Members Update, Issue 7

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

WIDE+ Stands in Solidarity with Dominican Women & Activists

Photo by Rafael Idrovo Espinoza

At WIDE+ we fully support every woman’s right to make the right choice for their bodies. We would like to express our solidarity with and support of the feminist movement in the Dominican Republic in their fight toward a more just reproductive world. As feminists, we consider safe abortion to be a human right and we are joining the appeal to end the total ban on abortion in the Dominican Republic immediately. Read our solidarity statement here.

SOS Colombia: WIDE+ Sends a Message of Solidarity to Colombian Feminists
WIDE+ condemns the Colombian state oppression and violence against all groups and individuals that are now asking for social justice. The Colombian government should protect and not violently undermine people's rights to their political mobilization and expression of discontentment in the form of protests and rallies. We wish to offer a voice of solidarity to all feminists, pacifists, people on the streets of Colombia, fighting for a better tomorrow - for all. Read our solidarity statement here.

**Webinar Recording Available: "Ending Trafficking and Violence against Women and Girls in the Context of Global Migration"**

Organized by NGO Atina and WIDE+ on 10 June 2021, the main intention of this event was to gather civil rights defenders and CSOs representatives active in the thematic areas of migration, women's, child and human rights, prevention of violence and trafficking, with the goal to understand CEDAW documents and utilize them for advocacy actions, and a specific focus on the General Recommendation No.38 and experiences of the Balkan route countries. Watch the recording here.

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**MEMBERS AND PARTNER NEWS**

**An Online Presentation by Red Latinas: A New Study on Violence Against Migrant Women (In Spanish), 17 June, 12PM CEST**

Migrant women are overrepresented in the statistics of gender-based violence. What is at the bottom of those figures? Migrant women suffer more proportionally. But overrepresentation isn't just a figure. It brings to the surface a complex plot of structural violence, precariousness, and social exclusion. WIDE+ member, Red Latinas and their partners will be presenting their new study on gender-based violence and its key findings, through the lived experiences and first-person stories of 19 migrant women. To watch the presentation on 17 June, 12PM CEST, click here.

**NGO Atina is looking for an External Evaluator: Deadline for Proposals - 30 June**

Atina - Citizens' Association for Combating Trafficking of Human Beings and All Forms
of Gender-based Violence is implementing a project “Making a difference for refugee women and girls in Serbia” with the support of the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund). Its focus is improved access for refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls to essential, safe and adequate multi-sectoral services to end VAW/G.

The overall purpose of the evaluation is to assess the processes and achievements made to draw lessons that will inform the development of future actions. The evaluation is intended to be forward-looking which will effectively capture lessons learnt and provide information on the nature, extent and where possible, the effect of the project. The emphasis on lessons learned speaks to the issue of understanding what has and what has not worked as a guide for future planning. For further information on the TOR, click here.

Sign this European Citizens' Initiative for Accessible COVID-19 Vaccines & Treatments

In 2020, remarkable acts of solidarity were implemented. Whether it is from those who have helped their vulnerable neighbors by shopping or from scientists who have worked day and night to find a solution that will end this pandemic.

Fortunately, now there are effective and safe COVID-19 vaccines. However, pharmaceutical companies refuse to share their knowledge when their research has been funded with public money. Indeed, Big Pharma will make billions in profit, a sum necessary for health systems. In addition, 90% of people living in countries with the lowest incomes will probably not see the shadow of a vaccine in the coming year.

We must ensure vaccines and treatments affordable, secure and accessible to ALL, particularly the countries of the Global South. Read about the initiative here and sign the petition!
GENERAL NEWS

Refugee-Led Refugee Week by New Women Connectors:
Refugees are the most knowledgeable about what is needed to advance their rights, how to overcome obstacles, and how to facilitate integration. This year, unpacking the 'Meaningful Refugee Participation Pledge', the event calls for greater inclusion of refugees in all decision-making processes to do with refugees. The main aim of this series of events is to highlight the importance of refugee leadership to achieve “meaningful participation.” To join the lineup of events, go here.

Gender Equality Index 2020: The EU Scores 67.9 out of 100
With 67.9 out of 100 points, the EU has a long way to go before reaching gender equality. The Gender Equality Index score has increased by only 4.1 points since 2010 and 0.5 points since 2017. At this pace of progress – 1 point every 2 years – it will take more than 60 years to achieve gender equality in the EU. The progress is slow. This index is developed by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). Key findings of the index:

- The gender balance in decision-making is a major driver of change in almost all Member States. In the long term (2010–2018), the domain of power has contributed 65 % of the overall increase in the Gender Equality Index in the EU.
- Initial results of analysis of the economic impact of COVID-19 suggest that there is a risk that the fragile gains achieved with regard to women’s independence in the past decade will be rolled back.
- Physical distancing measures have had a substantial impact on sectors employing a high proportion of women, with women’s employment falling more sharply than it did during the 2008 recession.

Related to the Gender Equality Index, EIGE also published its latest data on women and men in decision-making, covering the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as the seven countries that receive support from the EU’s Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance. The graph below summarises the figures of women and men in decision-making in different domains.
Global Alliance for Tax Justice launched, "Framing Feminist Taxation - With Examples From Uganda", together with Womankind Worldwide and Akina Mama wa Afrika, to support tax justice and gender justice advocates to challenge international financial institutions' role in shaping tax systems.

This new publication provides guidance and recommendations for policy-making and advocacy that can influence and change our current economic and tax systems for a feminist future. Women and girls are disproportionately hurt by current global economic and taxation systems. Even though challenges may differ from country to country, everywhere women tend to proportionately pay more taxes and benefit less from them.
as gender-biased and regressive tax systems continue to deepen gender inequality. While the socio-economic crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened this situation, it only highlights the urgency for structural changes to make taxes work for women.

**Call for Submissions: Communications of Women's Human Rights Violations for CSW - Deadline August 1**

Any individual, non-governmental organization, group or network may submit communications (complaints/appeals/petitions) to the Commission on the Status of Women containing information relating to alleged violations of human rights that affect the status of women in any country in the world. The Commission on the Status of Women considers such communications as part of its annual programme of work in order to identify emerging trends and patterns of injustice and discriminatory practices against women for purposes of policy formulation and development of strategies for the promotion of gender equality. More information [here](#).
Rape as a grave violation & manifestation of violence against women & girls - read the new report by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. In the report, the Special Rapporteur addresses rape as a grave, systematic and widespread human rights violation, a crime and a manifestation of gender-based violence against women, and presents recommendations for its prevention.

**Strategic Network Building for Women & Initiatives** - a new toolkit by the Brussels Binder that not only provides tips on strategic network building for women but also for women-led initiatives on how to build synergies and collaborations.

**Feminist Action in Colombia (link in Spanish)**

More than 500 feminists and 173 organizations, convinced of the power of thought, of the word, of dialogue and of feminist political practice to strengthen democracy, shares their proposition, especially in centering care as an inviolable principle in social protest and confidence-building as a fundamental and indispensable principle for another world that emerges from protest.

**Call for Applications: Gender Just Climate Solutions Awards 2021**

- Deadline 31 July.

These awards aim to showcase real solutions for a more just, equal and healthy planet.

**Ending the Hunger Crisis - Gender a Key Consideration in this Report:** Ahead of the G7 Leaders' Summit, taking place in the UK from June 11th to 13th, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) published this report. It is estimated that 155 million people experienced acute food insecurity across 55 countries in 2020 – an increase of 20 million compared to 2019. The IRC estimates that without urgent action, progress towards the SDG target of Zero Hunger will effectively be suspended by at least 5 years. Chapter 4 outlines what a feminist approach should look like in building food security and climate resilience.
How gender-responsive were the COVID-19 national recovery measures?
Countries responded differently to Covid-19 and the designed measures had a different impact on women and on men. The Gender Budget Watchdog Network (GBWN) for a year was watching governments in Western Balkans and Moldova implement Covid-19 measures and accounting for their results and impact. The GBWN partners followed unified regional methodology in producing a Fiscal Impact Study on Gender Equality for each country of project implementation.

The Women & Gender Constituency’s (WGC) View on Progress & Challenges on the Road to COP26:
In the midst of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) virtual Subsidiary Body discussions, women’s rights and feminist advocates outline key opportunities and challenges for delivering ambitious climate action towards COP26. Gender expert, Hwei Mian Lim, urged the implementation of gender-responsive climate action as part of the Gender Action Plan. “Ambitious climate action does not only refer to emission reduction targets but also to ensuring that through those targets the transformation of economies and societies is achieved in a feminist way, leaving no one behind,” Mian Lim said.