Members Update, issue 6

Do you have any suggestions of what to share with members? Email us at: info@wide-network.org

Join WIDE+ Solidarity Video Message for Citizens, especially Feminists, in Belarus

It is women and the feminist movement who have been taking necessary leadership in pursuit for freedom, justice and democracy in Belarus. Together with other groups, women have been pushing on president Alexander Lukashenko to step down, cease all state repression and free all the political detainees. In a patriarchal society that often still reduces women to their reproductive and marital abilities, women have been standing on the front line and taking prominent roles in the protests, subjecting themselves to threats and physical danger. Some have been forced to exile, many jailed.

The undemocratic rule of the Belarusian state must be condemned loudly and international attention for the huge struggles faced by the Belarusian population at this moment must not be lost. If you or your organisation wish to partake in this action we are proposing, we warmly invite you to send us a short video of 30-60 seconds, expressing your solidarity with feminist activists in Belarus. You can send your own message or contact us, if you need further protection with wording the message. If you are keen, please email hanatursic1@gmail.com for further information.
"With this new trade strategy the EU clearly prioritises the economic interests of European businesses, based on an unquestioned reliance on a growth model that expects that our production capacities can be endlessly increased with evergrowing markets.

The EU assumes that, through promoting further technological advancement of 'green' and 'digital' production and service value chains, harmful environmental and social impacts can be mitigated, at least for Europe.

Such a growth model follows a macro-economic theory which is not fit for the 21st century’s challenges, when instead we should be developing an economy geared toward ensuring wellbeing for the people and planet".

CONCORD ANALYSIS ON EU TRADE POLICY REVIEW

WIDE+ collaborated with CONCORD in response to the new EU the multi-annual strategy "Trade Policy Review".

CONCORD and WIDE+ deeply regret that the European Commission missed this opportunity to truly align EU trade policy with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and to deliver concrete recommendations on the protection of women’s rights. The EU continues to promote a model in which trade liberalisation and measures to protect European companies and domestic markets are the main goals, without enough consideration for realising sustainable development across the globe. WIDE+ collaborated with CONCORD members in preparing an analysis identifies 12 key improvements to the reviewed EU Trade Strategy to move towards an economy that ensures well-being for the people and planet.

The Trade Strategy relegates gender equality to an after-thought on the last page. In the last paragraph. In terms of gender equality, WIDE+ coordinator Gea Meijers concludes that for the first time in the multi-annual EU trade strategy gender is included with an action, though in a very limited manner.

https://concordeurope.org/resource/analysis-of-the-eu-trade-strategy-review/
WIDE+ Supports Action to Further Promote the TRIPS WAIVER for COVID-19: new petition to German Chancellor

It is hopeful that the proposed "Waiver from certain provisions of the TRIPS Agreement for the prevention, containment and treatment of COVID-19" would come to a positive conclusion at the World Trade Organization with the US signaling a shift in its opposition and offering to support and discuss the proposal within the WTO. The waiver proposal is critical for all governments, especially in the global south, to ramp up production and make prevention and treatment options available and accessible to all. Currently, the patents on the vaccines protect the interests of the companies that share their revenue in the global north, while making them hugely unavailable for developing and emerging countries, even in countries where vaccines are produced like in India, because of the high costs companies ask. This will mitigate women and gender non-conforming people being forced to give up access to this health care and bear a disproportionate burden of this pandemic.

WIDE+, its members, and other civil society networks and associations asked Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President for the European Commission on the role of ‘an Economy that works for People’, including trade policy in November for supporting this waiver towards upcoming negotiations in the WTO. Now Ursula von der Leyen and
several important states have also shown willingness to discuss the waiver, except for Germany that has shown a reluctance to stop protecting companies access to profit. Any action to alert Angela Merkel to change her position is much welcomed. Sign this petition set up by We Move Europe!

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MEMBERS AND PARTNER NEWS

Joint statement of women-human rights activists from the Balkan region toward gender-based violence on the Internet

Women human rights activists from the Balkans, including WIDE+ member Atina, stand together in solidarity with all women victims of digital gender-based violence, and demand from relevant institutions to act in accordance with their jurisdiction, thoroughly and promptly investigate the case of groups on the Telegram platform (such as: Balkan Room, Public Room, GevgelijaHub, Serbian Room, Smokva, etc.), in order to sanction the perpetrators and protect the victims from further victimization.

The statement demands from competent institutions to seriously and responsibly approach this social phenomenon which affects at least half of the population. It also demands for institutional cross-border cooperation, thorough investigation, and prosecution of all involved offenders from the region. Read the letter here.

Gender and Development Network (GADN) W7 Summit: Conclusions

WIDE+ member, GADN, organized the W7 Summit on 21–22 April, which brought
together feminist experts, activists and practitioners from G7 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union) and all around the world to amplify the voices, perspectives and leadership of those not commonly included in the G7 forum. Over these two days, participants collaborated on proposals for the G7 and agreed on concrete and meaningful actions in pursuit of gender justice. Underpinning discussions were the W7’s core principles – equality and justice with an intersectional lens; a shift in aspirations towards just, equitable and green economies that centre sustainability, wellbeing and care, and accountability and the meaningful participation of all. Click here to view selected recordings of the summit.

Nearly half of all women are denied their bodily autonomy, says new UNFPA report
Nearly half of women in 57 developing countries are denied the right to decide whether to have sex with their partners, use contraception or seek health care, according to UNFPA's 2021 flagship State of World Population report, released today.

Some key findings from the report:

- Only 55% of women are fully empowered to make choices over health care, contraception and the ability to say yes or no to sex.
- Only about 56% of countries have laws and policies supporting comprehensive sexuality education.
- Only 71% of countries guarantee access to overall maternity care

Registration for the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) in Paris (30 June - 2 July) now open.
GEF is also looking for Action Coalition Commitment Makers.
The GEF concluded in Mexico in March, and is now calling for stakeholders to join efforts in driving concrete commitments for gender equality as Action Coalition Commitment Makers.

Call for Proposals from Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Asia: Transformative Strategies for Gender Equality in Trade Unions
Location: Remote
Deadline: Monday, 31st May 2021
The goal of the project is to develop a practical tool that is accessible and helps trade unionists in their work towards gender equality. The project wants to collect strategic core arguments for trade unions to include gender issues in their policy agendas and work towards more gender equal representation in leadership.
Violence against Women increased during the COVID-19 pandemic: **Ongoing research round up by Center for Global Development** reveals key takeaways from looking at research in low and middle-income countries, including how the loss of job and income is associated with increase of risk of violence against women. **CSW65 took place from 15 to 26 March and the conclusions are available:** Recordings of the official meetings can be viewed [here](https://wideplus.org/?mailpoet_router&endpoint=view_in_browser&action=view&data=WzYzLCJjY2EyODhiYjk2ZGUjLDAsMCwwLDFd), side and parallel events can be seen [here](https://wideplus.org/?mailpoet_router&endpoint=view_in_browser&action=view&data=WzYzLCJjY2EyODhiYjk2ZGUjLDAsMCwwLDFd). Nevertheless, there remain concerns around the lack of inclusivity and the exclusion of civil society’s participation in this process. **Policy brief by the Feminist Green New Deal Coalition (FemGND)** looks at the intersections of care and climate, outlining the key values of a feminist, regenerative economy. Centering care is critical to access to clean energy jobs.
Photo: Christina Ohenewaa is a 50 year old trader in Cosmetics in Accra, Ghana. Credit: Benjamin Forson

Blog post by Women In Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO): Access to vaccination for informal workers is critical to ‘softening the blow’ of a triple health-economic-care crisis. While informal workers must not merely be reduced to their economic output, viewing the vaccination issue through an economic justice lens—which is, in many ways, inseparable from access to healthcare concepts—is crucial to understanding the depth of the impact of COVID-19 on informal workers.

The Right to Say NO a compilation of resources by WoMIN African Alliance to support movement building and organising around the Right to Say NO, as well as powerful examples of women and communities exercising their right to say NO to destructive "development" projects

A new welcome video on the Feminist Response to COVID-19 website to help readers navigate the site and how they can also contribute resources to the site!

Stories of Migrant Women a collaboration by Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders (NAWHRD) and Aaprabasi Mahila Kamdar Samuha Nepal (AMKAS Nepal) documents migrant women’s experiences during the pandemic.

JASS and Count Me In! consortium partners launched a new activist toolkit for women land defenders and their allies confronting unwanted and damaging extractive projects. It contains modules designed to help identify the enablers and financiers behind those projects and to use that information to assess strategic leverage points. Facilitator training will be held in the coming months.