Members Update, 2022, Issue 4

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


"Migrant women are not vulnerable, we are vulnerabilised!" This is the common thread that tied all the different interventions of the speakers for this webinar, "Weaving Politics Together: Stories of Collective Resistance of Migrant Women in Europe" on 24 February 2022. This online dialogue session, discussing the political strategies of migrant women in Europe, was organised by Red Latinas, a member of WIDE+ Migration and Gender Working Group. The event was supported by WIDE+.

Deborah Carlos-Valencia from Melissa Network, shared how the organisation first came into existence when it started providing practical support for refugee women in Greece and today, it has grown in an association with over 500 partners. Mercedes Rodriguez from Red Latinas explained the rich and active political work of the association in Spain with its political agenda focusing on human rights, political participation, and tackling gender-based violence. Silvia Dumitrache from ADRI Association shared the political advocacy work of her organisation to promote the rights
of Romanian women in Italy. Martha Salazar, from KULU, WIMN and Wo-Mi, reflected on an upcoming WIDE+ paper that tracks the funding flows of the EU going to migrant women associations. The session was moderated by Marisol Herreño, Red Latinas, Spain.

To watch the recording, go to this youtube link.

**Upcoming Online Event, "Juntanza Feminista: Innovando Narrativas Migrantes y Tejiendo Europa, 7 March, 7PM CET, in Spanish**

To commemorate International Women's Day, WIDE+ Board Member, Martha Salazar and her organisation, Wo-Mi, together with LAFI Berlin and other partners have organised this online event. It is supported by WIDE+.

The event is part of a series by Wo-Mi, titled, "Amplifying Women Migrants Voices". The speakers will share their reflections on regional and global alliances among women of diverse territories of origin, transit, and destination countries. This dialogue will interweave the role of art in migrant women's narratives with the aim of re-politicising words that have been depoliticised and co-opted in various ways.

Speakers: Diana Castillo, de Lafi Berlin; Martha Salazar de Wo-Mi Women Migrants; Yénica Castillo de la Colectiva Feminista en Suecia-Maiz; and someone from Mlatts,
Dresden.

Register for this event here.

Upcoming Online Event, "Feminist Climate Justice: Actions and Advocacy in Networks", 18 March, 3PM CET, in ENG & FRENCH

This online event is part of the 66th Civil Society UN Commission on the Status of Women programme, and is organized by Adéquations and WIDE+.

The webinar invites civil society organizations and feminist networks in the Global South and North that engage in feminist mobilizations and climate and biodiversity issues, on the ground and in advocacy. It aims to discuss the outcomes of some official processes (such as the Gender Equality Forum and COP26) and will emphasise feminist and gender analysis on cross-cutting ecological, economic and gender issues. Best practice cases will be presented, including initiatives on gender and climate in Europe, women organising against extractive industries and actions by grassroots and migrant women.

Speakers and moderator so far confirmed are: Yveline Nicolas, Adéquations (France); Martha Salazar, WIMN and WIDE+; Trusha Reddy, WOMIN (Afrique du Sud); and Angèle Koué, GEPALEF (Côte d’Ivoire).

No registration is required for this event, to join the event on 18 March at 3PM CET, go to this link.
MEMBERS AND PARTNERS NEWS

Article on the Ongoing Russian Invasion, "The Russian Invasion of Ukraine: A Chronicle of a Death Foretold?"

WIDE+ Board member, Edmé Domínguez, chair of GADIP and Associate Professor in Peace and Development at the University of Gothenburg, wrote a recent article titled, "The Russian Invasion of Ukraine: A Chronicle of a Death Foretold?".

This illuminating article traces the historical events that shaped Russia, all the way back to the years 945 - 972 up to the Cold War. The dismantling of the Soviet Union and the growth of NATO contributed to the mentality of Vladimir Putin where to him, sovereign nations like Ukraine and Belarus remain part of Russia. The invasion continues, with devastating impacts on the people of Ukraine.

If your organisation is putting together strong solidarity and feminist actions against this war, please contact WIDE+ at info@wide-network.org so we can join in and spread the word.

Support This Campaign to Free Nicaraguan Women Political Prisoners!

WIDE+ invites you to sign this letter which denounces the situation of women political prisoners, declares feminist solidarity, and demands for their immediate release. We also urge you to share this letter with your own networks and contacts. It was sent to us by WIDE+ partner Marilyn Thomson.

This declaration statement has been written by a group of women political exiles from Nicaragua who are collecting signatures for a letter they want to launch on International Women's Day to demand the release of women and other political prisoners being held
by the Ortega regime in Nicaragua. The regime has targeted feminists and women leaders in their clampdown on civil society organising and protesting. Another group in the UK, Morada Feminista Nicaragua-UK is also raising funds to support feminist organisations and networks that are working in solidarity with those most affected across the country.

Upcoming Online Event, "Women Speak Up - The Impact of COVID-19 on Women and Girls in the Global South, and its Policy Implications", 23 March, 10AM - 12:30 PM CET, in English and French

This event is organised by Global Responsibility, the Austrian umbrella organisation of development cooperation and humanitarian NGOs in the country. It is supported by WIDE+ member, WIDE Austria, which is also a member of the above organisation. This event is a conversation with discussants from the Global South perspective about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls and resulting policy implications.

Women representing civil society organisations from African and Eastern European countries will share their experiences and an analysis of the social and economic effects of the pandemic on women’s empowerment and gender equality. Based on these real-life accounts of women, various stakeholders working in development cooperation and policy will discuss how Austrian international development actors can support recovery and sustainable and inclusive development in these regions. For more information and to register for the event, go to this link.

Brief Project Update: Leave No Women Behind, Empowering Refugee Women in Germany
Mrs Maihandost (in the centre, in light brown outfit) with the migrant women who attended the workshop in Trier, Germany

As part of WIDE+ migration and gender working group, under the project frame, “Expanding Spaces for Capacity-Building and Exchange to Strengthen Women Migrant Movement-Building Across Europe”, Voice of All Women and its partner, Afghan feminist Shahla Maihandost, have launched a series of workshops for Afghan migrant women in Trier, Germany. Mrs Maihandost is a refugee in Germany who left Afghanistan 5 years ago. Back in Afghanistan, she was working for the ministry of women affairs and also established an NGO to aid internally displaced people and refugee women. Since arriving in Germany, given all the multiple barriers that migrant women face, she finds it necessary to share her experiences and knowledge with other migrant women. This collective consciousness-raising will then contribute to a transformative process that will empower migrant women to see themselves as powerful agents of political and social change.

The workshop sessions held last month in Trier covered topics like human rights and gender-based violence. Around 20 women joined the sessions and they are keen to have more training sessions on these topics. There will be more sessions to come, and WIDE+ and VOAW will share further updates. For more information on this project and the working group, kindly contact Nurhidayah Hassan at hassan@wideplus.org.

GENERAL NEWS

European Parliament’s FEMM Committee Organizes an Inter-Parliamentary Committee Meeting for International Women’s Day 2022, 3 March, 9AM -12PM
CET (live stream)

With the world emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic, its impact on life at work and home features high on the agenda. They will be the subject of an inter-parliamentary meeting on 3 March called "An ambitious future for Europe's women after Covid-19: mental load, gender equality in teleworking and unpaid care work after the pandemic."

The meeting is organised by the FEMM Committee together with the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments. For more information click here.

MEPs will also mark International Women’s Day during the plenary session in Strasbourg on 8 March. A media seminar in Strasbourg on 7 March will look at the role of the European Parliament and the EU in improving gender equality. It will be streamed.

Publications by the European Parliament to Mark #IWD2022

- Beyond the pandemic: The potential of ambitious gender equality policy
- Exploring gender equality across policy areas
- Equal pay for equal work between men and women: Pay transparency and enforcement mechanisms [EU Legislation in Progress]
- Gender equality in the Recovery

Join this Virtual Parallel Event on Migration, Displacement and Women’s Human Rights in the Climate Crisis, 18 March, 4PM CET, in multiple languages
New Policy Brief: Towards Feminist Recovery Plans for COVID-19 and Beyond

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated the inequalities embedded in our economic and legal systems, but has also provided the opportunity to rethink the values and logics governing these systems. Feminist activists and organisations across the world have contributed to this debate with various proposals to amplify the voices of those living at the margins of the economy, who have little or no power to influence policymaking, but who have been at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19.

This policy brief outlines five key elements for post-pandemic feminist recovery plans and offers recommendations useful at national and transnational levels.

In the context of government inaction on the climate crisis, this event will explore climate change impacts at the intersection of migration and gender, focusing on the human rights of women and girls displaced and migrating due to climate-related factors.

Speakers representing diverse sectoral and regional perspectives will address challenges arising from a lack of gender-responsive, rights- and justice-based responses to climate-related migration, including how lack of documentation limits access to decent work and social protections, and undermines safety and freedom of movement. Speakers will share how despite these challenges migrant women are leading with resilience, creating frontline models of solidarity. Go to this link for more information.

Webinar: Guide to strengthening gender integration in climate finance projects, 8 March