal framework and the actual enforcement of services, including those with comprehensive regulatory frameworks that are consistent with international instruments. The main challenge identified in LAC region was the proper implementation of legislation against human trafficking In the Latin America Regional Report, participating members echoed that the State is the principal guarantor of rights and services toward trafficked persons and need to be held responsible for the same. Cumulatively, these findings revealed the need for more monitoring and evaluation of anti-trafficking initiatives.

## TOWARDS GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY- PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH ON ANTI-TRAFFICKING INITIATIVES

As a follow-up, to enhance capacity of member organisations in monitoring anti-trafficking responses and labour migration policies of states from a human rights perspective and in advocating for greater accountability towards trafficked persons and migrant workers, In 2016 the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) carried out an assessment of the implementation of anti-trafficking policy in Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala, this assessment reviewed the Anti-Trafficking legislation provisions and the actual services provided in the ground.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2016

### Critical Assessment of the Implementation of Anti-Trafficking Legislation in Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala



GAATW carried out the above review to assess the implementation of the anti-trafficking legislations in three countries in Latin America, namely: Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala in 2016. This project was developed by Fundación La Paz in Bolivia, Corporación Espacios de Mujer in Colombia and ECPAT in Guatemala with the support from the GAATW International Secretariat and the Peruvian NGO Capital Humano y Social (CHS) Alternativo.

The overall purpose of this assessment was not just finding fault with government but also to inspire governments to

improve the implementation of policies and provisions to better serve the persons to whom they are supposed to address. Hence the efforts were to gather information to understand the gaps and reasons behind them.

As part of this joint assessment and bringing out a joint report, 3 national level reports were completed in 3 countries in LAC region. <http://www.gaatw.org/resources/publications>. The report highlights (1) the existing gaps between what the anti-trafficking legislation states and the actual services provided by government agencies, and (2) concrete recommendations for the three governments to take forward. There are different methods used to disseminate the findings of the report and advocate for change at the national and international level. Articles and blog pieces were shared online.

Activity	Outputs	Beneficiary
Research planning meeting held in Peru with three partners in February 2016	Research designed agreed and inputs provided	3 partner organisation from 3 countries attended along with CHS Alternativo, a Peruvian NGO and GAATW's member organization
Research data collection in April and May	Different matrix for data collection agreed at country level and information gathered from government	Partners in 3 countries agreed on methodology in March and collected information
Data analysis and report preparation in July and August by partners and final report with summary prepared in October 2016	3 Country reports prepared, A summary report in English prepared	Partners and members and concerned departments
Training and Technical support through CHS Alternativo to all 3 organisations	Partner staff trained in 3 organisations	
Final report published in November, advocacy plan agreed	Final reports published in Spanish and a summary in English	Members, partners and allies in the GAATW mailing list, government officials, etc

## CHALLENGES

GAATW and its members have questioned whether anti-trafficking initiatives are truly able to protect and promote the rights of victims and how far governments are keeping their promises. In order to do such analysis, use of authentic information and analysis was crucial. It was not so easy to get information from government departments on time, so there was delays and long waits. In some countries, such as Bolivia, government departments were not very proactive do not share them.

To influence government and inspire them to act, CSOs needs to engage continuously with evidences. It is necessary to carry out and publish this kind of assessment identifying the work done from the governmental bodies and documenting the existing situation on a regular basis. However, securing resources for such activities by members are challenging in the region.

## WAY FORWARD

GAATW along with all partners developed advocacy plan and partners will undertake advocacy initiatives. Besides it was agreed that a follow up assessment will be done in 2017 on selected areas

to continue the watch process in three countries in Latin America: Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala. Influencing state for change is a long journey and needs continuous engagements.

### **INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY**

GAATW's overarching advocacy objective continues to be promoting the human rights of all women who are impacted by migration from a feminist perspective. We aim to supporting the strong provisions on the protection of the rights of women migrant workers, and trafficked persons through the active engagement of civil society.

Our primary advocacy efforts in 2016 focused on engaging with migrant rights organisations and supporting our members at the national level. Briefing papers focusing on policy and legislations were published to help partner organisations engage in policy advocacy with the states of India and Nepal.

During 2016, limited resources have not allowed us to engage in as many international advocacy spaces as previous years.

#### **Highlights of our Work:**

1. Completed desk research and produced papers on inter-state migration within India, focusing on Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha.
2. Produced and circulated legislative briefing papers on India and Nepal.
3. Engaged CSOs to comment on GAATW's brief re draft Anti-Trafficking Bill 2016
4. Shared information about the SAARC process and updates to members
5. Engaged with Asia-base members during advocacy events and meetings (Global Fund for Women, and Global Forum on Migration and Development).



# ACCESS TO JUSTICE

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Overall the programme aims to broaden spaces for trafficked persons and migrant workers to access human rights and to improve access to justice as they relate to trafficking.

Despite many efforts, access to justice remains a significantly underserved right for migrant workers. In countries of destination and upon returning home, very few migrant women and men are able to access sufficient support services and/or legal and other justice institutions to remedy the wrongs they have experienced. In some cases, the exploitation experienced amounts to trafficking, but few are identified as ‘trafficked’ and provided with the services and access to justice available under domestic anti-trafficking frameworks or promoted under international law.

Building on its work of the previous years, in 2016, as part of the access to justice programme GAATW-IS has been working on two projects. The project entitled ‘*Addressing Labour Trafficking of South Asian Migrant Workers in the Middle East*’ has continued since 2015. In this project the IS has been working with members and partners from South Asia and the Middle East to identify and analyse barriers that exploited and trafficked migrant workers from South Asia face in countries of origin and destination when accessing justice and the opportunities therein.

Under the other project, GAATW-IS and a member organisation in Cambodia have also been conducting research on the situation of Cambodian migrant workers in Thailand and Cambodia and trying to identify their challenges and opportunities for accessing justice.

## **ADDRESSING LABOUR TRAFFICKING OF SOUTH ASIAN MIGRANT WORKERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

The overall objective of the above project was to advance the rights of migrant workers on the South Asia-Middle East migration corridor to make a stronger case against human trafficking in the context of labour migration, with a special focus on female migrant workers. The aims of the project were:

- 1) To build strategic alliances with key civil society organizations in countries of origin and destination; and
- 2) To analyse barriers for trafficked migrant workers from South Asia in the Middle East in accessing justice and identify opportunities for future collaboration to overcome such barriers.

A total of thirteen partner migrant worker organisations in seven countries: Bangladesh, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated. They attended workshops to discuss trafficking in the context of labour migration, share case examples, and explore barriers to justice. Ultimately, the project sought to strengthen the capacity of migrant worker organisations to handle cases of severe exploitation.

The project had four main components:

- A series of workshops and meetings with civil society organizations in South Asia and the Middle East that support migrant workers to obtain justice at home or abroad to build strategic linkages.
- The gathering of case studies for analysis of barriers. This involved support from the GAATW-IS to develop intake and case documentation materials and numerous conversations and meetings with organizations to identify and discuss cases.

- Conceptual clarity workshop with key media personnel from four origin countries to improve their understanding about women's migration and labour trafficking and influence to produce stories published in well circulated newspaper and web media.
- Creating support systems for women migrant workers in countries of destination.

## **ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE**

This project has a strong focus on women migrants from South Asia moving to the Middle East. Through this project GAATW analysed the barriers for accessing justice through project partners who have long experience in providing legal service provisions to trafficked and abused migrants.

### **Accomplishments in Origin Countries:**

Building on the work done previous year, GAATW wanted to focus its work on understanding the difficulties migrant workers face from real case analysis. However, understanding the ground realities, GAATW first focused on supporting partners in countries of origin in their case documentation and analysis work. However, there were cases collected from 12 partner organisations who assist victims in and upon return to the countries and analysis work done. These cases were collected from three origin countries such as India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Two national level case analysis workshops organised in Bangladesh (June and July 2016) and Nepal respectively. The objectives of these case analysis meetings were to increase collaboration on cases; to encourage pursuit of trafficking and severe exploitation cases; to provide a space for the partners to discuss case strategies; and, to encourage the documentation of challenging or significant cases for a future report. These case analysis workshops enhanced the case documentation skills within 6 partners in these countries and enhanced networking and learning. This case analysis culminated in a country report on the barriers facing Bangladeshi migrant workers in accessing justice at home and in the Middle East.

Similarly, in Nepal, three partners, WOREC, Pourakhi and People Forum decided on assessing at least five cases each for trafficking, sharing case details and collaboratively reviewing challenges and strategies, documenting at least five significant cases each and capturing learnings, trends, and experiences in a country report. GAATW-IS facilitated all these analysis workshops. In addition, three case analysis meeting held with partners such as OKUP and BOMSA in Bangladesh.

In India in collaboration with the two partner organisations (National Domestic Worker movement (NDWM) and the National Worker Welfare Trust (NWWT), five cases were assisted to the fullest extent possible and documented each case and shared their insights on barriers. As these partners accept several labour cases each year from Middle East.

Overall, at least 5 cases of labour trafficking per project partner are documented in a HR framework in countries of origin in Nepal, Bangladesh and India. 9 partners supported through workshops, hands-on support in the above countries have improved the case documentation.

### **Accomplishments in Destination Countries:**

As per the plan, in order to increase networking in destination countries, public events organised in three destination countries. In Kuwait, in collaboration with the Arab Network for Human Rights and Tamkeen Foundation from Jordan, a workshop was organised in May 2017. The workshop discussed the government of Kuwait's anti-trafficking initiatives and provided opportunities for the Indian and Jordanian partners to share their experiences and good practices in supporting exploited and

trafficked migrant workers. This opportunity connected a number of ministries with each other and local civil society organisations, National Domestic Workers Movement and National Workers Welfare Trust, two partners from India attended this workshop. The Crime of Human Trafficking and Its Impact on Societal Security" Workshop co-hosted by GAATW, the Kuwait Society for Human Rights and the Arab Network for Migrant Rights on 10 May 2016.

GAATW-IS organised one week-long exposure trip to Kuwait for these partners. The goal of the exposure trip was for the participants to better understand the problems migrant workers face in Kuwait and the hurdles that prevent them from accessing justice after their rights have been violated. Secondly, the trip enabled the partners to assist and receive cases from migrant workers who are still in Kuwait. During this trip, partners visited the Kuwait government shelter for distressed migrant workers and the Indian Embassy in Kuwait. In this process partners were able to understand and assist about forty cases of migrant labourers in Kuwait.

Overall, the activities provided tremendous insight into the challenges facing migrant workers and the gaps in services available and demonstrated that there is a space for future collaboration amongst local associations and organisations both in origin and destination countries to increase support to migrant workers in Kuwait.

In Jordan, one of the destination country, a meeting held with the Domestic Workers Network in collaboration with Solidarity Centre. The Network meeting included 38 participants from four countries: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the Philippines, and included discussions of updates on the situation for domestic workers in Jordan, upcoming events, and a recent visit by the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking. The focus group discussion with ten Bangladeshi women migrant workers held helped to understand how migrant workers can seek justice or assistance after a rights violation and the barriers they face when accessing justice

In Lebanon, initial contact has been established with women workers from Bangladesh and initial discussion has widened the understanding of the conditions of women workers in the destination countries. The ideas to create opportunities for organising the women workers has not been able to move forward. Following the first trip to Lebanon, two trainings will be held for Bangladeshi migrant domestic workers. The effort has been to encourage the Bangladeshi women to use the drop-in services offered by local NGOs.

### **Work with Media Fellows in South Asia:**

Following up the conceptual clarity workshop in 2015, GAATW-IS continued its engagements with media fellows to highlight issues in print media in different countries. Trained media fellows have been highlighting cases in print media. GAATW has worked in collaboration with media staff from South Asia to promote rights-based reporting and changing of the discourse around women's labour migration in South Asia. Here is a collection of new articles produced through this initiative: <http://www.gaatw.org/events-and-news/68-gaatw-news/867-women-agents-of-change-or-victims-of-abuse-reporting-women-s-labour-migration>

### Women: Agents of Change or Victims of Abuse? Reporting Women's Labour Migration

**Migrant work as economic emancipation and social empowerment**

*Zahrah Imtiaz, The Daily News, Sri Lanka*

**Where women are the breadwinners**

*Adil Sakhawat, The Dhaka Tribune, Bangladesh*



In a community which frowns at a woman's decision to work outside of her house, women in Eastern Sri Lanka have managed to bypass this by migrating to Middle East countries to earn their dowries. In a strange twist of fate, these women break through conventional barriers to economic empowerment, to meet yet another traditional requirement for a woman of marriageable age - entitlement to a handsome dowry... [read more](#)

**Dancing was this community's ticket to a better life**

*Kunal Purohit, The Hindustan Times, India*



As the battle over reopening dance bars in Maharashtra continues, far away from the arc lights of Mumbai's bars is a community feeling the greatest impact of the eight-year ban. The bars gave women from the Nat community an opportunity to quit sex work. Many women came to Mumbai and started earning well enough to ensure their sisters and daughters got a good education and never had to enter the trade. Their families started living better too — bigger homes, not the kaccha mud-thatched houses they once lived in. And the income meant women had control over their own life...[read more](#)



Women from Singair are successfully employed in different countries, mostly in the Middle East, working to turn their lives around and making hefty contributions to the country's foreign exchange earnings every year. Once, women in Singair could not even go to their neighbouring village without their husband's permission. Now, they contribute at least as much as their husbands — if not more — to their family income. They are not just contributing financially, but also actively taking part in the decision-making process with their male counterparts... [read more](#)

**A leap of faith**

*Roshan Sedhai, The Kathmandu Post, Nepal*



Countries in crisis like Iraq have been attracting a growing number of Nepali women in recent years because the working conditions and wages are better than in the Gulf. Balu Maya returned to Nepal having had worked as a caregiver in private households in Erbil, Kurdistan's capital. She says that she accepted the job as the salary and perks that came with it were better than other opportunities in the Gulf. If things go as planned, Maya intends to go back to Kurdistan after a well-deserved break in Kathmandu...[read more](#)

### Tale of women migrant workers

Zahrah Imtiaz, *The Daily News, Sri Lanka*



Seetha Kumarihamy

As a single parent, foreign employment provided Kumarihamy with an income to buy a plot of land, build a house and also buy half an acre of paddy to cultivate when she eventually returned home. Most women who migrate, according to the Bureau of Foreign Employment, are in their late 20s and early 30s, are married and are driven by a desire to build a house, educate children, to overcome poverty or to escape an abusive marriage... [read more](#)

### Women on the move: In search of more gender balanced work environments abroad

Zahrah Imtiaz, *The Daily News, Sri Lanka*



Amarasinghe is part of a growing number of professional Sri Lankan women who have

made an independent decision to migrate, to further improve their careers or professional skills. 'I have always thought that women and men should have equal opportunity but I know that this does not take place much in Sri Lanka. There is also more exposure and ability to progress further here,' says Amarasinghe... [read more](#)

### The change makers

Arafat Ara, *The Financial Express, Bangladesh*



If the government ensures safe migration, migrant women's contribution may be double the amount earned by their male counterparts, as they do not misuse their remittances. Women are investing in education and family maintenance, which contributes to human resource development. However, there should be proper skill training for them and reduction of fraudulent activities so they don't become victimised during their migration... [read more](#)

### Female migrant Nepalis taking up jobs outside domestic confines

Roshan Sedhai, *The Kathmandu Post, Nepal*



Kala works as a general technician for a private company based in Abu Dhabi. Her days are spent fixing ACs and general home appliances

for a girls' school. More than 90 per cent of the 13,000 women going aboard in the first 10 months of 2016 had taken up jobs other than domestic help. Today, a majority of Nepali women are primarily seeking employment in manufacturing, retail, hospitality and service sectors. Women employed in the industrial and service sectors work in a relatively open environment... [read more](#)

### Odisha women work as 'skilled workers' against all odds

Rakhi Ghosh, *The Daily Pioneer, India*



Among other women workers in her slum, Radharani gets more respect and importance in decision making both at home and at work. She has created her own identity as a mason in the city and has broken the gender norm. She has been in the profession for the last 20 years and now things have changed and people accept her as a paint mason. Earlier, it was not so easy, sometimes they did not entrust such work to a woman...[read more](#)

### A changing fabric

Raksha Kumar, *The Hindu, India*



Since 2009, soaring costs and labour paucity has been pushing textile companies away from Bengaluru into smaller towns. The trend has been so widespread that the garment workers' trade union believes the industry may all but cease to exist in Bengaluru in a few years. The workers are happy to be back home, but there is also the fear that the industry's geographical diffusion might weaken the labour union, which has been responsible for ensuring a minimum wage and addressing sexual harassment at the workplace...[read more](#)

### The life back home migrant women live

Arafat Ara, *The Financial Express, Bangladesh*



Every year a significant number of women migrants return home. Some of them have deposits and working experience. They want to do something for financial solvency but in the absence of

opportunities they can't utilise their hard-earned money in an effective manner. Banks want women to have land or other assets as collaterals, while private money lenders charge high interest rates. The only opportunities for reintegration of returning migrant women are provided by NGOs...[read more](#)

### The second chapter

Tsering Dolker, *The Nepali Times, Nepal*



Shakti Samuha has set up a nationwide network to help bring victims of trafficking together and facilitate their reintegration into society by providing legal and psychosocial counselling, livelihood and skills development training, and support in income generation. The organisation provides information about safe migration and trafficking to women wishing to go abroad. Sunita Danuwar: 'We don't want to stop women from migrating, we just want them to do so in a safe and legal manner.'...[read more](#)

## **Rights and Justice in the Context of Labour Migration: A Civil Society Consultation**

GAATW organised a three-day Consultation on Rights and Justice in the Context of Labour Migration on **3-5 November 2016** in Bangkok, Thailand. There were over 50 participants including migrant, labour and anti-trafficking organisations providing direct services and legal support, migrant rights network representatives, trade unionists, donor partners, academics, and other stakeholders from South, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East to discuss and compare challenges and opportunities to access justice. Participants came from both countries of origin for migrant workers, including Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, the Philippines and Cambodia, and countries of destination, including Qatar, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Malaysia, Thailand, Austria, and the United States. Over the course of three days, the group articulated a collective vision of 'justice', and discussed the steps that civil society, governments, and policy makers need to take to ensure transformative change for migrant workers.

The consultation was designed to analyse the macro-economic and social context within which migrant workers, civil society and nation states exist; to look at the multiple perspectives on justice, and the social, economic, and legal barriers to justice; and to examine the role of strategic alliances and movement building in promoting access to justice for migrant workers. These objectives were achieved through participatory discussions grounded in the challenges and experiences of direct service providers from countries of origin and destination, as well as broader discussions on the structural causes of exploitation and the conceptual frameworks of rights and justice. It highlighted the voices of advocates on the ground working on access to justice, and strengthen alliances among GAATW's partners, members, and allies.

## **Rocky Road to Justice: A reflection on the barriers to accessing justice for abused and trafficked South Asian Migrant Workers in the Middle East**

At end of the project, GAATW produced the above report. This report aims to capture the barriers to access to justice as experienced and understood by the project partners, all of which are organisations working directly with exploited and trafficked migrant workers through daily interventions, case work, psychosocial services, and grassroots advocacy. Although the specific barriers may differ between countries and even regions within countries, project partners identified many barriers common to all, which can be briefly summarised as:

- *Legal Barriers:* The laws criminalizing trafficking are relatively new in all countries. Definitions may be ambiguous in respect to whether they envision cases of forced labour of migrant workers, or may simply not have been interpreted by the courts to date. Additionally, the scope of other relevant laws may be limited to only certain types of labour or types of migration, further excluding groups of migrant workers from legal protections.
- *Enforcement and Operational Barriers:* Even where laws do exist, enforcement against employers and agents of migrant workers is often sub-optimal. Many actors in the justice system associate trafficking with sexual exploitation and thus resist the notion that migrant workers can be trafficked and exploited. Instead, their cases are considered contract or employment cases. Bureaucratic inefficiency, possibilities of corruption, and insufficient government programming at home and abroad further undermine the implementation of existing anti-trafficking, labour and migration laws.
- *Practical Barriers:* Migrant workers themselves face many practical barriers to bringing a case against their agent or employer including language, expense, physical access to redress mechanisms, awareness of their rights and where to find assistance, and the challenges of gathering evidence across borders.

- *Social and Cultural Barriers:* Social and cultural barriers also prevent migrant workers from accessing justice, including stigmatization of migrant workers who have been exploited, gender, class and racial discrimination that can lead to cases not being taken seriously and a general mistrust in institutions of justice.
- *Organisational Barriers:* The organisations that support migrant workers face many challenges including an overwhelming number of cases, staff turnover and a lack of trained lawyers with expertise in trafficking and migration, and insecure funding.

## **CHALLENGES**

It clear, implementation of this project has faced many challenges. The barriers that migrant workers and trafficked persons face to access rights and justice are complex and inter related. Although many partners or CSOs are taking up cases to support migrant workers, still following up cases to an adequate legal level has been limited for various reasons, so it is hard to document such cases and do an analysis of the challenges faced. The most challenging part was connecting and getting adequate support from destination countries. It was hard to find partners in destination countries interested to work with colleagues from countries of origin on specific cases to support migrant women workers. However, the opportunity to connect through various partners has lead a good foundation.

## **WAY FORWARD**

GAATW will produce a learning document to highlight the barriers to access to justice as experienced and understood by the project partners, all of which are organisations working directly with exploited and trafficked migrant workers through daily interventions, case work, psychosocial services, and grassroots advocacy. Although the specific barriers may differ between countries and even regions within countries, project partners identified many barriers common to all. The report will conclude with reflections on the lessons learned by the GAATW-IS about the obstacles to justice for migrant workers, but also for organisations seeking to assist trafficked migrant workers and the effort required to overcome those barriers.

In some ways, every little step taken by colleagues working in countries of origin and destination has taken us little closer to our goal. GAATW will continue its engagements around cross-regional cooperation between partners in both origin and destination countries through facilitating networking opportunities and collaborating on advocacy events in international forums.

The project will focus on its outreach work with women Bangladeshi migrant workers in Lebanon till end of June 2017. The project will end in June 217, however GAATW will use some of the insights to develop its future access to justice programme.

## **ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR CAMBODIAN WORKERS IN THAILAND**

Despite all the resources and efforts dedicated to improving the conditions of migrant workers and addressing trafficking in Thailand, access to justice remains an underserved right for many trafficked persons. Cambodians migrant workers are the second largest group in Thailand, but there is little information on their situation and working conditions.



In this context, this project was initiated in August 2015 to inquire as to whether Cambodian migrant workers or trafficked persons in Thailand have been able to access justice as they themselves defined what is just and fair. The research was to examine why there is still such a significant disconnect between the currently available options in the legal system and Cambodian workers' unwillingness or inability to practically access them, and explore the access to justice scenario from their experiences and insights at both origin and destination

Many preparatory works completed in 2015. In 2016, the key activity was carrying out the research both in Thailand and Cambodia to understand the access to justice situation for Cambodian workers.

## ACTIVITIES IN 2016

Activity	Outputs	Beneficiary
Research Methodology Workshop	Research plan: -Interview questions -Validated project plan	Workshop conducted on 9-11 March 2016 in Bangkok. 6 project team members from GAATW and LSCW participated.
Data collection in during April to Mid-July by GAATW and LSW during March-July 2017	Roughly 50 Cambodian workers have been interviewed by both partners. Interview data has been processed and findings drafted.	Limitation to reach out to the planned number of interviewees. GAATW concluded 25 in-depth interviews, 2 focus group discussions, 4 NGOs, and 1 government officer in Thailand. LSW conducted interviews with government, returned migrants, their families, village chiefs, focus groups with returnees in Cambodia.
Sharing Session with NGOs in Thailand	Sharing session organized in September MWG members	MWG members attended this meeting
Preparation of draft report, National Sharing session with Key stakeholders in Cambodia	Draft Cambodia research Report	A day long consultation organised to share the findings on 10 <sup>th</sup> October --- number of people attended the sharing workshop
Sharing session in Bangkok	Findings from Thailand and Cambodia shared in November in Bangkok	More than 70 participants representing partners, CSOs, MWG group and wider stakeholders attended this sharing session at FCCT in November 2016
Draft Report prepared and shared	One Thai report, one Cambodia report one joint Report highlighting the problems of Cambodian workers in destination and origin country	Draft report was ready by end of December 2016

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2016**

### **Migrant Workers' Experiences of Accessing Justice; A Workshop to discuss Research Methodologies**

The first of the activities implemented was a 3-day research methodology workshop in Bangkok on 9-11 March 2016. Six project team members from GAATW and LSCW participated in the workshop; a Cambodia-Thai interpreter was hired for the Thai researchers to ensure that all participants were fully engaged in the learning. The workshop was a great opportunity for researchers and project teams from GAATW and LSCW to share their knowledge and experience among one another while also having researchers who have direct experience present. The key inputs covered during the workshop were participatory action research methodology. The workshop also discussed different rules and methods that researchers and social workers would apply in their interviews. The Do and Don't session also organised with full participation of all attendees as they have direct relevant experiences. During this workshop, interview questions for workers for both studies were developed. Research plans from each team were finalized.

### **Primary Data collection from April-mid July 2016**

The data collection was done during April -mid-July 2016, the GAATW team took the support from Migrant Working Group's (MWG) members to access Cambodian workers for interviews. In addition, GAATW also contacted 10 organisations to get access to Cambodian migrant workers. However, the result was not as positive as expected; only 9 cases were accessed for interviews. It was observed that many organisations have access to other workers but not the Cambodian workers. Until mid-July, the total number of workers interviewed total to 25 along with 2 focus group discussions in Thailand. The interviews took place in different regions in Thailand such as -Central Bangkok, South: Songkhla and Ranong province , East: Rayong, Sa Keaw and Chonburi province and Northeast- Surin province

The process of data collection in Cambodia was bit different. LSCW conducted a desk review in January, May and in June to collect information related to Cambodian migration policy and human trafficking cases. LSCW also reviewed five existing cases on human trafficking and labour exploitation from their case files. For gathering primary data, LSCW used the information of migration Resource centre and conducted group discussions and individual interviews with target groups. LSCW selected Kampong Cham and Prey Veng provinces where there are high rates of migration to Thailand. While Koh Kong is a transit province for many Cambodian migrants migrating to work there. LSW also faced a number of challenges while gathering data from primary sources, one of the main challenges in data collection was the difficulty of getting approval from local authorities to conduct the research in target communities.

### **Draft report and sharing consultations in Cambodia and Thailand**

After data collection, two reports drafted to capture the findings from both countries. Overall the recommendations highlighted in the report is based on our analysis of interviews with workers along with civil society organisations (CSOs) in both Thailand and Cambodia, and additionally information gathered from government officials, factory managers, village leaders, and migrants' family members and experiences. It was disappointing to discover through discussions with partners and service providers that some of the fundamental challenges that Cambodian migrant workers are

facing today are very similar to those documented by GAATW nearly a decade ago in our report Collateral Damage.<sup>1</sup>

Following the draft reports, there were two national level consultations organised in Cambodia as well as Bangkok respectively to share the findings of the research.

Besides these forums, other opportunities were also used to highlight problems of Cambodian workers. On the 10th of June 2016, GAATW and LSCW attended the NGO Labor Forum meeting/UPDAP. LSCW presented the session on Access to Justice for abused and trafficked Cambodian workers in Thailand. GAATW shared some findings regarding Cambodian workers having no information about the working and living conditions, and protection in the destination country; they tended to compromise with exploitative employment conditions, abuse, and trafficking. This might jeopardize our labour rights standard advocacy, and leave an opportunity for the employer to exploit Cambodian workers because they tend to not resist or make demands. This point has support from the participants because employment standards at home (Cambodia) tend to be worse compared to the labour standards they may find in Thailand.

### **Engagement with the Migrant Working Group members in Thailand**

In the process, the project team has been in touch with Migrant Working Group network and attending the monthly meeting not just to share the findings but also to encourage further ideas for improving the situation. The MWG members are aware of problems Cambodian workers face while there are inadequate services for them, however, they are still not clear about what they can do to expand their scope of services as they have a shortage of resources. They also highlighted the absence of donors who specifically support these populations compared with another groups of migrants.

### **Published Final report: Access Unknown: Access to Justice from the Perspectives of Cambodian Migrant Workers in Thailand**

Over the past decade numerous steps have been taken in the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) to build the capacity of law enforcement, governments and service providers to address human trafficking and labour exploitation.

In 2014 the International Labour Organisation (ILO) initiated the Forced Labour Action in the Asian Region Project (FLARE) with the aim of strengthening national institutions and capacities to prevent and address forced labour in East and Southeast Asia. Similarly, many donors have provided resources for training law enforcement officers on issues of human trafficking. The Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP) has dedicated AUD 50 million from 2013 through 2018 to support regional cooperation to improve the criminal justice response to human trafficking, forced labour, and exploitative recruitment in ASEAN. The Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development began the ASEAN Triangle Project (ATP) in 2012 with the aim of strengthening regional policies on the governance of labour migration, and enhancing the capacity of governments, workers', and employers' organisations to help reduce labour exploitation and inequalities of women and men migrants from ASEAN member states.

Regional governments have also amplified their efforts to support the rights of migrant workers. The ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM) has included as one of their focuses the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers

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<sup>1</sup> GAATW, Collateral Damage: The Impact of Anti-Trafficking Measures on Human Rights around the World, Bangkok, 2007, available at [http://www.gaatw.org/Collateral%20Damage\\_Final/singlefile\\_CollateralDamagefinal.pdf](http://www.gaatw.org/Collateral%20Damage_Final/singlefile_CollateralDamagefinal.pdf)

(ACMW) to protect migrant workers against exploitation and mistreatment. The ASEAN Forum on Migration and Labour (AFML) also recently concluded its 9<sup>th</sup> annual meeting with the theme 'Better Quality of Life for ASEAN Migrant Workers through Strengthened Social Protection', and the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) aims at preventing trafficking, protecting victims, and prosecuting crimes of trafficking in persons by using regional and international cooperation and coordination. However, despite these efforts, human trafficking and exploitation remain pervasive in the region.

The aim of this research was to examine why there is still such a significant disconnect between the currently available options in the legal system and Cambodian workers' unwillingness or inability to practically access them, and explore the access to justice scenario from their experiences and insights at both origin and destination.

Our project employed participatory methodologies, which not only gathered detailed perspectives from migrant workers, but also included capacity building for service providers, and shared findings among key stakeholders to form a preliminary basis on which recommendations and future actions were made and planned for implementation.

## **CHALLENGES**

There were number of challenges during conducting this research. In some cases, it was difficult to gain access to the workers even after they had been identified as trafficked. Circular migration patterns that many Cambodian migrants practice limited the interviews in Cambodia to holidays when migrant workers would return home. Researchers received fewer interviews with Cambodian migrant women than anticipated due to the fact that migrant women whom we had access to in the domestic work and garment sectors were not employed as full-time workers and frequently moved between different employers. CSOs supporting migrant workers had a tendency to focus on Burmese workers and had less contact with Cambodian workers.

One of the main challenges in data collection was the difficulty of getting approval from local authorities to conduct the research in target communities in Cambodia.

## **WAY FORWARD**

We hope that this study will make a contribution to the future plans of support groups already working to improve the rights and access to justice of Cambodian migrant workers.

GAATW-IS team will plan a creative and meaningful way to share stories or quotes from the interviews in order to open spaces for migrant workers and trafficked persons to voice their experiences/ insights on "justice". We hope to feature stories/quotes in various online spaces and channels.

# **POWER IN MIGRATION AND WORK**

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Keeping the aspirations and concerns of migrating women at the centre of our work GAATW's Power in Migration and Work programme focused on an analysis of women's power in migration processes as a means of averting protectionism and identifying how labour migration policies can and should respond to women migrants' needs, aspirations, and capabilities. This programme area sees anti-trafficking very much correlated to how much power people have in their decision-making process in terms of migration and work. By emphasising power in migration and work, GAATW is shifting away

from a vulnerability-based discourse. It has emphasised the need of ensuring anti-trafficking and related policies increase rights protection for migrant women, rather than causing harm

As part of this programme GAATW has implemented projects that have included working with women in source communities at the pre-migration and pre-decision making stage in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh, as well as Supporting Migrant Domestic Workers in Destination Countries (specifically, Lebanon)

### **MAKING INFORMED DECISIONS: WORKING WITH WOMEN IN SOURCE COMMUNITIES AT THE PRE-MIGRATION AND PRE-DECISION-MAKING STAGE**

GAATW-IS, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and local NGO partners, has been working with women and girls in selected source communities of Bangladesh, India and Nepal to support women in making informed decisions about their labour migration. GAATW, as one of the global partner, is aiming to enhance the capacity of community workers who interact with migrating women in source districts of India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2016**

GAATW-IS has undertaken several activities under this project during 2016. During this period, in addition to providing support to partners, one of the key activities carried out during January-May 2016, was a project review meeting. The project review meeting was held with participation of country partners, ILO colleagues and two advisory board members of the Work in Freedom project. Partners shared their work and reflected on the women's empowerment component of their work while colleagues from ILO shared the next phase of the project.

**Health Training for community facilitators for BOMSA, Bangladesh:** GAATW supported BOMSA in organising Health Training for community facilitators and completing of health brochure. A three-day long Health Training programme was organized during September 22-24th 2016 for community workers at BOMSA. 22 participants from BOMSA as well as instructors/trainers /staff from government run Technical Training Centre attended the health training. This training was participatory and need based, designed with the inputs from participants. It covered issues relating to general women's health and Hygiene, Menstrual Hygiene and sexual transmitted diseases and how to prevent. Dr Mamata Pradhan from India facilitated this training. The training involved both practical demonstration and inputs from the facilitators

Overall, this training programme was perceived very beneficial to all trainees in terms of providing new knowledge about the diseases that affect women migrant workers. It was encouraging to notice that many women trainees also found the information very useful for themselves. The training is not only going help migrant women workers but also the trainee themselves. The guest from government official from overseas employment also highlighted the gravity of the issue and Bangladesh receiving more than 7/8 dead bodies of workers every day. Besides many unnatural reasons behind these deaths, many can also be attributed to bad health conditions of women workers back home before their migration. He also highlighted about lack of attention to the health issues by government during pre-departure training process.

**Health Training material development workshop, Bangladesh:** Realising the need to have visual training materials to use during interaction with women, another follow up material development workshop supported in October 2017 to develop Health training materials for future use. There were six participants from three partner organisations attended this workshop along with the health Consultant and developed all the training materials. These materials are going to be used by all partners in Bangladesh.

BOMSA had developed a health Boucher to help community facilitators to talk about health issues at the community level with a help of the a professional. BOMSA also organized a number of activities at the community level and using the materials.

**Community workers Handbook:** GAATW has committed to develop a Community Workers Handbook as the final output of this project by end of 2016. The purpose of preparing the handbook is to support the work of local organisations who work directly with community workers. GAATW believes that working with women before they have made their migration decision is an essential step to facilitate women's empowerment, regardless of their migration status and decision. With a view to adding more value to the on-going work of community workers and NGO support groups, it is our hope that this handbook will be a useful guide in bringing significant change in working with women at the pre-decision stage of migration.

This Handbook provides information for community workers engaged in outreach and awareness raising programmes on the issues of women's migration and human trafficking. It will be most useful for NGOs and community workers in that it provides what their roles can be in creating space for women in making informed decisions towards migration. It prepares community workers to communicate effectively on the concept of women's migration and an overview on the rights of victims/abused migrants based on the international legal frameworks; how they are able to build a trusting environment and relationships with women; the essential skills needed for community work; best practice case studies; overcoming pitfalls and challenges; documenting women's stories; and useful resources for further information.

During 2016, a draft community worker's handbook was developed and shared with partners in Nepal in 24-26th October 2016. Based on the inputs from partners, the handbook was revisited and revised.

**A Civil Society and Government Consultation** in Nepal on the proposed Ban on Migrating Domestic Workers from Nepal to the GCC countries. Nepal has issued numerous restrictions on the migration of women for work over the past twenty years, since the first legislation creating the foreign employment system was passed (the Foreign Employment Act 1985). For example, women were not able to migrate without the written approval of a responsible male figure, such as a father or husband. These restrictions were imposed with the intention of protecting women from what was perceived to be dangerous and exploitative working conditions abroad, especially for domestic workers. In August 2012, however, the government reinstated a partial ban on migration to the Gulf to undertake domestic work for all women under 30. GAATW joined the efforts of its member organisation WOREC to advocate with government for the rights of migrant workers.

**Policy analysis:** GAATW also conducted a preliminary analysis of laws and policies around migration and trafficking in the 3 South Asian Countries such as India, Bangladesh and Nepal. During this period GAATW-IS also got an opportunity to participate in two key meetings organized by ILO, a multi-stakeholders meeting and an interaction with trade unions in India and an inter-regional learning forum in Madagascar. As part of the preparation for the next phase, GAATW-IS team also visited some of the India partners to do a learning need assessment in September 2016.

## **CHALLENGES**

GAATW-IS gave a lot of time to partners in Bangladesh and India and tried to tailor the trainings to the specific needs of the local partners. Still, embedding concepts like empowerment into the work of partners, many of whom are new to women's rights work has proved challenging. Although partners recognise information as a tool for safe migration and empowerment, but lack critical

reflection on the relevance and need for empowerment of women. Our effort to push partners to act on ant-trafficking from rights perspective has not been easy too.

### **WAY FORWARD**

This project will be extended for another year and it will help us to see the real impact of this project. Since the start of the project period, a lot of effort went to enhancing the knowledge and learning of peer educators and social mobilisers on safe migration in some of the origin countries such as Bangladesh and Nepal, going back to revisit will be useful. Again, similar capacity building inputs to all partners in all countries is visualised, it will be very useful. GAATW will extend support to capture the learning from the complex multi-country and multi-year project, it will further lead to more collaborative opportunities and learning on the whole process of empowerment in women's decision making process for safe migration.

## **PARTICIPATORY LEARNING/TRAINING**

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The main objective of this IS function is to work with members and partners towards empowerment of women in the context of labour migration.

Training or participatory learning initiative is an integral part of the IS' work. Our projects in 2016, has training/participatory component which aimed to support knowledge and skills building for members and partners engaged in projects. Access to Justice programme also provided some training support to members and partners on how to analyse and document cases. In addition, we started a new initiative in 2016 to sensitise media personnel from India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka on writing and reporting on issues of trafficking and migration from a feminist perspective.

### **SUPPORTING, CONNECTING, ENGAGING WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ASIA**

In 2016, GAATW-IS played a steering role for a learning initiative with 12 members and partners from five countries in Asia (India, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand and the Philippines), which has a collaborative research focus. While our practitioner members and partners provided input based on their work experience, the IS developed three working papers focusing on Reintegration, Access to Justice and Voice and Participation.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2016**

- Conducted a joint workshop in India with community workers and migrant rights organisations to promote a rights based perspective with migrating women
- Learning initiative with 12 members and partner in 5 countries in Asia
- Development of briefing papers on Reintegration, Access to Justice and Voices & Participation
- Facilitated a focus group discussion with Bangladeshi domestic workers in Lebanon

# COMMUNICATIONS, RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

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GAATW as a think tank organisation believed on evidence based advocacy and wants to bring the voices of women from the ground. In 2016, GAATW has taken up a multi-country research to understand the challenges As part of this process, GAATW has taken up the following research.

## **ANTI-TRAFFICKING REVIEW IN 2016**

### No 6 (2016): Special Issue—Prosecuting Human Trafficking

**Guest Editor:** Anne T Gallagher

Prosecuting human trafficking is widely viewed as one of the main pillars of an effective national response to trafficking. But worldwide, the number of prosecutions for trafficking and related exploitation remains stubbornly low, especially when compared to the generally accepted size of the problem. Very few traffickers are ever brought to justice and the criminal justice system rarely operates to benefit those who have been trafficked.

Issue 6 of the *Anti-Trafficking Review* analyses human trafficking prosecutions in different regions of the world and from a range of different perspectives. With five themed articles focusing on Russia, the United States, the Balkans and Western Europe, the issue provides important insights into the practical and policy issues surrounding human trafficking prosecutions.

### No 7 (2016): Special Issue—Trafficking Representations

**Guest Editors:** Rutvica Andrijasevic and Nicola Mai

Representations of human trafficking, forced labour and ‘modern slavery’ are pervasive within media, policymaking, and humanitarian interventions and campaigns. This issue of the *Anti-Trafficking Review* explores the ways in which some representations erase the complexity in the life trajectories of people who have experienced trafficking, as well as those who are migrants, women, sex workers and others labelled as victims or ‘at-risk’ of trafficking.

Contributions in this issue examine visual material and narratives through which trafficking and its victims are represented in film, TV, newspapers and public discourse. The articles investigate representations in Australia, Cambodia, Nigeria, Serbia, Denmark, UK, and USA. Ultimately, this special issue highlights the fact that stereotypical trafficking representations conveniently distract the global public from their increasing and shared day-to-day exploitability as workers because of the systematic erosion of labour rights globally. Crucially, the issue also discusses positive alternatives and how to represent trafficking differently.

## **SEX WORKERS ORGANIZING AND ANTI-TRAFFICKING WORK**

Organizing is seen as an empowering strategy for all workers and human rights activists always stand in solidarity with organized workers. Because some people (who include activists, policy makers and donors) do not accept sex work as work, they refuse to recognize how organized sex workers have been trying to address abuse and exploitation (including trafficking) within the sex industry as well as the discrimination and injustice which they face outside their workspace. As such, organized sex workers do not receive the same degree of support and solidarity from feminists and/or human rights activists who are concerned about trafficking and often conflate sex worker organizing with strengthening the potential for trafficking. This blindness affects the sex workers’ community in very concrete ways. They do not receive adequate financial support and their efforts to realize their rights as human beings and as workers are often met with limited success. Many human rights and feminist activists suspect that sex workers rights groups are likely operating under ‘false



consciousness’ or as the mouthpiece of ‘brothel owners’. Sex worker organizations often face hostility from some mainstream feminists who therefore tend to not include sex worker rights in their broader activism for gender justice and labor rights.

Using feminist participatory action research methodology, this project aims to document how organizing, on one hand, has enabled sex workers groups to address the discrimination and stigma they face in society and additionally, deal with trafficking situations or elements of trafficking which some of their peers experience. The research will take place in seven countries across different world regions: Canada, Mexico, Spain, South Africa, India, Thailand and New Zealand.

With a view to educate the anti-trafficking community, the primary aim of this research is to document whether and how sex worker organizations respond to protect the rights of persons who: are trafficked into sex work and do not want to continue in sex work; are trafficked into sex work and do want to continue in sex work (including activities related to increasing their livelihood options as relevant); are below 18 years and are engaged in sex work.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK**

1. Creation of a Communications and Advocacy Unit within the International Secretariat and setting up of a Communication and Advocacy Advisory Committee
2. New IS structure in place after a long process of recruitment involving the Board and senior IS staff members.
3. Renewal of membership commitments amongst the member organisations
4. GAATW has worked in collaboration with media staff from South Asia to promote rights-based reporting and changing of the discourse around women’s labour migration in South Asia. Here is a collection of new articles produced through this initiative:  
<http://www.gaatw.org/events-and-news/68-gaatw-news/867-women-agents-of-change-or-victims-of-abuse-reporting-women-s-labour-migration>
5. GAATW’s statements on International Women’s Day (<http://www.gaatw.org/events-and-news/68-gaatw-news/837-migration-bans-do-not-protect-the-rights-of-women-only-push-them-into-taking-more-risky-options>) and International Migrants’ Day (<http://www.gaatw.org/events-and-news/68-gaatw-news/863-solidarity-across-borders-and-movements-on-international-migrants-day>) in 2016.
6. Published and launched two issues of the Anti-Trafficking Review: Prosecuting Human Trafficking (<http://www.antitraffickingreview.org/index.php/atrjournal/issue/view/14>) and Trafficking Representations (<http://www.antitraffickingreview.org/index.php/atrjournal/issue/view/15>)
7. Developed a GAATW communications and advocacy strategy

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2016**

Initial preparatory thinking around this research began in 2015. Between September and November, GAATW-IS contacted sex workers organizations in the selected countries to get their feedback on the planned research and to make sure they too see value in it and are ready to cooperate. We were pleased that all contacted organizations indeed thought that such a research is necessary and would be beneficial to them.

Between September and November, IS prepared terms of reference and selected the people who would conduct the country-level researches. In December we organized a workshop to refine and deliver the research methodology and the actual field work started in January 2017.

Following up the initial preparation, in 2016 GAAT-IS completed the preparatory work for the research. We selected a lead researcher, who will be the main responsible person to provide guidance to the national-level researchers, oversee the research and prepare the final report.

Together with our research advisors and the lead researcher, we held a workshop in August to develop the methodology that would guide the research. We formulated more clearly the aims of the research and the research questions and the type of respondents from each organization. Further, we defined the timeline of the research, the rough structure of the final report and considered some follow-up actions.

Apart from its intended aim to demonstrate that sex workers organizations are legitimate anti-trafficking stakeholders, this project has allowed GAATW to reconnect with sex workers organizations and reconfirm our unwavering support for the rights of sex workers. GAATW's position on sex work has always been clear but in the past few years our project work had focused more on migrant women in the domestic work sector. We hope that this research will again position GAATW as an important ally of sex workers.

### **WAY FORWARD**

In 2017, after completion of the field work, we will meet with the national researchers and our advisors to analyze the data and structure the final report, which will be published by September. Then GAATW and the organizations taking part in the research will publicize the research through different online and printed materials and events, in order to educate the anti-trafficking community and donors of the important work that sex workers organizations are doing to prevent and address exploitation, including trafficking, in the sex industry.

# GAATW FINANCE REPORT 2016

GAATW Finance Report 2016		
Currency: Thai Baht (THB)		
Budget line	Budget 2016	Actual Expense Jan-Dec 2016
<b>International Secretariat</b>		
<b>International Secretariat</b>		
International Secretariat Governance, Guidance, Networking, Support to MOs	11,557,300	9,825,009
Governance and Guidance	280,000	413,518
<b>Total International Secretariat</b>	<b>11,837,300</b>	<b>10,238,527</b>
<b>1. Accountability</b>		
Participatory Monitoring of Anti Trafficking Initiatives (3 LAC Countries)	2,756,000	2,071,553
Advocacy	2,402,000	2,380,004
<b>Total Accountability</b>	<b>5,158,000</b>	<b>4,451,557</b>
<b>2. Access to Justice</b>		
The SAME A2J	4,890,200	1,999,517
A2J for Cambodian Migrant Workers in Thailand	2,052,000	1,616,417
<b>Total Access to Justice</b>	<b>6,942,200</b>	<b>3,615,934</b>
<b>3. Participatory Learning (Training Programme for MOs and Partners)</b>		
Stipend for Media Personnel and Case Documentation Workshop	1,182,200	920,804
Feminist Participatory Action Research Workshops	1,711,600	1,511,906
<b>Total Participatory Learning</b>	<b>2,893,800</b>	<b>2,432,710</b>
<b>4. Power in Migration and Work</b>		
Power in Migration and Work (Work in Freedom)	1,108,300	892,368
Power in Migration and Work (Interstate Migration in India)	381,200	373,821
<b>Total Power in Migration and Work</b>	<b>1,489,500</b>	<b>1,266,189</b>
<b>5. Core Tasks of the IS</b>		

Communications	237,400	134,680
Research	1,619,000	1,077,557
<b>Total Core Tasks of the IS</b>	<b>1,856,400</b>	<b>1,212,237</b>
<b>Subtotal IS, I-V</b>	<b>30,177,200</b>	<b>23,217,154</b>
Miscellaneous (3%)	905,316	2,064
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>31,082,516</b>	<b>23,219,218</b>

# 2016 PHOTO GALLERY





# ABOUT GAATW

GAATW's mission is to ensure that the human rights of all migrating women are respected and protected by authorities and agencies.

GAATW promotes rights of women migrant workers and trafficked persons and believes that ensuring safe migration and fair work places should be at the core of all anti-trafficking efforts. We advocate for living and working conditions that provide women with more alternatives in their countries of origin, and to develop and share information to women about migration, working conditions and their rights.

GAATW advocates for the incorporation of Human Rights Standards in all anti-trafficking initiatives, including in the implementation of the Trafficking Protocol, Supplementary to the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (2000).

GAATW strives to promote and share good practices of anti-trafficking initiatives but also to critique practices and policies that are having a negative impact or are causing harm to trafficked persons, migrants, and other communities.

GAATW supports the self-organisation of women in vulnerable and marginalised situations, especially migrant workers in the informal sector and aims to strengthen their efforts of self-representation and advocacy.

GAATW's mandate focuses on migration, labour and human trafficking with a special emphasis on women. GAATW International Secretariat (IS) works in conjunction with its member and partner organisations and aims to plan and implement the strategic agenda of the Alliance in a democratic manner, centring the rights of all migrating people.

## GAATW STRUCTURE



GAATW has a simple structure comprising four bodies: the Board, the Membership, the International Secretariat, and various Voluntary Temporary Bodies that are set up as per need.

### GAATW Member Organisations

In 2016, GAATW-IS welcomed two new Member Organisations to the Alliance, Srijan Foundation, India and FLEX, United Kingdom.

At the end of 2016, the Alliance is comprised of 81 Member Organisations from Africa (4), Asia (35), Europe (24), and the Americas (18).

### **Working Group/ Advisory Group**

From 2004 to 2010, GAATW had Working Groups (WGs) as temporary units formed by representatives from GAATW's Member Organisations, International Board and International Secretariat. Working Groups supported GAATW-IS by strengthening the organisational structure of the Alliance and its programme direction.

In early 2016, two advisory groups officially started their functions to provide guidance to the IS team in implementing the next three-year plan of the Alliance. The Advisory Group members provide support on Research, and Communications and Advocacy.

The Communications and Advocacy Advisory Group (CAAG) of GAATW-IS comprises a group of individuals with expertise in the area of communications and advocacy with a special focus on women's rights, labour migration and human trafficking. Currently CAAG has five members; Dr Annalee Lepp, Dr Savi Bisnath, Ms Evelyn Probst, Ms Andrea Querol and Ms Elaine Pearson. Ms Leah Sullivan, the Programme Officer on Communications and Advocacy represents the GAATW-IS and serves as Secretary to the CAAG in 2016.

The Research Advisory Group (RAG) provides independent expert advice to GAATW-IS on identifying and prioritising research topics. Its input helps to enhance the quality of both the research methodology and analysis of findings. The RAG has three members; Dr Annalee Lepp, Dr Jyoti Sanghera and Dr Savi Bisnath. Mr Borislav Gerasimov, Programme Officer – Communications and Advocacy serves as Secretary to the RAG in 2016.

**The Editorial Committee for the Anti-Trafficking Review**, the Committee comprises the following people:

1. Rutvica Andrijasevic University of Leicester, UK
2. Jacqueline Bhabha, Harvard Law School, USA
3. Xiang Biao, Oxford University, UK
4. Luciana Campello, Independent consultant, Brazil
5. Mike Dottridge, Independent consultant, UK
6. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, Nigeria
7. Anne Gallagher, Independent scholar and legal advisor, Australia
8. John Gee, Transient Workers Count Too, Singapore
9. Suzanne Hoff, International Coordinator, La Strada International
10. Kristiina Kangaspunta, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Austria
11. Kamala Kempadoo, York University, Canada
12. Sverre Molland, The Australian National University, Australia
13. Marina Novaes, Centro de Apoio ao Migrante de São Paulo, Brazil
14. Pia Oberoi, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Switzerland
15. Julia O'Connell Davidson, University of Nottingham, UK
16. Elaine Pearson, Human Rights Watch, USA
17. Nicola Piper, University of Sydney, Australia
18. Jackie Pollock, ILO, Myanmar
19. Nivedita Prasad, Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences, Germany
20. Caroline Robinson, Focus on Labour Exploitation, UK
21. Jyoti Sanghera, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Switzerland
22. Marie Segrave, Monash University, Australia
23. Sallie Yea, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
24. Cathy Zimmerman, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom

### **The International Board**



The incumbent board of GAATW invited 4 new Bangkok based Board Members in late 2016. The current International Board has the following Members:

#### **Ex-Co Members**

1. Manassanan Pongnorrawish, Thailand – Chair
2. Thipsuda (Ching) Taweesaengsuksakul, Thailand – Vice Chair and Treasurer
3. Supang Chantavanich, Thailand– Secretary
4. Ms Bandana Pattanaik (Member representing the IS)
5. Dr Ratchada Jayagupta, Thailand – Representative (Nomination accepted. To start from January 2017)
6. Lieutenant Colonel Wanchana Sawasdee, Thailand – Representative (Nomination accepted. To start from January 2017)
7. Dr Rosalia Sciortino - Representative (Nomination accepted. To start from January 2017)
8. Ms Komolthip Payakwichian Representative (Nomination accepted. To start from January 2017)

#### **Regional Representatives**

9. Evelyn Probst, Austria – Representative of Membership in Europe
10. Andrea Querol, Peru – Representative of Membership in Latin America
11. Renu Rajbhandari -- Representative of Membership in Asia

#### **Individual Experts**

12. Annalee Lepp
13. Elaine Pearson
14. Victoria Nwogu

#### **The International Secretariat in 2016**

1. Bandana Pattanaik, International Coordinator
2. Gitanjali Jena, Programme Coordinator
3. Alfie Gordo, Finance and Admin Manager
4. Amy Testa, Programme Officer, Access to Justice (Completed contract at end of December 2016)
5. Apivart (Nong) Chaison, Finance and Administrative Officer
6. Borislav Gerasimov, Communications and Advocacy Officer
7. Chus Álvarez, Programme Officer for LAC Region
8. Leah Sullivan, Communications and Advocacy Officer
9. Maitreyi Gupta, Programme Officer, South Asia
10. Naetima (Mui) Kosolsaksakul, Accountant (part time)
11. Storm Tiv, Programme Officer, South East Asia



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