Members Update 2022 | Issue 10

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

Open Letter from the Gender and Trade Coalition to the World Trade Organization ministerial conference

The current proposals put forward by the Working Group do not even suggest that WTO policies and negotiations should be systematically reviewed through a gender equality lens to ensure that they address harmful impacts. Instead there remains a focus on enhancing the inclusion of relatively more privileged women in trade, through promoting female entrepreneurship.

WIDE+ has contributed to this open letter from the Gender and Trade Coalition (GTC), a network of more than 300 women’s rights organisations and allies that puts forward feminist trade analysis and advocates for equitable trade policy.

The letter outlines how GTC has been closely following the gender and trade initiative of the WTO, in particular, the establishment of the Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender (WT/L/1095/Rev.1). GTC has observed that the work carried out by the Working Group is done without any consultation with women’s rights and feminist constituencies. All other global multilateral institutions in which macroeconomic policy is shaped include such consultations.
The letter calls for needs a feminist trade policy that breaks away from its current neo-liberal agenda. Such policy starts with the acknowledgement that “women’s issues” cannot be separate from any key issues related to trade. As such, gender issues must not be relegated to one track within the WTO, as they are interrelated with every issue that the WTO negotiates.

The letter was sent in advance of the Ministerial Conference (MC12) that was held last week. MC12 proved to be again disappointing, not considering the perspectives of Civil Society and of the Global South. The trade negotiations have become even more exclusive.

_______________________________

MEMBERS AND PARTNERS NEWS

Upcoming In-Person Event - "Demilitarisation and Disarmament: Feminist Perspectives on Peace Cultures and Genuine Security", 23- 24 June in Bern, Switzerland

Programme

Thursday, 23 June 2022
Main building of the University of Bern, Hochschulstrasse 6, 3012 Bern, Room 033

13.00 - 13.30  Welcome, introduction (ASH/M)
13.40 - 14.30  "Ice Breaker" (three theses for comment)
14.30 - 15.00  Discussion of theses in plenary (HM)

Feminist hearings with thematic focus

15.00 - 15.15:  Thematic Introduction (ASH/M):
- Psychological aspects of war
- Economics of war

15.15 - 16.30:  Hearings in two groups (parallel)

16.30 - 16.45:  Coffee break (whiteboards for comments and questions)

16.45 - 17.45:  Plenary discussion (MAK), visualization
- Insights, challenges, additional questions

17.45:  Invitation to public panel in Audimax

Public Panel
The ugly faces of Conflict and War, a gender perspective
University of Bern, Hochschulstrasse 6, 3012 Bern, Audimax 110
18.15 – 20.30 (afterwards all are cordially invited to an Apéro)

Welcome by Ruth-Gaby Vermeut, President of PWAG

Panellists
Olena Zinenko, Public Alternative Kharlko (Ukraine)
Coordinator of PWAG Project Women Peace Tables in Eastern Ukraine

Shirin Jafri, WILPF (Libanon)
Member of WILPF International Board, Coordinator Mena Region, feminist peace Activist

Shukrare Gashi & Hlimije Ramabaja, Kosovo
Partners Kosovo Center for conflict Management, Coordinating PWAG supported project “Women Breaking Silence changing Narratives”,

Moderation: Annemarie Sancar (PWAG) and Heidi Meinholz (WILPF)

After the panel, the organizers invite all guests and panellists to an Apéro.
Programme for Day 1, 23 June. To see the full programme, go to the link here.

With this two-day event, PeaceWomen Across the Globe (PWAG) and WILPF are opening a space for reflection. Thematic starting points are, on the one hand, the entanglements of economy, climate and war. On the other hand, the significance of emotions and fear as war capital will be questioned. Finally, we will jointly develop approaches, and formulate actions and projects for more effective prevention of violence and war. It is co-organized by member of WIDE+ Caucus Annemarie Sancar.

The assumption that security is to be achieved through rearmament, and therefore security demands more weapons, is not new, and still wrong, even if it experiences an upswing in times of war. This recurring motif of nation-state representation and geostrategic power politics is what we are questioning at this symposium. For we are not giving up, but rather searching together for ways to achieve human security in its comprehensive understanding.

For more than 100 years, women engaged in peace politics have been pointing out that peace is never achieved with weapons and war and that armament does not create security. Women point out that armament and war waste valuable money that is urgently needed for care work, for an inclusive education system and for climate protection. Effective peace processes are closely linked to the growth-driven economy and the profit motive.

To see the full programme of this event, go to this link.

Gender and Development Network (GADN) is looking for a Network Coordinator

The Gender & Development Network (GADN) is recruiting for a new Network Coordinator. GADN brings together expert NGOs, consultants, academics and individuals committed to working on gender, development and women’s rights issues. This post lies at the heart of the network, working alongside women’s rights advocates and practitioners across a range of issues within the international development sector, while ensuring that the organisation runs smoothly. Please note that to be considered for this role, you must be able to provide proof of eligibility to work in the UK.

For more information on this vacancy, please go to this link.

GENERAL NEWS

Online Event - Framing Feminist Taxation Vol. 2, 23 June, 2:30 pm CEST
The **Global Alliance for Tax Justice's** Tax and Gender Working Group, together with *Akina Mama wa Afrika*, *Womankind Worldwide* and *ActionAid*, invite you to the launch of "Framing Feminist Taxation vol. 2". The event will be in English, Spanish and French. To register for the event, go to this [link](#).

**Call For Contributions: Vol 31, Issue 1**

-Women Human Rights Defenders

For this issue of **Gender and Development**, it will examine the role of women human rights defenders, their commitments towards advancing and protecting humans rights and freedoms; the factors that lead to them being threatened, persecuted and/or killed; their strategies of resistance and assertion; their collective efforts towards building social and political stability in fragile contexts and in leading cultural, political and social transformation; and steps that the national governments and the international institutions need to take to recognise and support their work and provide protection to them, their families and their networks.

To read the detailed call for contribution, go to this [link](#).

**Issue 8 of "Our Work, Our Lives: Songs that Women Sing" by GAATW**

The March issue of **Our Work, Our Lives** by **Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women** (GAATW) focuses on music. Songs and music have always been powerful tools to inspire and mobilise people. They have been an integral part of social justice movements and the feminist movements have a treasure chest of powerful songs.

These songs raise their voice against patriarchy, discrimination, injustice, and
Biodiversity - Pathways for Multiple Benefits

BEST PRACTICES IN GENDER AND BIODIVERSITY
Pathways for multiple benefits

Gender Snapshot Report by UN Women - "Are We on Track to Achieve Gender Equality by 2030"

Ahead of the review of Goal 5 at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) this year, UN Women and UNSD have released the SDG 5 Tracker, a timely assessment of progress towards achieving the targets set out under SDG 5. Building on research from UN Women and UNSD’s annual Gender Snapshot report, the tracker provides a global, regional and country-level analysis of progress towards achieving the targets set out under SDG 5 (download the extractivism and call for peace, freedom, and equality. Many songs are creations of groups. Some are full of humor and sarcasm. Some have anger. All are simple and powerful. Songs have also been important for workers, including women workers. A lot of work that women do is repetitive, monotonous, time consuming, and taxing. They need patience, grit, imagination, love, and care to carry out their tasks, day in and day out. Women workers in traditional societies, like their male counterparts, have made up songs to go with work. To read this issue, click here.

A Call for International Solidarity: Legal Status Cancellation of Women's Rights and Feminist Organizations in Nicaragua

In Nicaragua, it is increasingly dangerous to be a woman, to be feminist, to be organized.

Since 2018, at least 26 feminist organizations or that support or work for women’s rights have been illegally closed by the government. These organizations work throughout the country, in urban areas, in peasant regions, in indigenous and afro-descendent communities and territories.

Now, these organizations have been unlawfully stripped of their legal status and have lost access to resources needed to conduct their work. Their offices have been dismantled by the government, and their assets have been confiscated. Many of their members
have been and continue to be subjected to criminalization, smear campaigns, and constant harassment, to the extent that some of them have had to go into exile.

In this context, the closure of organizations is a huge blow to all women in the country, leaving them more vulnerable and further exposed to violence and infringements on their fundamental rights.

To see the message from Nicaraguan feminists and find ways to support them, click here.