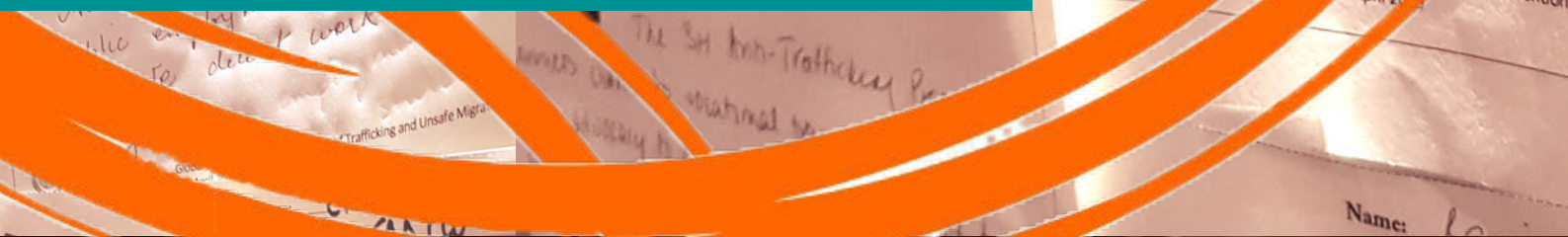


ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women



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FOREWORD

The year 2019 was an important year for GAATW-IS for two main reasons. It was GAATW's 25th Anniversary year, a year to celebrate and reflect on the Alliance's journey. The year was also significant because following up on our consultations with members and partners and our internal discussions at the International Secretariat and with members of our international board, we developed a new Theory of Change and a strategic plan for the next ten years.



GAATW-IS had prepared multi-annual strategic plans before, in consultation with the Collective of Active Members, with the members of our International Board and with Members through consultations and Members Congresses. This was the first time that we followed up consultations with members and internal discussions with an intensive workshop facilitated by an external consultant. We are grateful to Srilatha Batliwala for facilitating the workshop and helping us to develop our ToC and Strategic Plan for 2020-2030. We are in the process of developing programmes and projects in harmony with the ToC.

Perhaps not surprisingly, our new Strategic Plan is not entirely new. Over the last several years, we have been moving towards closer engagement with the world of work and development paradigms. Several of our projects in the last few years have focussed on specific sectors where women work. Building up on our core belief in the transformative potential of organising, we have focussed on workers organising. Finally, over the last couple of years we have proactively tried to create spaces for inter movement dialogues and tried to support feminist movements for rights and justice. The coming years will sharpen those engagements and interactions. Our ToC will be periodically reviewed and all our programmes and projects will be evaluated. We will endeavour to incorporate our learnings and insights into our on-going work.

This Annual Report has been organised under functional headings such as Research, Advocacy, Communications and Alliance Strengthening and Movement Support. Those have always been the core functions of GAATW Secretariat. A brief section on Organisational Development and a summary of the Financial Report are also included in this report.

Bandana Pattanaik
International Coordinator

RESEARCH

In 2019 GAATW-IS completed four different pieces of research to document the experiences of migrant women with violence, harassment and exploitation in the workplace. In total, 32 partner organisations from 23 countries took part in the research. Geographically, these covered Southeast Asia (internal and intra-regional migration as well as to East and West Asia), South Asia (internal and to West Asia), Africa (to West Asia) and Latin America (intra-regional). The sectors of work explored were domestic work and garment, and, to a lesser extent, entertainment and hospitality. The GAATW-IS provided financial, conceptual and methodological support to the partners by organising workshops to develop the data collection methodology and analyse the findings, as well as plan common advocacy.

Although the four researches were conceptualised and executed as distinct projects, the findings showed striking similarities in women's experiences. The vast majority had migrated because of a lack of work opportunities and inaccessible or unaffordable public services such as healthcare and childcare. In the workplace, most were subjected to poverty wages and poor working conditions, as well as physical, psychological and sexual violence. Among those who returned, many struggled with the same lack of economic opportunities that prompted their migration, as well as stigma in the community. The findings showed clearly that the violence that migrant women experience cannot be separated from poor economic development and shrinking state, patriarchal social norms and restrictive migration policies.

Poverty, underemployment, and low wages were the first and foremost factors cited as women's reasons to migrate. One of the Ugandan respondents was a graduate and a secondary school teacher who earned UGX 200,000 (USD 54) a month but even that salary that was not paid on time. When the opportunity to earn 700 Riyal (USD 187) per month as a domestic worker in Saudi Arabia came, it was attractive enough to quit her teaching job.

While men also face shrinking opportunities for education and decent work, the gendered division



of unpaid labour and the demand for women's care work globally have resulted in this feminisation of migration. It also seems that women are increasingly expected to take up the main breadwinner role in families, and to migrate for work in order to fulfil this role. In many cases, women were expected to pay family debts, take care of the household expenses and compensate for **failing public services** by covering health costs and the education of children. One Bangladeshi domestic worker said "I was the only person covering the expenses for my mother's treatment. It became impossible for me to keep up with the treatment costs along with other family expenses, so I went to Lebanon." Colleagues in India noted that "for many women, the responsibility of providing for their children's education and family support was seen as being their burden alone because their husbands/fathers take very little responsibility in this regard".

Domestic violence by husbands and in-laws was another determining factor in the decision to migrate, especially in South Asia. One Bangladeshi woman said "My husband, mother-in law and sister-in-law beat me regularly and didn't even think to take me to the hospital. Then my parents told me to go abroad which would at least keep me alive." A Nepali woman said "I faced domestic violence from my drunkard husband. When it was unbearable we got divorced and I went to Saudi Arabia."

At the workplace, most women reported **long working hours, physical, psychological and sexual abuse, lack of freedom of movement, non-payment or under-payment of wages** and other rights violations. One domestic worker in Argentina said, "My employer explained to me by beating me; she pinched me, she hit me on the head, but I had to put up with it." Many African and Asian domestic workers in West Asia had to work between 16 and 20 hours a day, including in the houses of their employers' families and friends. Indonesian domestic workers returnees from Taiwan and Arab countries shared that they were not allowed to take a one day off per week. They also had to work overtime without





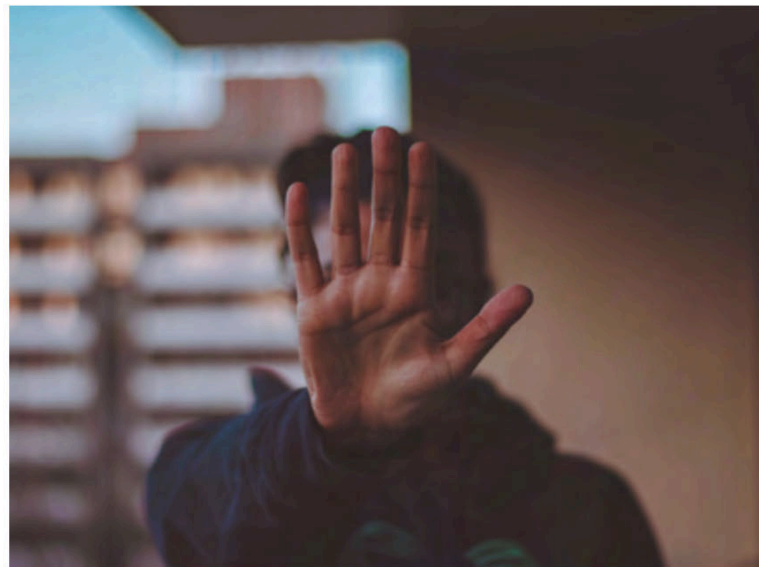
additional compensation. A Bangladeshi garment worker said “We used to work for long hours but never received any overtime payment. In Bangladesh, the authorities told me our working hours will be from 8 am to 5 pm. However, we had to work from 7 am to 11 pm. In addition, my salary was 11,000 taka which was five thousand taka less than what I was promised”. Piece-rate payment in garment factories was common, leading to exploitative wages. A Burmese garment worker in Thailand said “As piece-rate paid workers, we work really hard to finish more products.... but the manager will try to find mistakes on the products so that he can pay less. So whether we do more or less work, we are treated unfairly.” Workers in Brazil said that due to piece-rate payment, they had to work 18-hour days in order to make just enough money to survive - an amount still only two thirds of the national minimum wage.

It also became clear that the **undervaluation of the work that women do** in the house leads to their unequal treatment and lower wages in paid employment, potentially bordering on exploitation. Unequal wages and workloads between men and women were common. Employers were said to extract more work from women, because they feel they can put more pressure on them without resistance. One Burmese woman working in a garment factory in Thailand said, “In the factory, even if I am a woman, I always have to carry a pile of garments and move them from place to place. It requires strength. Still, we, as women, can do it. But the employers think only male workers can do things that require strength and pay them higher”. A Bolivian garment worker in Brazil said “They pay more to men than to women, for the same piece produced. When we challenge it, they say that men work better, because they do not have to stop that much to go to the bathroom or to look after children. But that is not true because the payment is per piece made. If I made 10 shirts and a man made 10 shirts, why does he get 55 cents and I get 50? It makes no sense!” A garment worker in Guatemala was painfully aware that this is the result of deep-seated social stereotypes and gender discrimination: “In our homes, it is thought that women have to do everything and receive less payment, and because they teach you that at home, then you think it is normal and you validate it.”

Many of the women reported **discrimination on the basis of race and nationality**. Bangladeshi garment workers in Jordan told us that their employers would say “Bangladeshis are cheap! If I send back one, I can get back ten!” A domestic worker in

Colombia recalled: “The lady would always say ‘*negra* [black], come here’, ‘*negra* do this’... that was very annoying for me because I am black, but I know when I am called *negra* affectionately and when not. I am Maria and that's what I like to be called”. A Tanzanian domestic worker in West Asia said the children of her employer would refuse to be served by her because of her darker skin.

Most women did not report their exploitative working conditions to the authorities due to fears of losing their jobs, being detained and deported, or simply not being believed. **Institutional violence** was evident in many of their stories. One Bangladeshi woman said “I called [the Embassy] to tell them about my abuse and I was shocked. They started shouting at me and told me to stay and work in the same house otherwise they will send me back after getting their damage money.” Many of the Filipina domestic workers in Kuwait who had stayed in the Embassy shelter had suffered from rape or physical abuse. Street vendors in Argentina reported physical and verbal abuse, and removal of their merchandise by the police. One woman said “Selling as a street vendor is a very difficult job. I see many colleagues whose things are taken away. How can you report, what can you do? They have the gun in their hands.” Sex workers in Mexico reported threats, gang rape, false accusations and extortion by the police: “They ask us 200 pesos a day to let us work. When we don't pay, they take us in custody or they steal money from the client they find us with.”



The summary reports and country reports of the four researches are available on our website:

- [Reclaiming Migrant Women's Narratives: A Feminist Participatory Action Research project on 'Safe and Fair' Migration in Asia](#)
- [Learning from the Lived Experiences of Women Migrant Workers](#)
- ['A Job at Any Cost': Experiences of African Women Migrant Domestic Workers in the Middle East](#)
- [What a Way to Make a Living: Violence and harassment faced by women migrant workers in Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico](#)

Follow-up and Impact

The violence and exploitation women migrant workers experience are perpetrated by individual (mostly, but not only, male) employers, brokers or family members, or by actors of the State. However, it became clear that they are enabled and sustained by patriarchal, sexist and xenophobic social attitudes, unjust labour migration regimes, and neoliberal economic policies that disempower workers and empower employers and corporations. It is important for human rights advocates to focus not only on the individual exploiters but also to question, challenge, and seek to transform these larger global forces.

Therefore, we supported the research partners to organise activities and events to share the research findings in the way they saw fit, for example, among the research participants, with policy makers, or the media. Some of these actions included: In Indonesia, LRC-KJHAM produced a [20-minute video](#) where returnee migrant domestic workers speak about their experiences, organised a public dialogue with migrant rights organisations and policy makers, and supported the self-organisation of the returnee migrants in the village where they conducted the research. In Thailand, MAP Foundation published a [booklet](#) for Burmese garment workers outlining their basic labour rights, and produced a [short video](#) about their lives. In Lebanon, Anti-Racism Movement organised a screening of 'Shouting without a Listener', a film about the injustices that migrant domestic workers in



the country face because of the *kafala* system. In India, SEWA produced a [30-minute video titled “Before the Flight”](#) to highlight the experiences of migrant domestic workers at home and abroad, and held a number of meetings with the local government of Kerala. In Bangladesh, Karmojibi Nari and OKUP organised several events with the media and policy-makers to draw attention to the need for better migration policies in Bangladesh and in the destination countries. The events were covered by the [Financial Express](#) and [New Age BD](#). In Uganda, HTS-Union presented the research findings at a [press conference](#) in Kampala, while KUDHEIHA in Kenya organised meetings in Nairobi and Mombasa to share the research among NGOs. In Brazil, IBISS organised a [public event](#) on to present the research findings during the 16 days of activism to end gender-based violence.

At the international level, GAATW organised a parallel event at the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York together with partners from Bangladesh, Jordan and Indonesia. In April, we organised a Global Consultation on Prevention of Trafficking and Unsafe Migration with 30 NGOs members and partners of GAATW where research partners shared some of the findings. In June, ahead of the 108th session of the International Labour Conference, we prepared a brief report based on these findings, [Demanding Justice: Women Migrant Workers Fighting Gender-Based Violence](#). In December, we presented the findings from Bangladesh, Lebanon and Kenya at a meeting to inform the development by CEDAW of a general recommendation on trafficking (see more about all these below).

ADVOCACY

In 2019, our international advocacy was primarily focused on the development of a CEDAW General Recommendation on Trafficking in Women and Girls in the Context of Global Migration and the adoption of the ILO Convention 190 on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work.

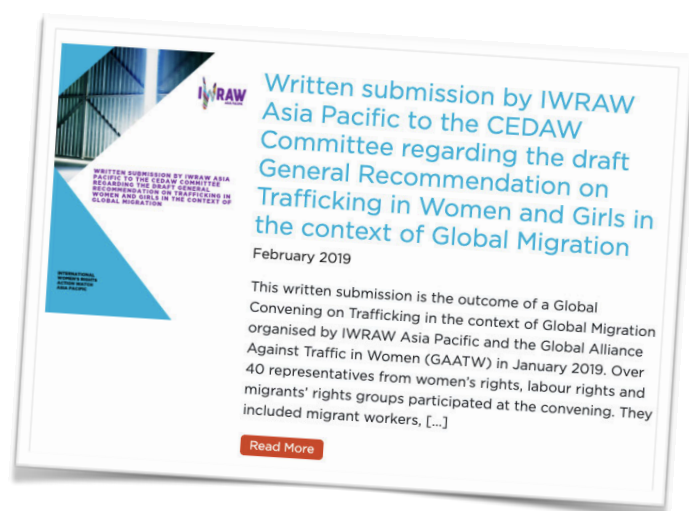


CEDAW General Recommendation on Trafficking

At the end of 2018, the CEDAW Committee began developing a new General Recommendation on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration. GAATW engaged with the draft GR in several ways and in close cooperation with our partners from the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP-AP). In January 2019, we co-hosted, together with IWRAP-AP, a global civil society consultation on trafficking in the context of global migration in Bangkok. Participants included around 40 representatives of women's rights, migrant rights, sex worker rights, and anti-trafficking NGOs, independent experts, UN Special Rapporteurs, and four Committee members. We were concerned that the concept note of the GR placed disproportionate focus on addressing human trafficking from a criminal justice perspective, rather than as a socio-economic issue to be addressed from a women's rights, labour rights and social justice perspective. The aim of the consultation was to highlight these approaches to the CEDAW committee and we had some success.

In February we made a [written submission](#) to the CEDAW Committee, and contributed to the submissions of the Sex Worker Inclusive Feminist Alliance, and IWRAP-AP. After that, we took part in a half-day general discussion on the proposed GR, where we made an [oral intervention](#).

In early December, IWRAP-AP, together with GAATW and FEMNET, organised a second Global Convening in Nairobi, Kenya, to provide additional input for the development of the draft GR. GAATW-IS participated actively by organising two sessions. The first focused on the experiences of women from South Asia and Africa migrating for domestic work to the Middle East and was based on our researches (see above). The speakers, from our members OKUP (Bangladesh) and WOREC (Nepal), project partner Amel Foundation (Lebanon) and independent consultant Nkirote Laiboni (Kenya), highlighted the root causes of this migration in the origin countries and the failings of the labour migration regimes in the destination countries, which are conducive to labour rights violations and human trafficking. Speakers agreed that in both origin and destination countries, the authorities lack the willingness and capacity to identify cases of trafficking or assist abused migrant and trafficked women. Therefore, we recommended that the CEDAW GR emphasise the role of restrictive migration policies in creating risks of trafficking and exploitation, and recommend to states that they be revised.



The second session brought into focus the links between women's work, public services and social protections, on the one hand, and distress migration, exploitation and trafficking, on the other. It was inspired by an Action Aid-led [campaign](#) on women's work,



public services and social protections where GAATW is a partner. The speakers - Wangari Kinoti from Action Aid, Felogene Anumo from AWID, and Lala Maty Sow from AND SOPEKKU - spoke about the persistent undervaluation of women's work, including unpaid care and domestic work, and the impact of underfunded and/or privatised public services and social protections, such as healthcare, education, child and elderly care, on women. Borislav Gerasimov from GAATW-IS linked these issues to trafficking and abuse of women migrant workers as evidenced by GAATW's research. We emphasised that the CEDAW GR should highlight these issues and recommend to states to recognise, value and redistribute unpaid care work, and ensure that public services and social protections, in particular, healthcare, child and elderly care, are affordable and accessible to all.

GAATW members Human Trafficking Legal Center (USA) and La Strada International (Netherlands/Europe) organised a session on access to justice and compensation for survivors of trafficking. They highlighted the numerous challenges that survivors experience when dealing with the criminal justice system and the multiple obstacles to

claiming compensation for their suffering. They made several specific recommendations on how states can improve access to justice and compensation that the GR should include.

At the time of writing this report, the CEDAW Committee has published the first draft of the GR and we are pleased that all the recommendations we made are reflected there. The first draft is a comprehensive document that, if adopted in its current (or slightly modified) version, will provide important opportunities for civil society to hold their governments accountable for protecting the rights of migrant and trafficked women.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

On the occasion of the 2019 International Women's Day (IWD) and in advance of the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), GAATW issued a statement [Public services and social protections key to migrant women's rights](#). We called upon states to bolster their efforts to stem human trafficking and to protect the rights of migrant and trafficked women by increasing investments into social protections and public services for these groups.

On the sidelines of CSW, we organised a parallel event, "Public services and social protection for women migrant workers", with a focus on the garment industry, in collaboration with the Indonesian National Human Rights Commission (NHRI) Komnas Perempuan. We also participated in another well-attended parallel event organised in collaboration with the Women in Migration Network, where we facilitated the attendance of three Bangladeshi delegates. During the event the delegates raised the need to find ways to make destination countries to provide social services to migrant workers.

Our partner delegates appreciated their participation at CSW, noting that it is an important platform to link up advocacy at the national level. They also acknowledged the importance of building collaborations with state delegations through early planning and communications ahead of CSW. As biggest learning outcomes, one of our delegates highlighted 'negotiation



of language editing for the final agreed document, as well as instant advocacy with the concerned governments'. Another felt emboldened and inspired by connecting with other activists, though she noted that the experience was overwhelming and understanding the various protocols, for instance around making interventions, required a lot of effort.

Whilst our presence and engagement with various stakeholders and partners at CSW was overall successful, we were disappointed to see the attempt by some states to undermine even the limited progress on migration governance made by the Global Compact on Migration by objecting to its direct reference in the outcome document. Furthermore, some States attempted to disregard their obligations under human rights law to migrants, urging States to commit to only "basic" service provision for migrants. While language on the portability of social security for migrants was included and is critical, it could have been made stronger with references to social protection floors and cooperation between countries of origin and destination.

On the other hand, we were buoyed by the inclusion of language recognising the need to protect the human rights of migrant women and girls "regardless of migration status", the inclusion of the recognition of the rights of migrant women and girls in the context of birth registration, and language that moved the conversation away from protectionist attitudes to migrant women to that which recognises their agency, autonomy and contributions. Many of the broader wins in the agreed conclusions are also wins for women migrants - the reference to a living wage for women working in delivery of public services, for example, and that women's access to social protection is often restricted when tied to formal employment is a critical win for many women migrant workers.

We welcomed language on trafficking that recognises trafficking as a consequence of structural factors including poverty, unemployment, lack of socio-economic opportunities, lack of social protection, pervasive gender inequality and violence, discrimination and marginalisation. We regretted, however, a continued focus on ending "demand" - an argument most frequently advanced by those seeking to criminalise clients of sex workers.



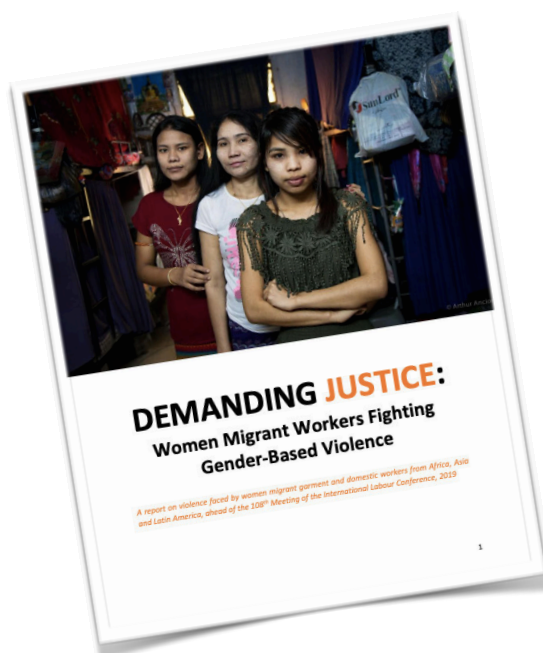
Follow up CSW63 Agreed Conclusions

Following our participation at CSW, GAATW along with five trade unions, and feminist, women's rights and social justice organisations issued a joint response, [Missing the mark on gender equality: Governments don't do enough to ensure womxn's rights to social protection and public services](#). Whilst acknowledging the significant gains achieved by the Commission at the 63rd session, the joint response called attention to the failure of governments in showing leadership and making commitments to centre gender equality and women's economic and social rights and pursue systemic changes required to deal with intersecting crises.

ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work

At the 108th session of the International Labour Conference in June, governments, trade unions and employers adopted [ILO Convention 190 on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work](#).

An instrument that aims to prevent violence and harassment in the world of work, and provide remedies for those who experience it, is more relevant to the majority of women (migrant) workers than the anti-trafficking framework. The women interviewed for our research (see above) may or may not have been *technically* trafficked – we did not ask because it was not the aim of our research to focus on the narrow and restrictive legal definition of trafficking. To our knowledge, most of the interviewees were not identified/labelled as trafficked. Furthermore, a lengthy, unwanted detention in a shelter, and a return to the country of origin, is sometimes all that the label “trafficked” can offer migrant women.



Recognising these complex realities, and the need to address human trafficking from a labour rights perspective, we began following the development of the ILO Convention already in 2018. In 2019, we continued strategising with members and partners, including in the trade union movement, such as the International Domestic Workers Federation and the Self-Employed Women's Association.

Shortly before the ILC we published a thematic report [Demanding Justice: Women Migrant Workers Fighting Gender-Based Violence](#) on gender-based violence against migrant domestic workers and garment workers. The

report drew on our research in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and hard copies were distributed to allies at the conference. In June, the GAATW advocacy officer and the Africa research coordinator attended the ILC; in addition, we supported a domestic worker rights activist and organiser from HTS-Union, Uganda to attend the Conference.

The Convention

We welcomed the adoption of C190 as the first ever international labour standard which addresses gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work, and which is inclusive in its scope. It reflects the reality that 65 per cent of the world's labour force, especially women workers in the Global South, are in the informal economy. We furthermore welcome the inclusion within the Convention of informal and formal workers, and acknowledging public and private spaces as potential sites of violence, and that violence can also occur on the way to and from workplaces.



Following the adoption of the Convention (C190) and Recommendation (R206) on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work, we co-signed a statement [Violence is not part of the Job! States must ratify and implement the Convention to end violence and harassment in the world of work](#) applauding the milestone that has been reached with this development. We noted the breadth and inclusive scope of the Convention and the Recommendation, called on states to ratify these instruments without delay and highlighted the need for employing a genuinely consultative approach as regards engagement with all workers and their organisations in the implementation efforts.

Beijing+25 Regional Review for Asia-Pacific

The Beijing+25 Asia-Pacific review meetings took place in Bangkok at the end of November with a formal inter-governmental meeting (IGM), preceded by a CSO Forum. We organised side events in both meetings, in partnership with APWLD and Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch (MAKAAM).

At the CSO Forum, our side event focused on “Addressing gender-based violence in the world of work: Experiences of Women Workers in the Informal Economy”. Workshop participants discussed how the current models of development have eroded community control and decision-making over traditional natural resources, forcing both men and women into distress migration. At the same time, informality has crept into formal work sectors so that decent work conditions no longer exist for most women workers, and the vulnerabilities faced by women in the informal sector are now experienced by those in the formal sector too. When reflecting on women’s experiences of resisting physical and economic violence, the group noted that ground-up, community-based organising is increasingly taking place across Asia where women are building feminist movements to fight displacement, dispossession, and GBV. Three key points from the side-event emerged:

- 1) If states are committed to reducing distress migration, women’s ownership and control over land, water, and commons need to be restored.
- 2) Reducing and redressing GBV against women should be seen as an essential public service where funding and investment is urgently required. GBV interventions in the world of work need to go beyond just physical working conditions. They also need to address women’s mental health, sexual and reproductive health rights, etc.
- 3) All workers, whether informal or formal, need to stand together and fight for choice and control over occupations and livelihoods, together on one platform. Building solidarity across movements is vital and we must move away from our “silo mentality”.

One of the key discussions was on the importance of feminist knowledge-building, and this theme carried over from the CSO Forum side event discussions into the IGM side event which was on “Building Feminist Movements, Achieving Accountability: FPAR”. Sharing their experiences of using Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR), civil society groups noted that feminist knowledge-building is occurring across different social movements and through the process of developing their feminist analyses, different groups of women workers are becoming more critical of the structural violence that they



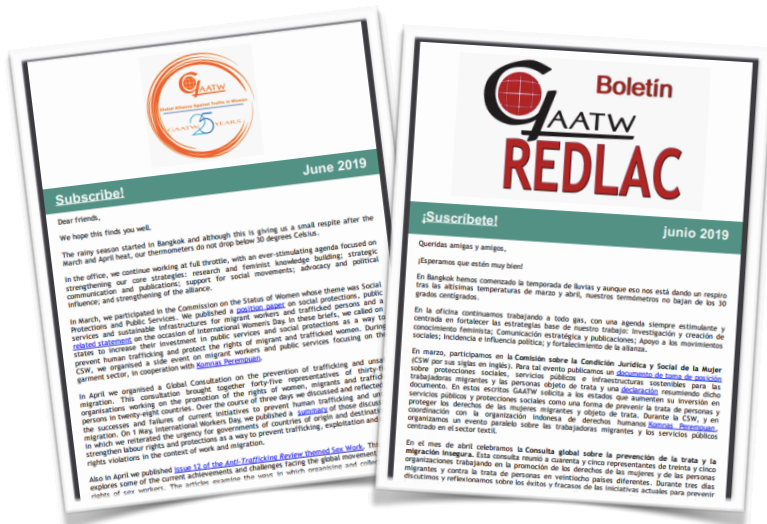
experience at home, at work and throughout their lives. Speaking at the IGM side event, Bandana Pattanaik, GAATW International Coordinator, shared how FPAR had helped the Alliance build its position on anti-trafficking: "GAATW has used it to understand the complexities behind what is often seen as something very simple; [FPAR] has enabled GAATW to understand trafficking from the perspective of those who are seen as trafficked".

COMMUNICATIONS

As the Secretariat of an international alliance, internal and external communication forms an integral part of our work. Throughout the year, we continued sharing information, news and commentaries related to our work with members, partners and the general public.

We continued updating our website and social media pages with information about our and our members' work, as well as with statements, news and events. Our social media presence, though relatively small, continued to grow. Although we continue posting content on social media, we may rethink its use at some point, given the increasing revelations about the role of social media in undermining democracy through the spread of misinformation, inciting of hatred and genocide, influencing of election outcomes and misuse of personal data.

We published three issues of the [GAATW e-Bulletin in English and three issues in Spanish](#). The e-Bulletins are the main tool to share synthesised information with members and partners, as well as specific resources that can be useful in their work. E-mail communication with members related to specific issues, events and strategies took place on an ongoing basis. In particular, the GAATW advocacy officer sent regular advocacy updates to the members throughout the year. Other communications to members presented synthesised version of UN and other relevant reports.



Throughout the year, we received numerous requests for expert opinion from journalists and researchers, as well as shared our research findings, positions and opinions in various media. The GAATW-Secretariat's work was mentioned in at least 30 articles in English and 10 in Spanish.

Anti-Trafficking Review

We continued publishing *Anti-Trafficking Review* – the first open access, peer reviewed journal that explores human trafficking in its broader context and intersections with migration, gender and labour.

We published two issues of the journal: [Special Issue-Sex Work](#) (No. 12, April 2019) and [Special Issue - Public Perceptions and Responses to Human Trafficking](#) (No. 13, September 2019). The Sex Work issue contains ten thematic articles, two short articles, one book review and the Editorial. Geographically, the articles cover Canada, Latin America and Caribbean, United States, France, South Africa, India, Thailand and the Philippines. Some of the articles highlighted the disastrous impacts of misguided anti-trafficking measures, such as brothel raids in India, the introduction of the “Swedish model” in France, and FOSTA-SESTA in the United States. However, what stood out most in this issue was the strength and resiliency of the sex worker rights movement: articles highlighted how, from Toronto to Cape Town, and from Quito to Manila, sex workers are organising to demand their rights, resist oppressive policies, and provide support to their peers. The strength of the movement is also, slowly but surely, leading to increased recognition and support from other progressive movements for rights and justice.

The screenshot shows an event page for FCCT Bangkok. On the left is a navigation menu with links: HOME, ABOUT US, FACILITIES, CALENDAR, CLUB NEWS, CONTACT US, RESTAURANT & BAR, and MEMBERSHIP. The main content area features a large image of a mural with the text "EL OJO DE LAS TRABAJADORAS SEXUALES COMO MUJERES" and a smaller inset image of a woman. Below the image is the event title: "Rights, Rescue and Resistance: Gains and challenges in the global sex worker rights movement". On the right side, event details are listed: DATE (Jun 27 2019), TIME (5:30 pm - 7:30 pm), COST (Free), and LOCATION (FCCT Clubhouse, Bangkok). At the bottom right, there is a "SHARE THIS EVENT" section with social media icons for Facebook, Google+, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

The Public Perceptions issue contains six thematic articles, one book review, and the Editorial. Geographically, the articles cover United States, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Hungary and Nigeria. Thematically, they focus on anti-trafficking awareness-raising campaigns, newspaper articles, public knowledge of trafficking, anti-trafficking apps, and corporate modern slavery statements. Ultimately, the analyses converge around one central issue: that popular information about human trafficking remains incomplete and, often, misleading regarding the nature of trafficking, its root causes and, consequently, its prevention. The failure to highlight these root causes removes the call for structural

reforms from the public imagination and shifts accountability and responsibility away from governments and towards individual consumers, employers and corporations.

We also began work on issue 14, themed “Technology, Anti-Trafficking, and Speculative Futures” and issue 15, themed “Everyday Abuse in the Global Economy”, which will be published in, respectively, April and September 2020.

In 2019, for the first time, the journal began receiving dedicated financial support through a new project. This allowed us to organise five small events to promote the journal and the research it published. Two of these took place in Bangkok, one in Berlin, one in Edinburgh, and one online.

The number of article views in 2019 was the highest ever, with almost 90,000 views - a huge jump from previous years. This testifies to the journal’s ability to publish high quality materials, as well as its recognition and popularity among both academics and advocates. The fact that articles are open access undoubtedly contributes to this popularity and we wrote a [blog post](#) on the occasion of Open Access Week reflecting on why open access, and equity in open knowledge, is essential for us as a feminist NGO alliance.

More importantly, the journal helped the academic career of some young researchers and shed light on under-researched topics. For example, the peer reviewer of the article [The Philippine Sex Workers Collective: Struggling to be heard, not saved](#) called it a “foundational article” as there is almost no scholarly material on the situation of sex workers in the Philippines. Similarly, the reviewer of the article [Latin American and Caribbean Sex Workers: Gains and challenges in the movement](#) pointed out the relative scarcity of such analyses of the history and nature of the sex worker movement in LAC in English. And the article [Debunking the Myth of ‘Super Bowl Sex Trafficking’: Media hype or evidenced-based coverage](#) was widely covered in US media towards the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020 when the myth of a potential increase of trafficking related to the Super Bowl resurfaced.

We published 12 journal articles as short, blog-style pieces on *Open Democracy*. We also produced [six videos](#) where authors speak about their articles - four from the Sex Work issue and two from the Public Perceptions issue.



ALLIANCE STRENGTHENING AND MOVEMENT SUPPORT

Human trafficking is closely connected to the issues of migration, labour, gender, and development. Therefore, GAATW-IS employs a strong intersectional and feminist analysis of the broader socioeconomic and political context, and how it affects women's mobility and their complex decision-making processes. As the Secretariat of an international network, we have a mandate to take steps to enhance the capacities of members and partners and to create spaces to reflect and analyse these complex issues and the interlinkages among them. We aim to do this through participatory learning initiatives which are followed by situation analysis and collaborative advocacy and in 2019 we organised three such initiatives.

A Focus on Prevention

In April, we organised a Global Consultation on Prevention of Trafficking and Unsafe Migration. Its aim was to stimulate reflection, mutual learning and exchange among members and partners of GAATW who work on prevention, awareness-raising and campaigning around human trafficking and safe migration. Forty-five representatives of 35 women's rights, migrant rights and anti-trafficking organisations from 28 countries convened in Bangkok to discuss the successes and failures of current initiatives in these areas.

We discussed how many anti-trafficking awareness-raising campaigns continue to use simplistic or stigmatising images and messages and practically aim to prevent women's migration, rather than trafficking. A colleague from the UK shared the futility of corporate



“modern slavery statements” (which companies in the UK with annual turnover above a certain amount are required to publish to outline what measures, *if any*, they take to prevent exploitation in their supply chains). In the UK, these have become a PR exercise and a fancy new way of pretending to do something about trafficking while doing nothing. Colleagues from Finland, Canada and Mexico elaborated on the harmful impacts of measures that criminalise clients of sex workers, or so-called “end demand” measures, which have not led to any decrease in trafficking but have reduced sex workers’ bargaining power. And colleagues from Nepal, Bangladesh and Indonesia reflected on the pre-departure trainings that their governments have instituted as part of their “safe migration” programmes. They shared that in many cases these trainings do not provide migrating women with any meaningful skills or knowledge.

There was strong agreement among participants that ultimately, trafficking and exploitation occur as a result of the power imbalance between the worker and the employer, which is often exacerbated by restrictive migration regimes. Colleagues from Singapore, Qatar and Lebanon, in particular, were adamant that no amount of information, awareness or knowledge on behalf of the migrant can rectify this power imbalance when her visa is tied to one employer. The overall consensus was that trafficking and exploitation can be best prevented by strengthened labour rights and improved working conditions. Therefore, as an outcome of the consultation, we published a statement on International Workers Day, [“Strengthening labour rights to prevent human trafficking and unsafe migration”](#).



Inter-Regional and Inter-Sectoral Learning

In July we held a collaborative meeting with the Arab Network for Migrant Rights in Amman, Jordan, with the aim of deepening of our relationship with the network and our partners in West Asia. Thirty activists, CSO representatives and trade unions from Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Bahrain, India, Bangladesh and Nepal met over three days to share knowledge and explore opportunities for collaboration and support on the protection of the rights of migrant workers between the two regions.

Looking into current social justice movements in South and West Asia, a number of common themes emerged: in South Asia, there is a re-emergence of protectionist policies towards women migrants as a response to narratives of female victimhood in the media. In



West Asia, there is a multi-layered fight for women's rights - both for local women, who are not equal under the law, and also for migrant women workers. Racism against black and brown migrant workers in the Arab region was noted by a number of speakers, though it was said that public awareness on racism, at least in Lebanon, has increased. Many noted serious challenges in access to healthcare for migrant workers.

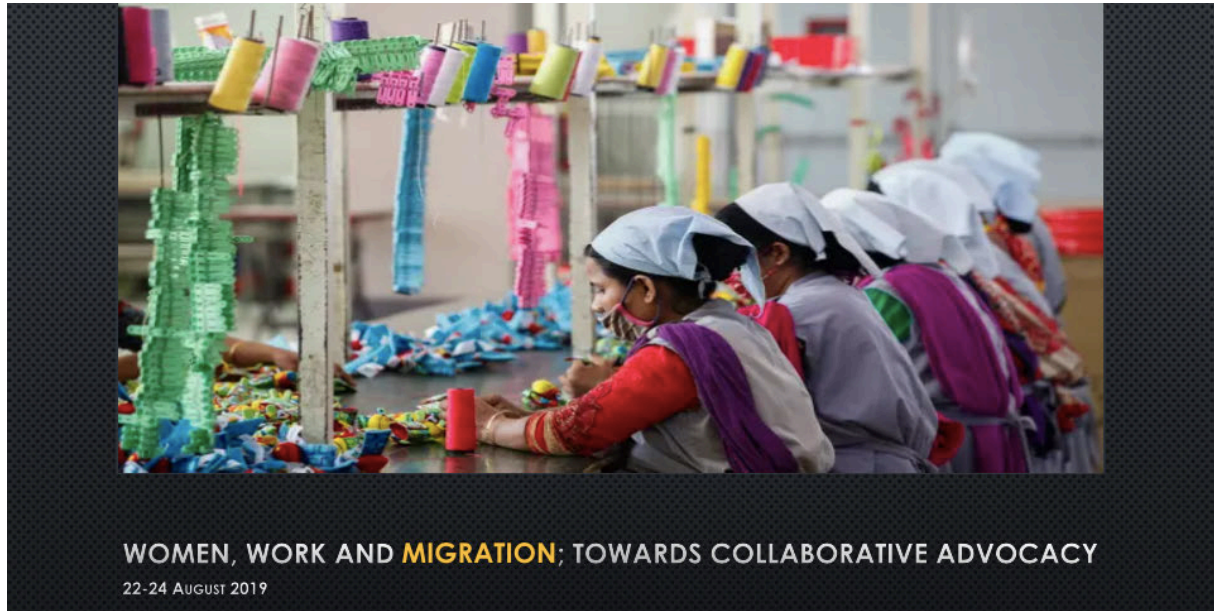
It was also an opportunity to share the learning from our research on "Safe and Fair Migration" among women migrant workers from India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Lebanon and representatives from OKUP, AMEL, ARM, AMKAS and SEWA presented the findings of their country researches. Besides action-oriented research, partners are using a range of strategies to protect migrants' rights, including protest and direct action, legal support, setting up workers and communities centres and shelters, holding pre-departure trainings and organising informal sector workers.

We also spent some time analysing and identifying strategies for social change at national level and identifying connections between organisations that could help support these changes. We hope that this will provide a basis from which to strengthen our work supporting policy change at national level. We also screened the documentary film "If She Built a Country" about tribal women in India resisting a coal mine operation on their lands and discussed it with film maker Maheen Mirza.

Addressing the Root Causes of Internal Migration in India – An inter-movement convening

In August we brought together 60 CSO activists, trade unionists and representatives of migrant rights, women's rights, worker rights and Dalit and Adivasi rights groups across India to think collectively about how a cross-sectoral movement could address the systemic issues faced by women migrant workers in the country.

The meeting, co-organised by GAATW, SEWA and MAKAAAM, looked holistically at the rights of women migrant workers by analysing the structural drivers of outmigration from the states of Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. These are states of origin for women internal migrant workers going into some of the sectors with the lowest pay and poorest working conditions, including domestic work, brick kiln work, garment work, construction work and sex work.



Our discussions drew a challenging overall picture for our movements in India today: a growing asymmetry of power between employers and workers, persistent patriarchal norms and attitudes, a political economy tilted in favour of the interests of big corporations over the rights of small-scale landowners and workers.

Importantly, we also thought about collective action. It was clear that the resistance to these troubling trends comes from marginalised women workers themselves. Organising through trade unions, in women farmers groups, and through use of progressive legislation were some of the key strategies identified. As one participant said, "Landless Dalit women labourers have changed the whole discourse of land acquisition."

It was emphasised that we need to look for local solutions, and to find ways to utilise our collective and distinctive identities to build our inter-sectoral, inter-movement advocacy. We need not only to look at the fact that people are migrating, but the underlying reasons why they are migrating, particularly at policies that are robbing people of their livelihoods.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2019 was an important milestone for GAATW as it marked 25 years since the Alliance was formed. The limited unrestricted funding did not allow us to celebrate by bringing all Alliance members together, as we had done to mark previous anniversaries. However, it allowed us to formulate a new Theory of Change and to organise a celebration to share it with a small number of member organisations and Board Members.

Theory of Change

In January, the International Secretariat held a three-day workshop in Bangkok to outline our Theory of Change for the next ten years with the support of international social activist and women's rights scholar Srilatha Batliwala. This was the culmination of a two-year process, which involved an external organisational assessment of the Alliance in 2017, and regional consultations with members and partners held in 2018.



Following from a situational analysis of the global socio-economic and political context, which impacts the lives of migrant and trafficked women, as well as the specific challenges that GAATW and its members face, we decided that in the next ten years, GAATW will work towards the following broad objectives: 1) challenge and change the dominant understanding of trafficking from a crime control framework, to one that acknowledges it as a result of global economic trends, gender inequality and the weakening of labour rights; 2) advocate for responses to the challenges that migrant and trafficked women face that are respectful of the agency of women and based on a labour rights approach rather than protectionist or criminalisation approaches; 3) create spaces for intersectional, inter-movement dialogues that are built upon a shared feminist, rights-based analysis of labour migration, and the collective power and voice of migrant and trafficked women; and 4) challenge the social and economic invisibility of women's work, promote policy

recognition of women workers, and support their mobilisation, collective voice, bargaining power, and representation in relevant policy processes.

This Theory of Change was finalised in the first quarter of the year and approved by the GAATW Board of Directors at a meeting in Bangkok in May.

Twenty-fifth Anniversary of GAATW

GAATW was founded in 1994 by a group of feminists engaged in the international activism around violence against women and women's human rights. Since then, the Alliance has grown to a membership of more than 80 NGOs worldwide and has established itself as a leading voice in the anti-trafficking arena that



advocates for the protection of the rights of migrant and trafficked women, and accountability of state and non-state actors who implement anti-trafficking initiatives.

To mark our 25th anniversary, we published a [booklet](#) where 25 close allies of GAATW – Board members, former staff, representatives of member and partner NGOs and independent experts – share memories about their engagement with the Alliance, and reflect on developments in the migrant rights and anti-trafficking fields over the last 25 years.

Furthermore, in December we organised a small meeting for members and Board members to celebrate the 25th anniversary, present our Theory of Change and come up with some concrete actions for change in the next five years.



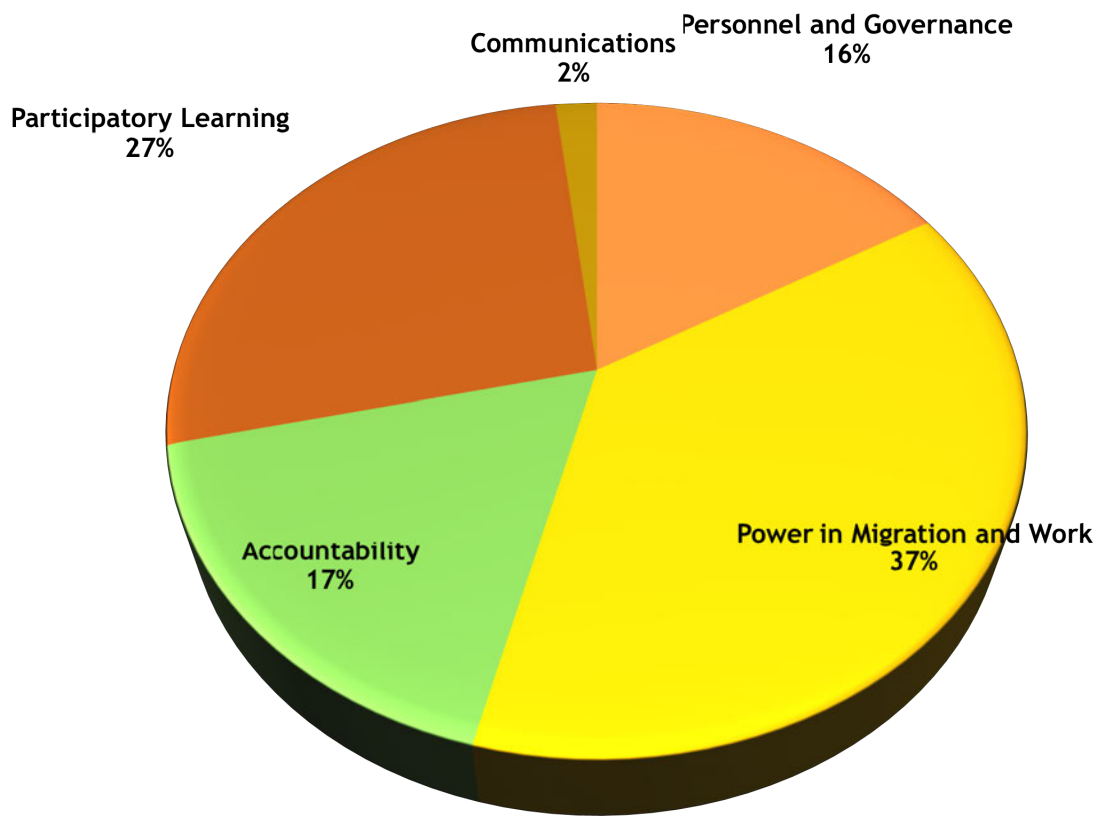
FINANCES

A. Expenditure per donor 2019

	Funding Partners	Amount in THB	Amount in USD	Per cent of total
1	Bread for the World	4,135,466	129,233	16%
2	Foundation to Promote Open Society	2,155,547	67,361	8%
3	Global Fund for Women	202,438	6,326	1%
4	International Domestic Workers Federation	86,255	2,695	0%
5	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	5,293,651	165,427	20%
6	Caritas France	1,730,175	54,068	7%
7	International Labour Organization	2,148,881	67,153	8%
8	Oak Foundation	1,469,850	45,933	6%
9	Heinrich Boll Foundation	312,375	9,762	1%
10	Women's Fund Asia	5,188,871	162,152	20%
11	American Jewish World Service	322,461	10,077	1%
12	Own funds	2,947,280	92,103	11%
	TOTAL	25,993,250	812,289	100%

B. Expenditure per programme 2019

Expenses January-December 2019	In THB	In USD	Per cent of total
Overhead			
1. Personnel and Governance	4,268,259	133,383	16%
Programme			
2. Power in Migration and Work	9,741,999	304,437	37%
Work in Freedom Programme			
Towards Empowerment: Working with women and girls in source communities at the pre- migration and pre-decision-making stage			
Learning from the Experiences of Women Migrant Workers			
Women's Labour Migration on the Africa - Middle East Corridor			
Joint capacity, knowledge, and leadership building of MWW leaders to end GBV in the garment industry and domestic work sectors in Asia			
3. Accountability	4,540,606	141,894	17%
Accountability in Latin America: Participatory Monitoring in Anti-Trafficking Initiatives			
Accountability in ASEAN			
Core functions of the IS			
4. Participatory Learning	6,958,688	217,459	27%
5. Communications	483,698	15,116	2%
TOTAL	25,993,250	812,289	100%



- Personnel and Governance
- Power in Migration and Work
- Accountability
- Participatory Learning
- Communications

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 the rights of women migrant workers and trafficked persons and believes that ensuring safe migration and fair workplaces should be at the core of all anti-trafficking efforts. We advocate for living and working conditions that provide women with more opportunities in their countries of origin, and 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 Organised Crime.

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 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: The Board of Directors, the Members and the International Secretariat. Voluntary temporary bodies can be set up per need.

GAATW Member Organisations

At the end of 2019, the Alliance comprised 82 Member Organisations from Africa (4), Asia (41), Europe (23), and the Americas (14).

The Board of Directors

In 2019, the GAATW Board of Directors comprised the following members:

1. Manassanan (Ma) Pongnorrawish, Thailand - President
2. Dr Annalee Lepp, Canada - Vice President
3. Thipsuda (Ching) Taweesaengsuksakul, Thailand - Treasurer
4. Dr Ratchada Jayagupta, Thailand - Secretary
5. Dr Rosalia Sciortino, Thailand - Member
6. Komolthip Payakwichian, Thailand - Member
7. Elaine Pearson, Australia - Member
8. Evelyn Probst, Austria - Member representing the European membership
9. Andrea Querol, Peru - Member representing the Latin America Membership (until November)
10. Bianca Fidone, Colombia - Member representing the Latin America Membership (from December)
11. Bandana Pattanaik, Thailand - Member representing the International Secretariat

The International Secretariat

1. Bandana Pattanaik (India), International Coordinator
2. Alfie Gordo (the Philippines), Finance and Admin Manager
3. Apivart (Nong) Chaison (Thailand), Finance and Administrative Officer
4. Naetima (Mui) Kosolsaksakul (Thailand), Accountant (part time)
5. Chus Álvarez (Spain), Programme Officer for LAC Region
6. Leah Sullivan (Ireland), Communications and Advocacy Officer

7. Borislav Gerasimov (Bulgaria), Communications and Advocacy Officer and Editor, *Anti-Trafficking Review*
8. Eunha Gim (Republic of Korea), Research and Training Officer (until May)
9. Ratna Mathai-Luke (India), Programme Officer Asia
10. Cris Sto. Domingo (the Philippines), Communications and Production Officer (from November)

Editorial Board of *Anti-Trafficking Review*

1. Rutvica Andrijasevic, University of Bristol, United Kingdom
2. Lyndsey Beutin, McMaster University, Canada
3. Jacqueline Bhabha, Harvard School of Public Health, United States
4. Xiang Biao, Oxford University, United Kingdom
5. Denise Brennan, Georgetown University, United States
6. Luciana Campello, Panamerican Health Organization, Brazil
7. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, University of Nigeria; Former UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Nigeria
8. Anne Gallagher, Independent scholar and legal advisor, Australia
9. John Gee, Transient Workers Count Too, Singapore
10. Chandre Gould, Institute for Security Studies, South Africa
11. Yana Hashamova, Ohio State University, United States
12. Suzanne Hoff, La Strada International, The Netherlands
13. Kristiina Kangaspunta, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Austria
14. Kamala Kempadoo, York University, Canada
15. Annalee Lepp, University of Victoria, Canada
16. Marika McAdam, Independent Consultant, Thailand
17. Sverre Molland, The Australian National University, Australia
18. Marina Novaes, Secretariat of Human Rights and Citizenship of Sao Paulo's City Hall, Brazil
19. Victoria Ijeoma Nwogu, United Nations Development Programme, Somalia
20. Julia O'Connell Davidson, University of Bristol, United Kingdom
21. Pia Oberoi, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Thailand
22. Sam Okyere, University of Bristol, United Kingdom
23. Elaine Pearson, Human Rights Watch, United States
24. Nicola Piper, University of Sydney, Australia
25. Nivedita Prasad, Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences, Germany
26. Caroline Robinson, Independent human rights expert, United Kingdom
27. Jyoti Sanghera, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Switzerland
28. Marie Segrave, Monash University, Australia

29. Kiril Sharapov, Edinburgh Napier University, United Kingdom
30. Elena Shih, Brown University, United States
31. Kendra Strauss, Simon Fraser University, Canada
32. Rebecca Surtees, NEXUS Institute, United States
33. Sallie Yea, Independent scholar and consultant, Australia
34. Cathy Zimmerman, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom