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## Feminist demands for a Post 2015 Development

In February 2014, right after the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a feminist strategy meeting on the post 2015 agenda took place in Tarrytown, New York. 60 feminist activists from different regions of the world took part in this meeting, in order to exchange and strategize about how to bring feminist demands into the post 2015 development framework within the next two years. WIDE Austria was among the participating networks.

*By Claudia Thallmayer, WIDE Austria*

### Feminist declaration Post 2015

The participants at the feminist meeting came from different sectors, several working on sexual and reproductive health and rights, others on environment, or on economic and social rights, indigenous rights, peace and security or gender-based violence. In a spirit of solidarity, the concerns of women working in different areas were taken on board and translated into a feminist communiqué, calling for a paradigm shift and a truly transformative post 2015 agenda, based on gender, economic, social and ecological justice.

By the end of the month, the “Feminist Declaration for Post 2015” was endorsed by 343 international, regional and national organizations in 143 countries – a strong message to the UN and its member states! The declaration is available in English, Spanish, French, Russian and Chinese (see <http://www.wide-netzwerk.at/images/publikationen/2014/feminist-post-2015-declaration.pdf> or <http://www.awid.org/News-Analysis/Announcements2/Over-340-endorsements-of-the-Feminist-Declaration-for-Post-2015>).

The feminist meeting was convened by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL), Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), the International Planned Parenthood Federation – Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF/WHR), the Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice Alliance (RESURJ) and Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF).

Since then, participants of the feminist meeting, along with many others, continue to cooperate within the Post 2015 Women’s Coalition. This global coalition, built in 2013, aims to influence the post 2015 agenda from a women’s rights and feminist perspective. By now, it has been quite successful in coordinating representation from grassroots NGOs and feminist experts to give input at high level UN meetings. More information can be found at: <http://www.post2015women.com/>

It is a bit confusing how many parallel “post 2015” processes are going on at UN level. One of the first was the installation of a “High Level Panel of Eminent Persons”, which produced its report with proposals and “illustrative goals” for a post 2015 development agenda already in May 2013 (see <http://www.post2015hlp.org/the-report/>).

### Sustainable Development Goals

Another process is the international follow-up process to the Rio+20 Conference with the aim to elaborate ‘Sustainable Development Goals’ (SDGs). A “High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development” was set in place at the Rio+20 Conference, with the mandate to “provide political leadership and recommendations for sustainable development” (<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1556>).

Simultaneously, an “Open Working Group” (OWG) to elaborate a concrete proposal for sustainable development goals was installed. UN member states can participate in it via their UN delegates. The OWG process has gained quite some dynamic over the last year; it also included open online consultations and some limited space of intervention for

NGOs at the working group sessions. In the course of these sessions, 16 “focus areas” have been defined by now, which serve as a basis for concrete goals, underpinned by indicators. The OWG process shall be concluded by July 2014, in order to be presented to and to be discussed by the UN General Assembly in September 2014. This process can be followed at: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/owg.html>.

It is thanks to feminist interventions that “Gender equality and the empowerment of women” was taken up as one of the proposed “focus areas” in this process around the Sustainable Development Goals. As could be observed at the 8<sup>th</sup> Open Working Group session in February, the discussion point “Inequalities” represented a major entrance point to raise the issue of gender equality – it was originally not specifically mentioned as a topic of discussion! After several side events and a very engaged discussion at the 8<sup>th</sup> OWG session – with input from Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN WOMEN director, and Babatunde Osotimehin (UNFPA) –, there seemed to be a widely shared consensus that both a specific gender goal as well as a gender mainstreaming strategy should be constituting elements of a post 2015 sustainable development agenda.

### **Feminist interventions necessary!**

Though it is an achievement that gender equality as a focus area has been included, it is important to follow up how it is formulated. For any gender equality goal it is decisive what specific policy areas are highlighted at the end of the day. While (among “new” areas) the fight against violence against women is widely supported and will likely be on the agenda, other issues remain highly disputed. These issues concern the gendered division of labour (the unequal burden of care work for women and girls, limited access to resources, prevailing gender stereotypes in the labour market), the resulting discrimination of women (regarding their access to education and vocational training, the gender pay gap, precarious status of migrant women), as well as sexual and reproductive rights (beyond health issues). But: at the moment, several of these issues are on the provisional agenda – we will see in the course of the negotiations if they will find enough support. A “gender mainstreaming” strategy is not yet defined, though the need for disaggregated data is expressed.

Still, the SDG focus areas show various weaknesses, for example the type of desired

“migration management” not being defined. Overall, issues of economic inequalities and redistribution, such as production and consumption patterns of the richer parts of the world which are the main cause of the environmental degradation and climate change that are affecting the poorest worst, are very contentious. At the same time, the shift in international development discourses and practises towards the “private sector” cannot be ignored. In this context, it is a big challenge to negotiate and agree on a “sustainable development agenda” which deserve this name – with concrete obligations for environmental protection and financial contributions under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Vested interests likely play a strong role behind the scenes, as the shift from the term “sustainable development” towards the phrase “sustained economic growth” (repeated like a “mantra” in the discussions) indicates.

Further international debates on a post 2015 framework are discussions hosted by the President of the UN General Assembly in different countries on a range of topics, among them “The Contributions of Women, the Young and Civil Society” in March 2014 (see <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/68/settingthestage>). Other bodies deal with the financing for development agenda, and – last but not least – conferences on climate change will take place in 2014/15.

### **Post 2015 policy dialogue in Austria**

The focus of organizations participating in the Post 2015 Women’s Coalition is of course not only towards the international processes. Members follow up on what their nation state or region is doing. Same goes for WIDE Austria. While at international level discussions on SDGs are going into a preliminary final round of discussion, the Austrian Foreign Ministry is still defining its priorities for the Post 2015 agenda. Together with other Austrian NGOs, WIDE has given input to this discussion at national level. We highlighted the dividend which can be gained from more attention and support for the care sector, especially through promoting high quality public care services. This is true for both gender equality as well as sustainable development ambitions, as care activities are not very resource but labour intensive. Yet we are very concerned that Austria does not take global development challenges serious, as we are once more experiencing budgetary cuts for the bilateral development cooperation and the UN development institutions.

## Conclusion: Gender, Economic, Social and Ecological Justice

While there can be doubts raised on how committed governments will be to tackle climate change and related challenges, the Feminist Declaration Post 2015 has united feminist voices into a clear call on what is needed to change.

In this declaration, *"We demand a paradigm transformation from the current neoliberal model of development which prioritizes profit over people, and exacerbates inequalities, war and conflict, militarism, patriarchy, environmental degradation and climate change.*

*Instead, we call for economic models and development approaches that are firmly rooted in principles of human rights and environmental*

*sustainability, that address inequalities between people and states, and that rebalance power relations for justice so that the result is sustained peace, equality, the autonomy of peoples, and the preservation of the planet.*

*This transformational shift requires redistribution of unequal and unfair burdens on women and girls in sustaining societal wellbeing and economies, intensified in times of violence and conflict, as well as during economic and ecological crises. It also must bring attention to the kind of growth generated and for this growth to be directed towards ensuring wellbeing and sustainability for all. It must tackle intersecting and structural drivers of inequalities, and multiple forms of discrimination based on gender, age, class, caste, race, ethnicity, place of origin, cultural or religious background, sexual orientation, gender identity, health status and abilities."*

The feminist declaration for post 2015 gave a strong signal that hopefully reaches people and decision makers in many countries.

## WIDE+ signs the Feminist Post 2015 Declaration

Over 340 organizations and networks have come together in a shared feminist declaration for the Post 2015 agenda. In the declaration they call for a paradigm shift and give 6 concrete points to improve the post MDGs. WIDE+ and several of its members undersigned the declaration. An excerpt of the declaration:

*As the United Nations decides on the future course of international development Post 2015, women of all ages, identities, ethnicities, cultures and across sectors and regions, are mobilizing for gender, social, cultural, economic and ecological justice, sustainable development and inclusive peace. We seek fundamental structural and transformational changes to the current neoliberal, extractivist and exclusive development model that perpetuates inequalities of wealth, power and resources between countries, within countries and between men and women. We challenge the current security paradigm that increases investments in the military-industrial complex, which contributes to violent conflict between and within countries.*

*We demand a paradigm transformation from the current neoliberal economic model of development, which prioritizes profit over people, and exacerbates inequalities, war and conflict, militarism, patriarchy, environmental degradation and climate change. Instead, we call for economic models and development approaches that are firmly rooted in principles of human rights and environmental sustainability, that address inequalities between people and states, and that rebalance power relations for justice so that the result is sustained peace, equality, the autonomy of peoples, and the preservation of the planet.*

Please find the Feminist Post 2015 Declaration in English, Spanish, French and Russian:

[Declaración Feminista Post 2015](#)  
[Feminist Post 2015 Declaration](#)  
[Feminists Post 2015 Russian](#)  
[FeministsPost2015\\_FR](#)

## **WIDE+ at the 1<sup>st</sup> Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation High-Level Meeting in Mexico**

**The first High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation held in Mexico City on 15-16 April 2014 was a moment to take stock of the progress made since the 4<sup>th</sup> High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. The results were disappointing however. Progress is slow and what is more, states promote an agenda of privatization instead of basing aid on a human rights approach. And it remains important for women's rights organizations to involve themselves in this process to keep gender in some form on the agenda.**

**By Rosabel Agirregomezkorta (CEIM)**

The 2011 Busan 4<sup>th</sup> High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness was a milestone for civil society (CSO) in that it was the first time that they could take part in this Aid Effectiveness high level meeting. More than 300 CSO representatives were present, a selection of the Civil Society involved in this agenda.

Reviewing the 'Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation' the worldwide coalition of CSOs demanded that states would strengthen development effectiveness through practices based on human rights standards, aid should focus on the eradication of the causes of poverty and inequality and promote an equitable and just development cooperation architecture. They also called for the recognition of CSOs as independent development actors in their own right, committing states to ensure an enabling environment for their work in all countries.

Now, more than 2 year after these commitments were made, the overall assessment is that **there is lack of political will** to implement the overall agenda and progress is undeniably slow, according to CSOs at the first *Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) High-Level Meeting (HLM)* held in Mexico City on 15-16 April 2014. The Global Partnership, a result from the HLF in Busan, brings states, business and CSOs together in an alliance.

During the HLM in Mexico City, over 1500 participants from over 130 countries, including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría, ministers, heads of international organizations, civil society organizations,

philanthropic foundations, members from business sector, parliamentarians and local governments, met together in order to:

- review global progress in implementing Busan commitments (2011); and,
- anchor effective development co-operation in the post-2015 global development agenda.

The two-day forum included 5 plenary sessions (*Progress in meeting commitments on effective development co-operation; Effective development co-operation in Middle-Income Countries; Tax and Development; 'South-South', 'Triangular' co-operation and knowledge sharing; and Partnering with Business in Development*), and 28 focus sessions on a range of critical themes for development.

Some concrete, but voluntary, commitments launched at the HLM included:

- Increasing support for strengthening tax administrations in developing countries. The initiative called "*Tax Inspectors Without Borders*" aims to identify and provide expert tax auditors to respond to concrete demands by developing countries for building audit capacity by early 2015;
- A Business Roadmap led by the UK;
- 'Philanthropic foundations', as they are termed by the partnership, proposed a set of voluntary guidelines on how the philanthropic sector can engage with governments and other stakeholders in the reality of post-2015 development.

These initiatives were launched within a voluntary annex to the **Communiqué** adopted '[Building Towards an Inclusive Post-2015 Development Agenda](#)'. It is a good-will document rather than a tool to push forward effective and inclusive development co-operation.

### Regarding WIDE+ participation

The WIDE+ network met prior the official HLM with over 150 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in order to monitor progress and re-new co-chairs at the CPDE, the coordinating body of CSOs in the Aid Effectiveness process. The CSOs were unanimously critic about the diverse drafts of the Communiqué as well as the optimistic messages sent by governments.

Some of the major critics and concern raised by CSOs were focused on:

- The states' reluctance to include a Human Rights approach as well as commitments in the Communiqué;
- The strong private sector push while not adhering to Transparency, Accountability and Human Rights standards as demanded by CSOs;
- The voluntary basis for implementing Busan commitments for South-South Cooperation;
- The shrinking civil society space for CSOs as independent development actors. More about this issue is reported in '[An Enabling Environment For CSOs: A Synthesis of Evidence of Progress Since Busan](#)'. There is/are backlash and attacks to secure CSOs participation and critical involvement on public policies.

On the other hand, WIDE+ and other feminist groups and networks pushed for the inclusion of gender references in the final document. Some countries **strongly opposed any mention on Human Rights and gender commitments** in the Communiqué as they feared it could be a window for Sexual and Reproductive Rights. The CPDE's Feminist Group of which WIDE+ is a member, with the support of the CPDE's co-chairs were fighting until the last minute and finally some references to gender were included on the final document.

Also the Feminist Group did some critics and

recommendations regarding gender indicator 8 that focused on tracking and allocating public resources for gender equality and women's empowerment. States recognized some progress related to its implementation, although it remains a critical challenge. States forgot other important commitments made in Busan: i.e. access to gender disaggregated data, gender equality and women's empowerment in accountability mechanisms, addressing gender equality and women's empowerment in all aspects of development. This was left out of the final the final Mexico Communiqué.

CNN Mexico, 2014 April 16



### Conclusion

In sum, although the Mexico City communiqué outlines just good-wills unlike in Busan where clear targets were signed off, our concern increases. Not only remain the Busan commitments unfulfilled but this meeting reinforces the basis of a *New Deal* on development architecture focused on privatization. In this New Deal the states are neglecting their role as the main guarantor of Human Rights and the Right To Development. They avoid accountability on human rights, environmental standards and Gender commitments for South-South collaboration and private cooperation. These key issues remain unresolved in an increasingly disabling context for CSOs with more restrictive policies and scarce funds.

### More information

Global Partnership website:

[www.effectivecooperation.org](http://www.effectivecooperation.org), Blog: <http://devcooperation.org>

CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness: <http://www.csopartnership.org/>

## WIDE+ participated in international feminist meeting 'Together, for a global feminist struggle', San Salvador, 19-23 May 2014

By Virginia Lopez Calvo (CAWN)

The meeting was organized by Mugarik Gabe, an international development organization based in Bilbao (Basque Country, Spain), that had previously hosted the '[Women's Rights Tribunal](#)' in 2013. This symbolic Tribunal was an international collective effort of various associations and social movements to denounce and make visible sexist violence as a violation of women human rights of women.

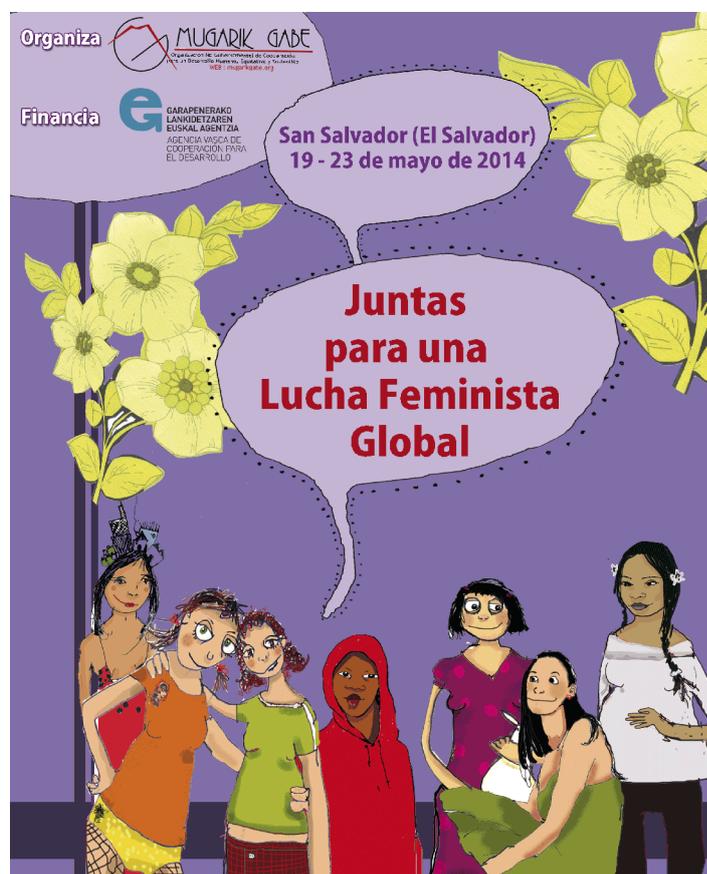
The meeting '*Together, for a global feminist struggle*' was planned to give continuation to the Tribunal. From 19 to 23 May 2014, representatives from feminist organizations and social movements from Latin America (including Nicaragua, El Salvador, Colombia, Bolivia and Guatemala) and Europe came together to strengthen alliances across the Atlantic.

Our aim was to further the analysis of the situation of women (with an emphasis on Latin America and Europe) focusing on the right to abortion, economic rights and the right to a life free of violence. We also wanted to analyze the strategies and proposals developed by those groups and networks present, in order to define new actions for the future.

WIDE+ was asked to formally share the network's and its member's work in monitoring international agreements and lobbying processes relevant to advance women's rights in those thematic fronts, and so we spoke of the Vienna + 20 Conference in 2013, the post-2015 Agenda, and the Paris Declaration, among others.

The meeting offered many opportunities to inform our Latin American counterparts of the existing trans-European networks and campaigns that WIDE+ supports and liaises with, such as the [Alternative Trade Mandate](#) and the [Interna-](#)

[tional Campaign for the Right to Safe Abortion](#), which they can also join. In turn, we heard of the brave work of networks such as the '[Mesoamerican Women in Resistance](#)' and the 'Guatemalan World March of Women'.



We discussed the global threats to the right to a safe abortion, with hundreds of women incarcerated in El Salvador as a result of the violation of this right, a right which is also slowly suffering backlashes in various European countries such as Poland, Latvia or Spain. All participants were committed to join the call for solidarity from the Salvadoran 'Citizens Group for the Decriminalization of Abortion', asking feminists across the world to organize actions in their cities on 17 June in the context of the '[We are all the 17](#)' campaign, that seeks justice

Trade justice, including the new, secretly negotiated Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, was also in the agenda: we all agreed in joining and expanding the '[Stop Corporate Impunity Campaign](#)' and to continue using the symbolic power of women's tribunals to denounce any related injustices and the attacks to our 'Mother Earth', the 'Pachamama'.

The meeting was an endless exchange of experiences, knowledge and strategies from both

sides of the Atlantic, an exploration of synergies and partnerships and, above all, a great source of inspiration and motivation for us all. Our final declaration, a 3 pages long document written in Spanish, was read in a final event to members of the Salvadoran media and social movements.

*For more details on this meeting, please contact Virginia on [campaigns@cawn.org](mailto:campaigns@cawn.org).*

### [Call on the government of El Salvador to release women imprisoned for pregnancy complications](#)

Stand with RH Reality Check, the International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion, the Salvadoran Citizen Group for the Decriminalization of Abortion and 6,788 other signers to tell the government of El Salvador to grant pardons for 17 Salvadoran women imprisoned for pregnancy complications.

Because of El Salvador's absolute ban on all abortions, seventeen Salvadoran women who live in circumstances of poverty and marginalization are **unjustly imprisoned as a result of miscarriages, stillbirths, or other obstetrical complications they suffered without medical attention**. When they arrived at public healthcare facilities, often hemorrhaging and unconscious, they were accused of provoking an abortion and turned over to police. Frequently they were arrested and taken directly from the hospital to the jail. Based on a constitutional amendment declaring that life begins at conception, prosecutors amended charges to aggravated homicide, and they received prison sentences of up to 40 years.

A careful review of their court files revealed that prosecutors failed to present any evidence that they had committed any wrongdoing or had any responsibility for the deaths of their fetuses or newborns. The women were denied their rights to due process, a presumption of innocence, a standard of reasonable doubt, and an effective legal defense.

Sign here:

[http://action.rhrealitycheck.org/page/s/17pardons?  
&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=reality&utm\\_content=2+-  
+Sign+the+petition+and+stand+with+](http://action.rhrealitycheck.org/page/s/17pardons?utm_medium=email&utm_source=reality&utm_content=2+-+Sign+the+petition+and+stand+with+)

## Founding General Assembly WIDE+ will be held on 30 October 2014, in Switzerland

By Gea Meijers, WIDE+

WIDE+ members are currently working on issues and agenda's like the CSW, the care economy, economic literacy, CEDAW, Aid Effectiveness agenda, post-2015 MDG and trade negotiations such as TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership), TTP (Trans-Pacific Partnership) and TISA (Trade in Services Agreement). WIDE+ provides a European network to share and collaborate on these issues.

A key project for WIDE+ members is an adult educational project on women and the economy. Several of WIDE+ member organizations are midway in their EU Grundtvig-programme (life-long learning). Partners in the programme are WIDE Austria, WIDE Switzerland, WIDE Spain, Belgian Le Monde Selon Les Femmes and KULU Denmark. The project will be finalized next year with educational tools published online.

### **Rebirth of formal network**

To strengthen our collaborative efforts, WIDE+ members have been developing a new legal governance and membership structure to formally establish WIDE+. The new network structure will enable us to achieve our strategic goals that we formulated from our common mission and vision. It will help to ensure a strong organization that is sustainable and will actively involve members and others stakeholders around

the globe, creating a participatory, fluid and open network. Democratic, decentralized, inclusive and transparent decision making processes will be articulated through this structure.

The development of a governance and membership structure is one of the collective activities undertaken to support the collaboration and networking. In addition, active working groups have been put in place on fundraising, on communication and on developing our strategic framework. This work resulted in a joint strategic framework for the coming years. In terms of fundraising, the avenues explored did not yet yield financial support, but more fundraising activities are planned for a later stage. Our website is kept up to date. At [wideplus-network.wordpress.com](http://wideplus-network.wordpress.com) one can find updated news and information from WIDE+ and its members.

### **WIDE+'s strategic goals**

WIDE+'s strategic goals are (as formulated in the strategic framework):

1. WIDE+ contributes to movement-building for gender equality and women's rights at European and international levels.
2. WIDE+ works towards the construction of alternatives and contributes to increasing gender, social, economic and environmental justice at the European, global, regional and local levels.

**WIDE+'s founding General Assembly will be held on 30 October, 2014 in Bern, Switzerland.** The meeting will formally establish WIDE+ and members will be elected to the governing bodies: the Caucus and the Coordination Group.

The General Assembly will be held in conjunction with an international conference on Gender and Sustainability, organized by WIDE Switzerland on 31 October, in Bern, Switzerland.

People interested in this meeting and the process can write to: [info@wide-network.org](mailto:info@wide-network.org) or read on our site for updates.

## Institutional Violence against women in Spain

Since the PP's (Spanish right wing party) arrival to power in 2011 -in a context of severe systemic crisis provoked by the speculative neoliberal system- human rights have been at stake. Specially the rights of women and vulnerable groups have been suffering permanent and continuous attacks.

*By Rosabel Agirregomezkorta (CEIM)*

Numerous initiatives led by the government show that a patriarchal neoliberal offensive is carried out. In the field of **education** the government is supporting sex-segregated schools and promoting (the funding of) religious private education in detriment of public education. One of the biggest changes is a law change that allows private segregationist colleges to receive public funds, which was not possible till now. In another field, they are reducing public investment in the **health sector** and pushing for privatization like in the case of Madrid, but not only there. In Madrid all health services such as hospitals are being privatized. This affects women's access to key services. Regarding **development cooperation** the funds have been severely reduced, which has led to the disappearance of

30% of NGOs. And the government has dismantled the existing model that was based on decentralized cooperation and on Zapatero's gender equality and human rights approach.

The government has also directly targeted **gender equality policies** by closing shelters for battered women and pushing for male leadership into feminist's and women's rights organizations. They wanted to impose a **new criterion** to women's organizations applying for funds. This criteria requested male presence at the women's and feminist's associations Boards alleging that not including men into these spaces is a form of "gender discrimination". The women's rights organizations succeeded in halting this initiative.

And of course the projected reform of the current



El País. Massive Demonstration held in Madrid on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2014.

**Sexual and Reproductive Law**[1] by the Minister of Justice, Gallardón, is a red line for feminist organizations as it removes the "*sexual-affective education*" from schools, attacks the women's right to choose for abortion and threatens women to go into hiding again putting their lives in risk.

Obviously civil society -mainly women's and feminist organizations- are calling out all these initiatives. They do that in a way that articulates their diversity and capacity in raising a shared voice that totally opposes and rejects such policies. Moreover, feminists and women's organizations are not alone, and Gallardón's reform attempt is being contested by other voices that could hardly be branded as feminists. Judges, progressive lawyers and medical associations, as well as other political parties and politicians, have argued that the proposed reform would be a risk to the women's health and against the law.

All these policies are being accompanied by other measures aiming at discouraging social participation and protest, criminalizing social movements[2] along with a media campaign aimed to discredit social movements. Here again, feminists are being especially targeted, calling them "*femi-nazis*" as opposed to a submissive, domestic female role model that is presented as desirable and that is functional to the in-crisis economic system. This conservative, heterosexual and Opusian (Opus-Dei) imaginary is being publicly supported by the official Church representatives and the so-called "pro-family" groups.

Taking all of this into account, **Spain faces a context of institutional violence against women**, where the Spanish state is leaving much of the population unprotected, dropping out of their needs and interests. The state is violating its main function which is to ensure people's well-being and protection, especially of those most vulnerable. This violation is also reflected in the monitoring of the progress on the elimination of all forms of inequality and discrimination, as reflected on the ongoing CE-DAW shadow report (<http://cedawsombraesp.wordpress.com>) endorsed by more than 150 organizations, the largest amount of organizations involved in the CE-DAW shadow process so far in Spain. The Spanish government not only does not meet its responsibilities but actively promotes

social, economic and gender inequalities, discrimination and, therefore, violence against women.

European feminist and social activists must unite to raise our voices and stop this trend, because, unfortunately, this is not an isolated trend but is knocking the doors of Europe.

[1] The reform would replace the *Organic Law 2/2010 of 3 March, on Sexual and Reproductive Health and abortion*, adopted in 2010 (based on deadlines for abortion), for the present "Draft Law on protection of the life of the unborn and the rights of the pregnant woman", approved by the Minister's Cabinet on December 20, 2013. Take note of the denomination and its approach: "the life of the unborn" and "the rights of the pregnant woman". See the Draft Law at: [http://www.mjusticia.gob.es/cs/Satellite/es/1215198252237/ALegislativa\\_P/1288774452773/Detalle.html](http://www.mjusticia.gob.es/cs/Satellite/es/1215198252237/ALegislativa_P/1288774452773/Detalle.html)

[2] During the drafting of the *Public Safety Act* (known as *The Gag Rule*), the government considered, among other things, organizing a public protest or concentration through the internet as a "crime of membership to a criminal organization". This draft could also consider non-violent active resistance as an "assault against authority". Both cases could eventually be punished by imprisonment of two to four years and fines of up to 600,000 Euros. Finally and after many protest, the Public Safety Act was approved by the Ministers Cabinet in November 2013, but with some changes as it was questioned by the *Consejo General del Poder Judicial*, the major Judiciary organism in Spain.

### **Women in Austria act in solidarity with the Spanish women to stop the violence- you can join too!**

Women across Europe unite against the push for a rollback of women's rights. The platform 20000frauen have sent out letters to the Spanish embassy and organized in February a protest rally in front of the Spanish Embassy. Together with Spanish activists they delivered a loud statement against the proposed criminalization of abortion.

The platform has a letter of protest written in Spanish, German and English. It encourages these to be sent to the Spanish Government (for download at: <http://zwanzigtausendfrauen.at/2014/01/25-1-2014-in-solidaritat-mit-den-spanischen-frauen/>)

## International Conference ‘The European Economic Crisis and its consequences for women’, March 2014

**The network Gender and Development in Practice (GADIP), WIDE+ member, and the University of Gothenburg organized a conference on 20 and 21 March 2014 in Sweden. The conference was comprised of five keynote speeches, three workshops, and a concluding panel discussion with all the keynote speakers. The speakers and participants discussed many different aspects about the gendered impact of the economic crisis in Europe. The WIDE+ newsletter presents a summary of the debate.**

### **The Economic Crisis: Gender and Social Consequences for Society**

A common theme in the conference was an exploration of the detrimental impact of cuts to the welfare system and public services as a result of the austerity policies implemented in Europe to address the economic crisis. In particular, the cuts have affected the social infrastructure, education, health, childcare, and pensions. These cuts tend to affect women more than men for two principal reasons. First, because care-related work generally employs more women, cuts in these sectors tend to have a larger impact on their employment. Second, because in the patriarchal system women take responsibility over the (unpaid) reproductive sphere, their workloads increase as fewer care services are provided by the state.

Sourmaidou illustrated the way the crisis has affected women using the case of Greece. It has also impacted women in positive ways. The burden of work for women has increased due to austerity policies and many women have become the primary household breadwinners. Sourmaidou argued that this situation has changed the image of women’s work as being secondary, and has encouraged men to take a larger share of the responsibilities at home.

Gálvez Muñoz showed how the crisis has had negative effects for in particular women in Spain. It reinforced mechanisms of control over women in the Spanish society. She highlighted an increase of gender-based violence and an increasing justification among young women

that this type of violence is a way of caring, such that the violence is seen increasingly as being socially acceptable. Unlike Greece, even if women continue working and men are unemployed the sexual division of labour within the household had not changed and women remained primarily responsible for reproductive work.

Björnberg presented challenges in Sweden where policies have taken a neoliberal turn, driven by ideology more than by the economic crisis. One example is the increased flexibility of labour leading to irregular work schedules, temporary contracts, and “work on-demand” situations which often also bring lower income. Since childcare facilities are adapted to standard work hours, single mothers are especially affected along with immigrants and young persons.

### **Understanding the System to Move Out of the Crises**

A common concern throughout the conference was the necessity of understanding how the neoliberal capitalist system works because although it has created the crisis, it is societal overconsumption and debt that is blamed for the crisis within the political discourse. The speakers agreed that this collective sense of blame and guilt leads people to accept austerity policies despite their harshness. Not only are people told that they are to blame for the crisis but they are increasingly made responsible for matters that were previously the responsibility of the state. In order to move forward from this paralyzing situation and begin to take action it is necessary to question both the system and the economic policies put into practice to solve the crisis.

Gálves Muños gave an overview of the way in which the financial system creates and promotes debt, inequality, and crisis. She showed how the debt crisis is not a new condition, but a moment that the political and economic elites have used to promote their interests. The crisis has enabled the financial elite to make drastic cuts in welfare and employment, empowering the financial institutions and disempowering states and ordinary people. For example in the United States, 99% of recent growth has benefited only 1% of the population. She explained that the economic system has shifted from one focused on full employment and empowered workers in the 1960's, to a system where financial capital has appropriated the power. Moreover, Gálves Muños stated that nowadays the category of proletariat needs to be changed to one of *precariat* that illustrates the increasing precariousness of most working conditions due to the flexibilization of the labour market.

The crisis is presented as being caused by both private and public overspending and the accumulation of debt—debt that now must be repaid. However, there is no empirical evidence that proves that debt stops economic growth and models that have been used to link debt to a lack of growth have been shown to be wrong. Historically, no country has ever been able to pull itself out of a crisis through saving—all crises have been solved with lending and public spending.

Salbora Martín illustrated how the image of romantic love further urges us to consume in pursuit of happiness and success. To Salbora, the notion of romantic love is built on two opposed and complementary identities—one that is entrepreneurial and active in the economic arena and the other that is caring and providing. Their success is measured in consumption, and as the anxiety to reach the ideal family motivates consumerism, more debt is incurred. This capitalist ideal is constantly supported in cultural presentations such as commercial films. More importantly, the image of the self-sufficient couple moves reproductive work from the public to the private, as being able to take care of your own children is a measure of success. This, in turn, makes invisible the reproductive work that is carried out predominantly by women.

Harcourt added to this by pointing out that financial capitalism is not a social perspective

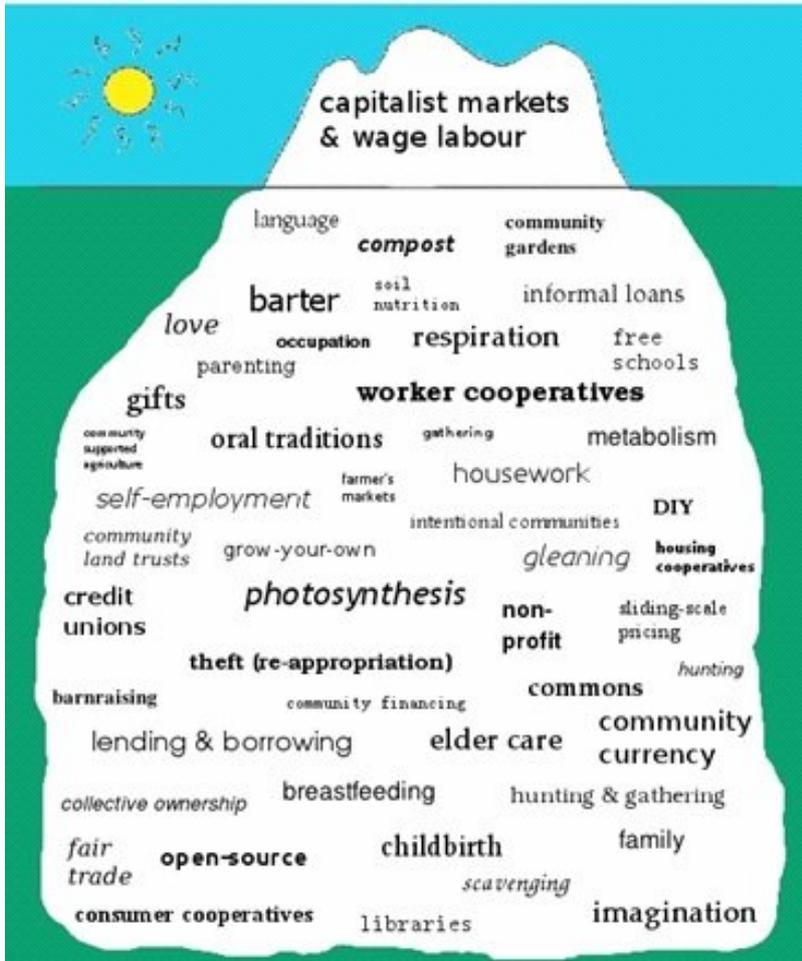
but a strictly economic perspective privileging only productive activities and the economy. From this perspective, the effects on women are discussed in order to include women in the official economy and gain recognition for the unpaid reproductive work that women do. This can have two consequences: it portrays the women as more vulnerable and in need of protection, and by focusing on bringing women into the official economy contributes to the economic narrative of the productive subject and prevents us from finding alternative economies or ways of living.

## Strategies for Change

### *The politics of place*

During the conference the speakers presented several strategies to spread knowledge and think outside the capitalist narrative. Harcourt proposed a politics of place, a concept she has explored with Arturo Escobar and that is based on people's resistance at the micro-level. This enables an understanding of the financial system from below. By starting from where people are, they are able to create viable alternatives based on the knowledge, experience, and capabilities of themselves and the people that surround them. In this way, the politics of place can create a counter-narrative and show that people are much more resilient than the capitalist narrative would have them believe. To illustrate the economy of real life, Harcourt uses the image of an iceberg. What is visible above the surface is the capitalist economy as the only existing alternative. However, when one looks beneath the surface there are multiple alternatives and strategies to sustain life.

To emphasise that there are possibilities within the crisis, Harcourt uses the example of Bolsena, a small village in Italy where people live with each other on the basis of what they are able to exchange. Similarly, as was discussed in the workshop on *Ways of Economic Empowerment*, there are specific initiatives in Spain where women have organized cooperatives using the social economy as a strategy to enact a feminist vindication whereby the economic sphere is placed in a secondary position and people and their satisfaction is prioritized. These are specific examples of economic empowerment, understood as the freedom to make choices about how one wants to live and work. The creation of cooperatives and collective ways of organising one's life is not always an action sprung from economic necessity or a lack of alter-



object of status that dresses, but at the same time, like debts, strangles the neck of the consumer. Using this kind of metaphor, people become conscious that they have been manipulated into seeking happiness through indebtedness and consumption and then into bearing part of the blame for this debt, and of this crisis.

Using these kinds of symbols helps women to understand that they should not feel guilty for the debt situation. This, in turn, helps indebted subjects to overcome the fear and the feeling of failure that hinders the possibilities of resistance, activism, and the finding of creative alternatives.

natives but it's a new style of life.

**Creativity and action**

Salobral presented a workshop-based strategy developed within the Feminist Commission (started in 2012) of which she is a member. They developed creative strategies and metaphors to talk about and reflect on the crisis as well as to change the perception of the participants about themselves as indebted subjects.

One of the strategies/methapors was to use a shiny bow tie. The bow tie was proposed as a representation of male power within the liberal system since it is an accessory worn by bankers. However, the intention was to change its standard colours and instead use a shiny purple fabric in order to transform it into a symbol of beauty and femininity and thus make it into an object of desire that reflected the pressure of capitalism to consume. Consequently, the bow tie symbolises the cycle of indebtedness and consumption because it's an ornament, an

**Social Movements and Alliances**

The issue of how to mobilize and the characteristics of contemporary mobilizations were discussed by both the keynote speakers and the participants during the presentations and the workshops. The general consensus was that mobilization today looks very different from what it looked like during the 1960's and 70's in Europe and in the 1980's in Nigeria and Mexico. The traditional strategies of mobilization included educational elements aimed at changing politics or the government with a clear discourse and leadership. Although these movements are still in force, new kinds of movements are taking place, especially among young people. These movements are often independent and spontaneous, motivated as responses to specific situations and organised through social media. They lack clear leadership, which makes them appear fragmented and without a clear goal.

The effectiveness of social media for organizing mobilizations and the reactive nature of them was illustrated by examples from Sweden and elsewhere. One case illustrated was a national mobilization to protest against the beating of a feminist by members of a racist group during an International Women's Day demonstration in Malmö.

Adding to this discussion, Gálvez Muñoz stressed the need for people to become “more political” by voting and mobilizing in the streets in order to reverse the trend of declining interest in elections observed in both Spain and Greece. Nevertheless, as Sourmaidou stated, there is still hope. In Thessaloniki, a referendum on the privatization of the water will soon take place. This is important as it marks the first time that the government has asked for public opinion on a decision and also the first time that different organizations from both civil society and academia have acted together.

Reflecting on the heterogeneity of the current social movements, Harcourt argued that power is accessible and present in everyday activities. She proposed to start a transformation away from the messiness present in the disconnect between the various small movements and towards taking advantage of their common although ambivalent critique of capitalism. She explains that this ambivalence is generated by the lure of the capitalist system. On the one hand people see capitalism failing as it creates inequalities and destroys the environment. On the other hand, they see it promising individual fulfilment and happiness. This generates a fluctuation between being part of the system, trying to ‘fix’ it, and trying to create alternatives to it.

To sum up this discussion, there was a consensus in the final panel that these heterogeneous movements have more common than divergent elements. Also the discussion within the workshop “The Role of Women in Crises and Conflict” stressed the need to form alliances and define a clear goal of mobilization despite the fragmented and heterogeneous nature of the movements and the multiple spaces for action.

Concerning the difficulty of developing alliances, Harcourt stressed the importance of changing the prejudice against dialogue with political and economic elites. Likewise, Jarl identified academics, politicians, and activists as key actors for the creation of alliances. Gálvez Muñoz agreed with the relevance of being present in every place “where power decides our future”. Harcourt included the economic business schools as another strategic entry point, since they shape the mainstream discourse about the crisis and the strategies to address it.

Salobral Martín reflected on the dilemmas of networking with political parties that claim to sympathize with feminism yet may still engage in corrupt practices or promote agendas that contradict their interests, such as supporting the criminalization of abortion or ignoring LGTBQ issues. These difficulties make clear the diversity within the feminist movement and the need to adopt an intersectional approach when establishing these alliances. Therefore, despite these difficulties, Salobral Martín stated that this heterogeneity needs to be emphasised consciously and constantly, and that the alliances should not try to homogenize the feminist movements. Moreover, Harcourt and Gálvez Muñoz agreed that feminism as well as gender needs to be addressed as a transversal category.

## Conclusion

The conference concluded that much more work is necessary in order to understand better the problems women are facing as a consequence of this crisis. However, there are new experiences and new alternatives that have to be explored and made known if we are to continue to construct any kind of resistance that can confront the gendered consequences of this crisis and the policies that sustain them.

*This report was elaborated by Linn Hultgren and Natalia Fernanda Múnera Parra, master's students at the School of Global Studies and revised by Ulla Björnberg, senior professor at the Department of Sociology and Work Science and Edmé Dominguez, associate professor at the School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg. The summary of the report is prepared by Gea Meijers.*

**The full report:** [http://www.globalstudies.gu.se/digitalAssets/1483/1483221\\_european-crises-consequenses-for-women.pdf](http://www.globalstudies.gu.se/digitalAssets/1483/1483221_european-crises-consequenses-for-women.pdf)

## Building an Inclusive Media: report workshop co-hosted by Central America Women's Network and Frauensolidarität

**By Louise Morris, Central America Women's Network**

**Feminists from all across Europe came together on the 14th May, 2014 in Brussels, Belgium to listen to the research and innovative work of organisations in Nicaragua, UK, Spain, Austria, Tanzania, Colombia, Namibia and South Africa.**

**The vibrant discussions covered many of the key criticisms facing the media today. A hot topic was media's historic and continual inability to represent women fairly, to encourage women media professionals and to leave behind damaging stereotypes of women in the press. As the pitfalls of mainstream media were discussed, the conference also focussed on the strong potential of alternative media to promote gender equality and as a tool to empower women.**

Four speakers inspired those present with their practical experience and investigative work on Building an Inclusive Media.

The journalist and anthropologist Caroline Haidacher presented findings from her recently published study, "Armed with Pen and Microphone: Media as Tools of Social Development". Caroline raised the point that despite international demands for more access and equal representation in the media, there is still pervasive inequality, with very few women in decision making positions in the media. Community media was extolled for its work to meet demands and challenge stereotypes with global case studies of successful initiatives referenced. Such as Colombia's Organización Femenina Popular (OFP), operating since 1972 who have continued to use print, radio and television to criticise human rights abuses and the systemic attacks on women during their country's consistent armed struggles. Caroline added that "Colombia is considered one of the most dangerous countries for journalists worldwide and victims are mostly those who are critical of the political system".

Helen Dixon, a feminist writer and consultant who was part of the team working on Nicaraguan organisation Puntos de Encuentro's socio-dramas, described her experiences of using mass media to challenge dominant narratives and change patriarchal behaviour. Television has been recognised as a powerful tool for socialisation as it can visually represent behavioural choices and their consequences, as well as allowing a certain distancing from one's own culture - encouraging the viewer to reflect critically on the difficult issues in their daily life that are normally experienced unquestioned - see CAWN's report: [Subverting Sexism: Using Socio-Dramas to Socialise](#). However, Helen noted the necessity for organisations' initiatives to be combined with social movements for long term benefits.

Derogatory print media practices were exposed through journalist and Latin American Bureau editor Sue Branford's presentation of the study: "Exploitation and Trafficking of Women: Critiquing Narratives During the London Olympics 2012". The tabloids in particular inflated the story of an increase in trafficking and prostitution around the Olympics, despite lack of concrete evidence. Speaking as a journalist Sue affirmed: "I think it's difficult to counter these narratives directly, and to demand from editors that they take gender more into account, I think we have to monitor our own work, be aware of the problems ourselves... and often frame the stories in a way that will appeal to the news values of our editors, who are generally men."

Lucia Ruíz, member of Nosotras en el Mundo – Association for Communication and Development in Spain described the difficulties she has faced in encouraging women to participate in community radio and in establishing a women's only programme but mentioned how the station has grown from "a local radio, to a global network."

The productive and engaging discussions led to participants improving their breadth and depth of knowledge. One male participant commented on the opposition Lucia faced from men at the community radio station about having a programme dedicated exclusively to women, saying that "they don't realise that the 'men only' area already exists in the

media" referencing his job as a screenwriter in a predominantly male environment.

Organisations learned from successful international media endeavours how they may use both: use alternative media to increase awareness of women's rights, but also how to strategise to achieve further coverage of their issues in the mainstream media. This was particularly evident through the use of "bang" style journalism, where activists run an intense campaign bombarding every media outlet simultaneously over a short period of time with information and stories about an issue, and has been successfully utilised by the Tanzania Women's Association (TAMBA).

The meeting suggested that fruitful work tackling some of the sexist mainstream media narratives could be achieved through the collaboration of the women's movement network. We are at a critical moment in the women's rights movement and need to strengthen networks and share expertise to make a tangible impact on introducing a gender perspective to news stories, media practices and across communication for development programmes.

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## WIDE+ member News

### GADN UK at the CSW58

Two blog posts have been written by GADN to reflect on the negotiations – [CSW58 – reflections on week one](#) and [Initial reflections on CSW 58 after week two](#). GADN considers this year's CSW a qualified success. The reference to a standalone gender goal in the final agreed conclusions is excellent and will help further engagement in the post-2015 process. There are references throughout the final conclusions to gender equality, and the human rights of women and girls, which was on the table for deletion at one point.

The document is close to the best agreed language of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and sexual and reproductive health services. However, references to sovereignty and sex selection didn't make it to the final text and the references to family are weaker than the opposition wanted. Women's rights organizations did not move the agenda as far forward as was hoped. Most of the discussions were a rear-guard action to protect what we have; the space to open up a more progressive conversation on women's rights was limited.

<http://www.gadnetwork.org/blogs/2014/3/17/csw58-reflections-on-week-one.html>  
<http://www.gadnetwork.org/blogs/2014/4/7/csw-reflections.html>

### Dutch WO=MEN at the CSW

WO=MEN, the Dutch Gender platform also applauds the mentioning of a gender stand alone goal. "It was the first time governments agreed to a gender stand-alone goal in the Post-2015 agenda, in combination with integration in ALL the other goals".

WO=MEN also organized [together with Atria - institute on gender equality and women's history - a civil society consultation meeting to draft recommendations for the Outcome Document of CSW58 on 3 February](#). They recommend a new global development paradigm that is grounded in an universal human rights framework, transformative and adequately designed. Thus it needs to be "in conformity with all treaties on human rights. Rather than merely reaffirming we call for commitment to the **implementation**, including CEDAW (also: ratification!), Beijing Platform for Action and ICPD Platform of Action, UNSCR1325, etc."

[http://womeninnewyork.blogspot.nl/2014\\_03\\_01\\_archive.html](http://womeninnewyork.blogspot.nl/2014_03_01_archive.html)

## WIDE + member News Continued

### WIDE Austria statement for the CSW 2014

WIDE Austria prepared a statement for the UN Commission on the Status of Women 2014, which was launched at the UN via their member organization Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik who are ECOSOC accredited.

The statements points out to the main shortcomings in the current process around the Millennium Development Goals: "Women's organizations worldwide have criticized the Millennium Development Goals mainly for the following reasons:

- Not being anchored in the human rights framework;
- The lack of a gender perspective throughout the Goals;
- The top-down approach without the involvement of civil society;
- Not addressing global inequalities and power relations".

The post-2015 framework should be a significant different framework. It must be: "grounded on a rights-based approach that focuses on gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women and girls". "Gender equality, women's and girls' rights and empowerment need to be mainstreamed across all future development goals, ensuring sector-specific attention and the collection of data disaggregated by sex and age, as well as gendersensitive targets and indicators".

The statement also calls for the inclusion of gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women as a stand-alone, top-level goal that: "includes targets addressing the root causes of gender inequalities that were left out of the Millennium Development Goals, with a focus on violence against women and special attention to women's sexual and reproductive health and rights".

To read the full statement, go to: ([http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2014/NGO/149](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2014/NGO/149))

### Watch Feminism is Alive

"Women's day-congratulation-video", made by the working group of WIDE Austria FEM.IN.SICHT: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCDNQTV4ro4&feature=youtu.be>

### March 2014: GADN co-hosts 'Transform her Future' with DfID, Plan UK and Girls Not Brides

GADN UK recently co-hosted the event 'Transform her Future'. Rt. Hon Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development delivered a keynote speech to mark International Women's Day. The speech reaffirmed DfID's commitment to ending violence against women and girls and to tackling the discriminatory social norms that cause gender inequality.

The inclusion of a standalone goal on gender equality in the post-2015 framework was also highlighted as priority for the department, as was working to end the harmful practices of early and forced marriage and FGM. Other speakers such as Rachel Carter, GADN Chair, welcomed this and highlighted the need to transform the norms and values which enable violence against women and girls. Her full speech is available to read: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/transform-her-future-breaking-the-silence-on-early-and-forced-marriage>

### Stop the TTIP – Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement negotiations

WIDE+ members have been monitoring the TTIP negotiations, the trade liberalization negotiations between the EU and the US. WIDE Austria published recently a position paper on TTIP and the possible effects on women and men's human rights. They conclude:

"From our point of view, the TTIP is a large-scale redistribution project that will make the wealthy even wealthier. This is done through the expropria-

tion of public goods through privatisations and the use of the public budget for, to name but one example, compensation payments states have to make following a court conviction....Also, The anti-union policies of US corporations and the wish for transatlantic harmonisation could push forward the already existing tendency to weaken the unions in Europe as well. This gives rise to the fear that, once again, women will be forced into low-wage jobs and precarious, atypical labour contracts that resemble exploitation...

Measured against all value added and the number of employees, the entire EU consists of service economies. In Austria, approximately 83% of employed women work in service jobs. One of these areas is care. The TTIP could open the market even further for profit-oriented care-facility operators. As women grow older than men and therefore require more care services, and as the majority of paid care workers are also women, it is essential in terms of welfare effects what care and work look like in these facilities, which standards of care apply and whether they are affected by downward harmonisation. This will also be a crucial factor in deciding how much unpaid care work women have to do”.

What is the TTIP?

The TTIP – *Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement* aims at further opening the markets of the US and the EU member states for product imports, services and investments. The goal is to maximise liberalisation, guaranteeing the highest standards of protection of the investments of European and US groups and investors. As there has been an increase in similar bilateral agreements from 500 to approx. 3,000 since the 1990s, the TTIP should be discussed in a wider context. The agreements are to be safeguarded through the Investor to State Dispute Settlement mechanism, which gives corporations the power to bring a claim for compensation against a state.

This trade partnership aims at

- 1) further reducing tariffs that have already been reduced to a minimum;
- 2) reducing non-tariff barriers, which will be a main area of change;

3) creating optimum conditions for investors.

To read the WIDE Austria position paper: <http://wideplusnetwork.wordpress.com/2014/05/30/stop-the-ttip-transatlantic-trade-and-investment-partnership-agreement-negotiations/>

### **CEDAW Committee takes into consideration concerns of CEDAW Coalition of Polish NGOs**

On March 3, 2014 the representatives of the CEDAW Coalition of Polish NGOs coordinated by Karat Coalition took part in the pre-session working group of the CEDAW Committee in Geneva. During this session the Committee developed the List of Issues & Questions for 8 States parties, including Poland.

The CEDAW Coalition of Polish NGOs presented an oral statement. The statement focused on the most burning issues concerning the implementation of CEDAW Convention in Poland such as the principle of non-discrimination and equality, gender stereotypes, violence against women and education, sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as the situation of vulnerable groups of women.

KARAT on behalf of the CEDAW Coalition of Polish NGOs submitted to the CEDAW Committee the proposed [List of Issues & Questions along with the draft of the alternative report](#). The list was taken into account by the Committee and many of the issues raised by CEDAW Coalition of Polish NGOs can be found in the official [CEDAW Committee's List of Issues & Questions](#) sent to the Polish government. The review of the Polish Government's report is scheduled for the 59th Session planned in October 2014, for which the CEDAW Coalition of Polish NGOs will submit the final version of the alternative report.

## European Union News

### New EU website gives access to aid data

The [‘EU Aid Explorer’](#), recently launched by the European Commission, covers the activities of different donors and offers quick answers to questions such as how much development and humanitarian aid the EU gave or in which sectors EU member states worked in a given year. This tool is part of EU action to further increase transparency and improve accountability.

<https://euaidexplorer.jrc.ec.europa.eu/DonorAtlas2013.do>

### EU will make 2015 the ‘Year for Development’

On 14 April 2014, the European Union's Foreign Affairs Council gave the green light to designate 2015 as the European Year for Development. The motto of the year will be "Our world, our dignity, our future". Development Commissioner Andris Piebalgs stated that the European Year will provide "an unparalleled opportunity for us to engage with EU citizens, to showcase our strong commitment to eradicating poverty worldwide and to inform them how every euro of support helps to make a difference in the lives of so many, in some of the world's poorest countries."

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news/14-04-2014-development\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news/14-04-2014-development_en.htm)

### CONCORD informs about EU country CSO roadmaps

The EU is currently developing country CSO roadmaps to strengthen the strategic cooperation and structured dialogue of the EU and its member states with Civil Society Organizations at partner country level. This is an opportunity for local, national and international CSOs working in countries across the world to engage in dialogue with their respective EU Delegation and to make their and their constituencies' voices heard.

CONCORD provides webinars and briefing papers on this CSO roadmaps process.

English webinar (also available in French and Spanish): <https://arkadinoneplace-eh.adobeconnect.com/a949589913/p6r7w10l2e3/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal>

### End 2013: European Parliament rejected report to support the sexual and reproductive rights

On December 10, 2013, the European Parliament rejected the 'Report on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights', also called the Estrela report.

The report was replaced by an alternative proposal drafted by the right-wing European Conservatives and Reformists group which was backed by the European People's Party with a margin of 7 votes. A short majority of Members of European Parliament (MEPs) replaced the extensive Estrela report of nearly 90 recommendations and opinions on sexual and reproductive health and rights with a unique paragraph: "Notes that the formulation and implementation of policies on [sexual and reproductive health rights] and on sexual education in schools is a competence of the Member States". The new version of the report adds that the EU can still help Member States share good practices.

If the Estrela report was adopted, it would have been a strong political statement from the European Parliament in defence of sexual and reproductive rights. It is a great loss and disappointment that the MEPs failed to recognise the right of all people, and especially women, to make informed choices on their reproductive and sexual lives, including such issues as contraception and abortion. The MEPs have also failed to acknowledge the urgent need to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV as well as gender based violence.

Source: Astra Network and KARAT newsletter:  
<http://www.astra.org.pl/repronews/212-estrela-srhr-report-rejected-at-the-ep.html>

## EU aid amount slightly increased in 2013 after 2 years of cuts

In 2013 European government cuts to international development aid have started to reverse. It was the first time in two years, according to new figures released by the [OECD](#) in April this year. AidWatch, an aid monitoring initiative of CONCORD, the European confederation of Relief and Development NGOs, finds that 11 European countries (members of the OECD DAC) have increased or maintained their aid levels since last year. "Aid austerity is starting to reverse across Europe, despite two years of substantial cuts that are still felt by some of the world's poorest. Many development projects have been stopped or abandoned as a consequence" says Seamus Jeffreson, CONCORD Director.

## Soraya Post and the other feminist candidates were compelled to run for European Parliament

From the Gaurdian: This weekend it looks likely that the [first MEP to represent a feminist party](#) will be elected to the European parliament – Soraya Post of the Swedish Feminist Initiative. The elections are also the first time that French candidates who are specifically feminist have stood for the European parliament, on a list I set up: *Féministes pour une Europe Solidaire* (Feminists for a United Europe).

The rise of feminist candidates in Sweden, France and Germany has prompted questions about why they are standing, and why feminist MEPs might be necessary in Europe. In France in recent years feminist activists, both women and men, have chosen various strategies to put feminism at the heart of the political agenda – protesting against the political parties at public events, or getting involved with organisations on the left. The reason large numbers of activists have decided to bite the bullet and get involved in the European elections is to respond to two pressing problems: women's rights and a social crisis.

When it comes to women's rights, people across Europe have looked on in astonishment as Spain has [moved backwards on women's rights to control their own bodies](#). Put simply, the conservative government is planning to ban abortion except in cases of rape or where there is a danger to the mother. What have the

European institutions had to say? Nothing. Stony silence, as if the right to abortion was not the cornerstone on which all other women's rights are built. Without the freedom to control our own bodies, it is impossible to imagine women achieving equality in professional or political life, or within the family.

The social position of women in Europe is also a pressing issue. Austerity policies that hit Europeans are an economic aberration as well as a human rights disaster – and they affect women in particular.

Full article: <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/may/20/first-mep-feminist-party-likely-win-seat-european-elections>

## Gender equality: EU action triggers steady progress

The annual gender equality report carried out by the EU concludes that gender gaps have significantly shrunk in recent years but that progress is uneven among the Member States and that discrepancies continue to exist in different areas – to the detriment of Europe's economy.

The EU report provides an overview of the main EU policy and legal developments in gender equality during the last year, as well as examples of policies and actions in Member States. It also analyses recent trends, on the basis of scientific evidence and key indicators and it includes a statistical annex with more details on national performances.

What are the actions the EU has taken to achieve gender equality recently?

- **Increasing the employment rate of women.** In the 2007-2013 financing period, an estimated EUR 3.2 billion from the Structural Funds was allocated to invest in childcare facilities and promote women's participation in the labour market, which had a significant leverage effect.

- **Reducing the pay gap** which still stagnates at 16.4% Europe-wide: the European Commission stepped up its efforts by raising awareness about the remaining gender pay gap, marking a European Equal Pay Day ([IP/14/190](#)) and monitoring the application of legislation on equal treatment of women and men ([IP/13/1227](#)). The Commission also pushed for further progress in March 2014 recommending to Member States to improve pay transparency and thus tackle the pay gap ([IP/14/222](#)).

- **Cracking the glass ceiling:** the Commission's proposal for a Directive to have 40% of the under-

represented sex among non-executive board directors by 2020 made good progress in the legislative process and received strong endorsement by the European Parliament in November 2013 ([IP/13/1118](#)).

- In 2013, the **EU took action to protect women and girls from gender-based violence** through legislation, practical measures on victims' rights and a comprehensive policy package against female-genital mutilation ([IP/13/1153](#)). It also co-funded 14 national government campaigns against gender-based violence (with EUR 3.7 million), as well as projects led by non-governmental organisations (with EUR 11.4 million).

- **Childcare:** since 2007, the proportion of children cared for in formal childcare facilities significantly increased. It went up from 26% in 2007 to 30% in 2011 for children under three years old, and from 81% to 86% for children between three and compulsory school age ([IP/13/495](#)). The Commission adopted a comprehensive report in 2013 on the attainment of the "Barcelona targets" on the **provision of childcare**.

### What challenges remain?

According to the report, women's economic position needs to be improved. Despite having 60% of university graduates being women, they are still paid 16% less than men per hour of work. In addition, they are more likely to work part-time (32% vs 8.2% of men who work part-time) and to interrupt their careers to care for others. As a result, the gender gap in pensions stands at 39%. Widows and single parents — mainly mothers — are a particularly vulnerable group, and more than a third of single parents have insufficient income. Also, although women's employment rate has increased, it still stands at 63% against 75% for men. At the same time women still bear the brunt of unpaid work within the household and family. Women spend on average 26 hours a week on care and household activities, compared with 9 hours for men.

There is also a lot of work to be done to combat violence against women. The results of the first EU wide survey on violence against women, carried out by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and based on interviews with 42,000 women show that one in three women (33%) has experi-

enced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15.

For more information: [MEMO/14/284](#), [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/fundamental-rights/news/140414\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/fundamental-rights/news/140414_en.htm)

### March 2014: European Parliament rejects a report on gender equality

The European Parliament rejected a report prepared by the Portuguese MEP Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE) by 298 votes (289 in favour, 87 abstained) on the "Equality between women and men in the European Union", in March this year. The text, an own-initiative report, contained a series of observations on gender equality and the protection of women's rights in social, family and job sectors. It underlined the importance of being committed to reach targets such as wage equality between men and women, social security, stopping violence against women and gender stereotypes. And it fully supported sexual and reproductive health rights.

It was the focus on the devastating effects of austerity measures on gender equality that led to a front against the report. "Lots of women, especially in the European periphery, are suffering for strong discriminations and for the uncertainty of temporary work," said Rapporteur Zuber before the vote. "Public services and benefits are inadequate if the target is guaranteeing women to live with dignity," she added, highlighting that women still work 59 days more than men do, on average, to get the same salary. Especially right-wing parties did not appreciate this and considered it an "ideological" approach. "Since the beginning, the Left focused its report on negative effects of austerity and on their consequences on jobs and public services, leaving the basic topic – gender equality in our continent – apart," said Anne Delvaux (EPP).

Source through KARAT: <http://www.eunews.it/en/2014/03/11/the-european-parliament-rejects-a-report-on-gender-equality/13306>

pregnancy and childbirth — many as a result of un-

## European Citizens Initiative threatens maternal health in EU development policy

European parliamentarians Sophie in 't Veld (Dutch D66–ALDE group) and Petra Bayr (Austrian Social Democrat party) are warning for the “One of Us” campaign. For many women in the world, pregnancy may still be life-threatening. Almost 800 women in the developing world die every day during pregnancy and childbirth — many as a result of unsafe abortion. The frustrating and saddening thing is that the vast majority of these deaths are preventable. This is why the international community designated maternal health as a stand-alone Millennium Development Goal — and why the European Union contributed \$120 million to maternal health in 2012.

This EU funding may be threatened by an initiative called: "One of Us." This initiative aims to halt all EU funds for any activities that involve the destruction of the human embryo. The initiative could also have a severe impact on other areas that benefit from maternal health funding. On the ground, abortion-related services are usually interlinked with other services — including providing contraception, blood transfusions and sexuality education. These services are usually provided by the same organizations, and many of them receive their funding from the EU.

The one of us campaign used the European Citizens Initiative — a procedure allowing EU citizens to organize and collect 1 million signatures to request the European institutions to take action in any given policy area. They have collected close to 2 million signatures. Close scrutiny of the initiators and supporters of the initiative reveals them to be almost exclusively ultra-conservative, religious — both Catholic and U.S.-funded evangelical — organizations.

Devex International Development Career Forum: <https://www.devex.com/news/womens-futures-under-threat-83163>

## The EU Aid Budget 2014-2020: a fit to ensure human rights, gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment?

This CONCORD paper offers a gender analysis of the EU Multiannual Financial Framework regarding development cooperation (DCI and EDF). According to the EU proposals which were analysed in this paper, gender equality and women's empowerment seem to be not well anchored in several of the upcoming budget lines (some are still under negotiation), and there is altogether no specific budget allocation (or proportional budgetary benchmarks set) for gender equality goals. This is not very good news, also in view of financing for women's rights and empowerment goals in the post 2015 framework.

<http://www.concordeurope.org/290-the-eu-aid-budget-2014-2020-fit-to-ensure-human-rights-gender-equality-and-women-s-and-girls-empowerment>

## European Alternative Trade Mandate campaign launched

A European alliance of over 50 civil society organizations launched in April the Alternative Trade Mandate pledge campaign, calling on European Parliament election candidates to make EU trade and investment policy serve people and the planet, not just the profit of a few large corporations. The online pledge campaign will run in six EU languages (EN, FR, ES, DE, GR, HU) and will enable activists and citizens to ask candidates to pledge in support of a paradigm shift in EU trade and investment policy. The website will monitor which candidates have supported different parts of the pledge.

The pledge campaign is the result of a four-year process of public workshops held all over Europe during which the Alternative Trade Mandate was developed; it is a 20-page civil society proposal to democratize EU trade and investment policy and put environmental protection as well as human and labour rights at its heart.

Visit the pledge campaign website at: [www.alternativetrademandate.org](http://www.alternativetrademandate.org)

## People's Tribunal on EU Economic Governance and the Troika: the verdict of the other voices and a call for another Europe

Brussels – A Tribunal on EU economic governance and the Troika took place in Brussels on 15-16 May. Eleven witnesses from ten countries in Southern, Eastern and Western Europe gave testimony to the failure of the EU and Troika policies to address the crisis.

Many testified that the strategy of the austerity policy measures is a deliberate attack on working people's standards of living. Indeed, people's lives and livelihoods have been devastated by the austerity and other policy measures – whether via the Troika (European Commission, European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund) or by direct imposition on national governments of straitjacket fiscal policies, the restructuring of labour and social policies that favour the financial markets, the big banks, and corporations. According to Christos Giovanopoulos (Solidarity4All, Greece), "with the financial and political dictatorship of the Troika, we are confronted with an (un)constitutional 'coup d'état' that has brought the loss of national and popular sovereignty and the demise of democracy".

Witness after witness testified to increasing inequality, unemployment (affecting women and men, across generations, but is especially high among the youth), homelessness, and impoverishment. According to Georg Rammer (Attac Germany), "the most recent statistics from the OECD indicate that around 20% of the population in Germany is affected by poverty or social exclusion. Children are particularly affected. The IAB (German Labour Market Institute) has calculated that one in four children lives in a family affected by poverty". In Slovenia, according to Kira Cerjak (Iniciative for Democratic Socialism), "the labour force is increasingly forced into precarious work which does not suffice for decent livelihood".

Across the EU, according to Gabriele Michalitsch (Vienna University), "we have an enormous increase in female poverty and of unpaid work in the home. We also see the privatization of child care and elderly care being transferred informally, particularly to women migrants who are deprived of their basic rights and expected to work for very low wages"

Europe-wide reports from rapporteurs on debt, democracy, poverty, public services, wages and

feminist perspectives collaborated the narratives presented on the national situations indicating alarming developments, including intensifying racism and neo-fascism. Since the beginning of the crisis, a restructuring has occurred that takes Europe on a track to social and political regression, violations of labour, social and migrant rights, attacks on women's reproductive rights and increased violence against women and an unprecedented roll-back of democratic achievements. All the testimonies pinpoint to similar trends across the EU – giving a strong message that this is not the crisis of one country, it is a Europe-wide crisis and a crisis of the economic model.

However the dominant message from the Tribunal is that resistance continues in large and small mobilizations and in many creative experiments of grassroots democracy. Ana Maria Jimenez of the PAH (Platform of People affected by Mortgages in Spain) reported that: "Today we are more than 200 nodes in the state. We have stopped over 1.000 evictions, we have relocated over 1.000 people through our Obra Social campaign".

Despite great difficulties, people are organizing to demonstrate that water is a public commons and cannot be privatized as in the Thessaloniki and Italy initiatives involving citizens and local government; stopping evictions in Spain; trade unions defending their right to organize and defeating attempts of social dumping as in the Dockers strike in Portugal; confronting racism and neo-fascism in many countries; building several forms of people's self-organisation to counter the effects of austerity and constructing a different paradigm of socially managed public services and an economy of commons.

Social movements in Europe are already in a necessary process to re-invent ways of doing politics. But to be able to counter the policies of EU economic governance and the Troika, the greatest challenge is to converge and strengthen forces and set another agenda for another Europe.

Further information Supporting organisations and full program: <http://www.tni.org/events/eu-crisis-policies-put-trial>

The Tribunal took place in the context of the European Week of Action - 3 of our witnesses even were among the 281 arrested during a peaceful protest against the European Business Summit on the 15th: <http://www.d19-20.be/en/> <http://mayofsolidarity.org/>

## Other News

### European Feminist Initiative becomes Euro-Med Feminist Initiative

At a meeting of the Board of European Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI and MENA partners coming from 16 countries, on 9 April 2014 at the European Parliament they formally agreed on the enlargement of the European Feminist Initiative into the Euro-Med Feminist Initiative (IFE-EFI). The Initiative will among others analyze, promote and advocate in the Euro-Mediterranean region the values of equality between men and women and the demand for the recognition and implementation of fundamental rights to full citizenship and gender equality.

### Poland: proposals to criminalize women for having illegal abortion

The Criminal Law Codification Commission proposed amendments to the Criminal Code. The suggested changes include criminalization of women who have abortions illegally and increasing a penalty from three to five years' imprisonment for those who perform abortions. Additionally, the Committee suggested that the women who in some way exposed the foetus's health to danger during a pregnancy should be punished as well. The proposed amendments caused a commotion in media and were strongly criticized by women's and human rights NGOs. The Polish Prime Minister responded to the commotion with the statement that the government does not plan to change the current abortion law.

From Polish Federation for Women and Family Planning/KARAT Coalition newsletter:  
<http://karat.us4.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=a88b012a6dab0a7a254c9274b&id=a20b218e61&e=1139c973d1>

### Poland: government adopted National Action Plan for Equal Treatment

On December 10, 2013, the Polish government adopted a long-awaited "National Action Plan for Equal Treatment for the Years 2013-2015", prepared by the Government Plenipotentiary

for Equal Treatment. It is the first government document that raises the issue of equal treatment of many groups exposed to discrimination. The document includes analysis of the situation of groups susceptible to discrimination, identifies problematic areas, defines goals and objectives of the national policy, as well as formulates concrete steps to be taken by the government. In terms of women's rights, there is a strong language on women's participation in politics.

From KARAT coalition newsletter: <http://www.karat.org/newsletters/january-2014/>

### World March of Women's declaration for International Women's Day 2014

The World March of Women reflected in their declaration for International Women's Day on the struggles and challenges women face around the world.

For Europe it writes that: "women are on the streets in defence of the right to safe abortion, which is threatened in many countries of the continent where abortion was already an earned right. In the Spanish State, the ultraconservative right-wing government wants to change the law governing access to abortion. Demonstrations also denounce the rise of conservatism and right-wing groups, which especially attack the rights and achievements of women, and state repression to popular mobilization. Women in Europe are fighting everyday against neo-liberal policies and austerity measures destroying our access to health, education, housing and common services, and pushing some people into racism and xenophobia".

It acknowledges the devastating impact of the neo-liberally hegemony in economy and policy: "the increased power of corporations has contributed to dispossession and accumulation of natural resources like land, water, forests, and replacement of household agriculture by extraction and monocultures, pushing women and communities to a dead end, without alternative livelihoods. The state is resigning from its responsibility to ensure access to basic health services, education and housing where women and families are given this burden and responsibility without any means to bear the costs that it represents. Likewise, we continue contributing pushing for the elimination of patriarchy, capitalism and colonialism, promoting social organization for the defence of the progressive governments of

the continents, ones that believe that another world is possible.”

The declaration is available in English, Spanish and French:

<http://www.marchemondiale.org/news/mmfnewsitem.2014-03-07.5499765403/en>

### **The International Trade Centre partners with UN Global Compact and UN Women to better support women entrepreneurs**

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is joining forces with UN Global Compact and UN Women to create greater opportunities for women entrepreneurs from developing countries. Partnership agreements were signed on 6 March on the sidelines of the 6th Annual Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs) Event, held at UN Headquarters in New York.

Together with UN Global Compact, ITC will work to facilitate access for women entrepreneurs to the supply chains of the nearly 700 companies that have signed up to the Women Empowerment Principles - a set of seven principles that provides a roadmap for the private sector to advance the position of women in the workplace, marketplace and community.

<http://www.intracen.org/ITC-partners-with-UN-Global-Compact-and-UN-Women-to-better-support-women-entrepreneurs/>

### **World Bank and IMF urged to take actions to tackle inequality**

An article published by the IPS on 10 April reviewed the inequality narratives from the World Bank and IMF. Global income inequality threatens economic and social viability, according to a World Bank report released earlier that week, reiterating a new but increasingly forceful narrative from both the Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Anti-poverty campaigners are calling on the Bank and IMF to translate such rhetoric into practice. “We are pleased to see the IMF recognise that drastic fiscal consolidation policies have been a drag on growth,” Sharan Burrow, general secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), said Thursday. “The IMF’s undermining of labour standards and collective bargaining institutions in several European countries, for example, has already

had important impacts on income distribution that are likely to intensify in the future. We urgently call for a review and major changes in the Fund’s labour market policies.”

Inequality has become a particularly prominent topic in international policy discussions over the past two years. In part this is because, in the aftermath of the global economic downturn of 2008, the rich have bounced back much more quickly than the poor – thus widening the inequality gap. A recent list of global billionaires published by Forbes underscored the scope of the problem. According to that data, just 67 people have as much wealth as the poorest 3.5 billion people.

“Fewer than 100 people control as much of the world’s wealth as the poorest 3.5 billion combined,” World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim said at the start of the World Bank-IMF Spring Meetings. He warned that economic growth is not enough to reach that goal. “We need a laser-like focus on making growth more inclusive and targeting more programmes to assist the poor directly if we’re going to end extreme poverty.”

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/04/world-bank-imf-urged-act-new-inequality-focus/>

### **Call for contributions**

#### **Friends of the Earth UK call: where do you want to be in 2050 and how will you get there?**

Friends of the Earth UK has recently started a project to stir organizational and public debate; they call it '[Big Ideas' project](#): *where do you want to be in 2050 - and how will you get there? How can we get from a planet in peril to a world of well-being?* The conclusions of this exploratory effort will feed their future campaigns. The project explores various themes and one of them is women and the environment. The organizers would love to receive input on the connections 'the care economy' and environmental justice. One can contribute through the page or contact the organizers.

## Resources

### Gender & Development issue on Education

In the latest issue of Gender & Development, brand new articles from practitioners, policy makers and researchers focus on girls' formal education. The contributors to this issue chart progress on increasing access to education - exploring the challenges that remain - and share visions of empowering education as well as analytical case studies of work that aims to both increase access to education and improve its quality, relevance and usefulness to girls and women.

Gender & Development provides free access to individual articles via:

[www.genderanddevelopment.org](http://www.genderanddevelopment.org)

### IMF discussion paper: 'Women, Work, and the Economy'

This staff discussion Note examines the specific macro-critical features of women's participation in the labour market, the constraints preventing women from developing their full economic potential and possible policies to overcome these obstacles. The note draws 5 main conclusions:

- There is ample evidence that when women are able to develop their full labour market potential, there can be significant macroeconomic gains.
- In rapidly aging economies, higher Female Labour Force Participation can boost growth by mitigating the impact of a shrinking workforce.
- Better opportunities for women to earn and control income could contribute to broader economic development in developing economies, for instance through higher levels of school enrolment for girls.
- Equal access to inputs would raise the productivity of female-owned companies.
- The employment of women on an equal basis would allow companies to make better use of the available talent pool, with potential growth implications

Direct Link to Full 32-Page 2013 Publication:

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/sdn/2013/sdn1310.pdf>

### Analysis of IMF & Gender: a long way to go

In this briefing Gender Action analyzes the recently published IMF discussion Note '*Women, work and the economy*'. It is the best IMF gender-focused report to date but it at the same time shows that the IMF has a long way to go to realize gender justice.

The IMF note promotes an instrumentalist strategy that upholds women's employment as an instrument to boost economic growth. It needs to complementarily promote women's and men's equal rights -- a key women's movement demand to end patriarchal patterns and feminization of poverty propelled by IMF structural adjustment loans. The IMF paper's references to women's rights are drowned out by its 'smart economics' framework. However the note does include some good analysis and recommendations on unpaid care and the need for accessible paid care and education.

<http://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/2014/01/imf-gender-long-way-go/>

### Women on the front line of climate change: the gender advantage

Through this collection of ten case studies, IFAD shows how a gender-sensitive approach in the field of climate change results in better outcomes in food security, livelihood options, incomes, and reduced workloads. The case studies are grouped thematically under the following headings: valuing women's knowledge and experience creates opportunities for the whole community; equitable access to adaptation knowledge; investing in women brings economic returns for smallholder farmers; equal voice, equal access to decision making; and tackling women's worsening workloads. Case studies are sourced from various multilateral and NGO projects from around the developing world, with the majority based in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Direct Link to Full 23-Page 2014 IFAD Publication: <http://www.ifad.org/climate/resources/advantage/gender.pdf>

## **Feminist Africa published second 2013 issue: e-spaces is e-politics**

*Feminist Africa* is a continental gender studies journal produced by the community of feminist scholars. It provides a platform for intellectual and activist research, dialogue and strategy. *Feminist Africa* attends to the complex and diverse dynamics of creativity and resistance that have emerged in postcolonial Africa, and the manner in which these are shaped by the shifting global geopolitical configurations of power.

Enter *Feminist Africa* 18 – offering an unique perspective to independent public discourse on the implications of global digitisation, presenting an African perspectives that emerge out of feminist praxis across the continent.

Direct Link to Full 176-Page 2013 Publication: [http://agi.ac.za/sites/agi.ac.za/files/fa18\\_web-1.pdf](http://agi.ac.za/sites/agi.ac.za/files/fa18_web-1.pdf)

## **Review of the World Bank and women's unpaid care work in select sub-Saharan African countries**

This new Gender Action publication prepared in collaboration with WIDER examines the extent to which World Bank investments address unpaid care work. The paper conducts an in-depth gender analysis of 36 World Bank employment-related projects in Malawi, Mali, Niger, and Rwanda. It concludes that the vast majority (92 per cent) of reviewed projects fail to account for unpaid care work.

Exceptionally, Malawi's Shire River Basin Management Program and Niger's Community Action Program target women's needs as care-takers. But most reviewed projects do not address unpaid care work. Doing so would improve economic and human development and gender justice.

<http://www.genderaction.org/carereport.pdf>

## **CIDSE's new paper 'Financing sustainable development: are we up to the challenge?'**

This paper published by the international alliance of Catholic development agencies reflects on sustainable development from a broad per-

spective. It particularly addresses the question of how the financial system should respond to the interlinked challenges of social justice, protection of the environment and tackling climate change. The paper calls for a "return of economics and finance to an ethical approach which favours human beings". It thus takes a close look at the current discussion on the role of the private sector in development finance.

The document is available in English and French: <http://www.cidse.org/content/publications/finance-and-development/sustainable-development-financing.html>

## **Webinar on women's rights in the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

AWID hosted a 'Guests on the Wire' session on Women's Rights in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Our Guests Bhumika Muchhala, (TWN) and Bridget Burns (WEDO) talked about the Post-2015 and SDGs processes and discussed the challenges and opportunities for women's rights organizations around the world to influence the new development agenda.

You can hear a recording here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5AJJeVr21Jw&feature=youtu.be>

## **Civil society is under pressure according to a new study**

The study '[Space for Civil Society – How to Protect and Expand an Enabling Environment](#)' discusses examples of ICCO partners in Malawi, Rwanda, Colombia and Zimbabwe between 2009 and 2013. Many people working for civil society organizations in those countries feel fear for some or all the time. In three out of the four countries studied, it had become harder to peacefully assemble or to take part in political processes.

To read: <http://www.icco-international.com/int/news/news/civil-society-is-under-pressure/>

## **Report: Violence against Women currently in the Euro-Mediterranean region**

EMHRN's new report '[Violence against Women in the Context of Political Transformations and Economic Crisis in the Euro-Mediterranean Region](#)' comes to shed light on the sharp increase in

gender-based violence. Unfortunately, the euphoria of the Arab Spring has given way to the sobering realization that women have been the main victims of the turmoil rocking the region. In Europe, the economic crisis has led to disproportionate growing poverty and lack of economic independence among women compared to men. These trends are aggravated by societal attitudes and conservative discriminatory policies.

Read in English, French or Arabic:

<http://www.euromedrights.org/eng/2014/03/05/stop-violence-against-women/>

### **Publication: How TNCs deprive African countries of billions through trade misinvoicing**

Global Financial Integrity published a report analyzing the impact of trade misinvoicing on Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda. According to the report, under- and over-invoicing of trade transactions in the period between 2002 and 2011 caused a loss of US\$ 14.39 billions in tax revenues in the five Sub-Saharan African countries. This means that governments lose a huge amount of their annual budget which could otherwise be spend on education, health services or infrastructure projects desperately needed in these countries. Following an estimation of the scope of this fraudulent behaviour, the report also analyzes the policy environment in each country and gives country specific policy recommendations.

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/216-global-taxes/52619-how-multinational-corporations-deprive-african-countries-of-billions-of-tax-revenues-through-trade-misinvoicing.html>

### **Paper: corporate influence in the Post-2015 process**

The study 'Corporate influence in the Post-2015 process' examines what corporations and their associations are pushing with what interests in the debate for a post-2015 sustainable development agenda. The paper looks at different institutions and processes like the SDSN, the Global Compact or the High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Needless to say that the paper draws conclusions from its findings and makes recommen-

dations for how to deal with corporate interests in global policy making in the future. It is a new working paper developed by the Global Policy Forum, Bread for the World and MISEREOR.

[http://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/GPFEurope/Corporate\\_influence\\_in\\_the\\_Post-2015\\_process\\_web.pdf](http://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/GPFEurope/Corporate_influence_in_the_Post-2015_process_web.pdf)

### **Achieving Transformative Feminist Leadership: a Toolkit for Organisations and Movements**

The Toolkit aims to help individuals and organisations dedicated to advancing a feminist social change agenda--an agenda based on the belief that all development and social justice must be rooted in gender and social equality. The Toolkit aims to enable individuals and groups to:

- Examine and analyse their own specific organisational setting and the nature of its leadership at different levels;
- Understand how their individual self and that of others is shaping their practice of leadership;

Begin to think about how they may want to deal with these issues in order to bring their individual and organisational leadership practices more in harmony with the principles of transformative feminist leadership.

Direct Link to Full 132-Page 2014 CREA Publication: [http://www.creaworld.org/sites/default/files/Final%20Feminist%20Leadership%20Manual%2014-4-14\\_0.pdf](http://www.creaworld.org/sites/default/files/Final%20Feminist%20Leadership%20Manual%2014-4-14_0.pdf)

## **EDITORIAL TEAM**

**WIDE+ contact mail: [info\(at\)wide-network.org](mailto:info(at)wide-network.org)**

Editori: Gea Meijers

*All articles reflect the author's personal view and do not represent WIDE+.*

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