Members Update, 2022, Issue 6

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

Now Available: Video Recording of Recent WIDE+ Webinar, "How Women and Feminists in Belarus Became Enemies of the State"

On 15 March 2022, WIDE+ Board member, Edmé Dominguez had a conversation with Olga Karatch, the Head of the Civic Campaign “Our House, journalist and former politician. The webinar recording is available [here](#), where you would also find her presentation.

In her presentation, Olga explained how women, including many feminists, have been brutally oppressed under the Lukashenko regime. There has been widespread torture...
and inhumane treatment of women who have been detained and/or imprisoned. According to Olga, the systemic and strong repression of women is based on an ideological struggle between the new world of gender equality and the old world, resulting in much social injustice for women in Belarus. Women struggle to resist the patriarchal model imposed by Lukashenko, whose regime has deprived women of both choice and voice. Women and feminists have been very active in the peaceful initiatives for a democratic Belarus that is free from violence and terror.

MEMBERS AND PARTNERS NEWS

New Report, "Gender-Based Discrimination and Labour in Albania" by Gender Alliance for Development Centre (GADC)

WIDE+ member, Gender Alliance Center (GADC), recently launched this report, "Gender-Based Discrimination and Labour in Albania". This report examines gender-based discrimination and labour as part of a regional initiative in six Western Balkan countries, supported by the European Union (EU) and co-funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida). The research aimed to provide information about shortcomings in the relevant legal framework; the prevalence and nature of gender-based discrimination related to labour; the extent to which people have filed
claims; how institutions have treated such cases; and how these have changed since 2018, if at all. Conducted in 2018 and 2021, the research involved mixed methods, including a desk review, online survey, and interviews.

It concludes among other that despite improvements in recent years, different institutions still have not made enough efforts to address gender-based discrimination and increase public trust in their ability to protect people’s rights to non-discrimination. Data collection has remained poor, especially sex-disaggregated data. And public and private employers have not fully implemented the improved legal framework to address gender discriminations.

**New Report, "Lessons for a feminist Covid-19 economic recovery: Multi-country perspectives" by Gender and Development Network (GADN)**

Written in collaboration with feminists and women’s rights organisations in four countries, Argentina, India, the Philippines and Uganda, this report by WIDE+ member, Gender and Development Network (GADN), in the UK, examines some of the policy measures enacted by governments in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the impacts of those policies on gender equality and women’s economic rights.

In particular, the report draws on the real-life accounts and experiences of women who have borne the greatest impacts of Covid-19, and whose voices must be central to recovery design. The report also seeks to move from critique to proposition. Using the experiences of the four countries examined in this report, along with many alternative approaches to economic recovery planning put forward by feminists, women’s rights organisations and labour movements around the world, we have developed concrete lessons which demonstrate that feminist alternatives are not just necessary but also viable.

**WO=MEN’s Blogpost about the Negotiations during this year’s UN Commission of the Status of Women (CSW66)**
WO=MEN, a member of WIDE+ and vice versa, facilitates the Dutch Civil Society representation at the UN Commission of the Status of Women (CSW). This year’s 66th edition focused on climate justice. The members have kept a blog about the negotiations and developments: [http://womeninnewyork.blogspot.com/](http://womeninnewyork.blogspot.com/).

Overall, women’s rights civil society are disappointed by the lack of commitment to climate justice during this year’s CSW. Nadia van der Linde, staff member at WO=MEN, was one of the few who was invited to come to New York; most civil society involvement has been through online participation only, which has increased inequality and un leveled the playing field. Delegates of member states did not get to hear directly the concerns of Civil Society.

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**GENERAL NEWS**

*Call For Applications, "ODIHR Advocacy School on Gender and Politics", deadline 8 April 2022*
ODIHR’s Advocacy School on Gender and Politics

ODIHR is organizing the second edition of its Advocacy School on Gender and Politics to strengthen the capacities and advocacy efforts of women’s rights activists from civil society organizations and women’s movements from Central and Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia. It will be held on several days over April and May 2022 - for further information please go to this link.

This school will bring together up to 25 gender advocates to create a platform for exchange and capacity building as well as for the development of practical advocacy campaigns on women’s political participation and gender equality in politics at local levels. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the training will be held online. Applications should be submitted online by 8 April 2022.

Suggested compromise on WTO TRIPS Waiver to access vaccines does not suffice

A leaked text facilitated by the Director-General of the WTO and reflecting positions of the US and EU is being circulated as a purported compromise TRIPS Waiver agreement by the WTO “Quad” even though it does not have agreement from India and South Africa. In its present form the document does not address intellectual property monopolies and will not deliver equitable access. This is the conclusion of the Feminists for a People's Vaccine Campaign.

Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) and Third World Network (TWN) are facilitating this campaign for equitable, accessible, and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, drugs, therapeutics, and equipment. The full statement about the
recent negotiations can be found here: https://feminists4peoplesvaccine.org/

New Report, ”Climate Justice for Women and Girls: A Rule of Law Approach to Feminist Climate Action”

Women and girls have a right to effectively participate in and lead efforts to achieve climate justice, as equal rights holders and agents of change. To the extent that climate mitigation and adaptation measures disregard women’s agency and the vital contributions of women’s collective action, these measures are unlikely to deliver just, effective or durable solutions to the climate crisis.

As the international community strives to implement legal and policy frameworks for sustainable development, understanding the gender dimensions of climate change and adopting effective rule of law approaches is crucial to foster the empowerment of women in all their diversity. Read the report here.

Towards a Common European Action on Care, Draft Report to be Considered by European Parliament

On Thursday, 31 March, the FEMM Committee jointly with the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs will

Feminist Action Nexus for Economic and Climate Justice: Global Kickoff, 12 April, 2pm - 5pm CEST

The Feminist Action Nexus on Climate and Economic Justice invites you to join in for their Global Kickoff, on Tuesday 12 April 2022 from 2pm - 5pm CEST. To register, please click here.

Upcoming Hybrid Conference, ”People on the Move: (Still) Stuck in the Corridors to the EU”, 31 March - 1 April

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (HBS) offices Sarajevo and Thessaloniki will bring together experts, grassroots activists, academia, practitioner and policy-maker from the region, the so-called Balkan route as well as from the EU level, to have an in-depth look at the current status-quo of migration policies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Balkans and the EU, taking the latest developments in Ukraine into consideration. A newly compiled paper on Bosnia and Herzegovina will be presented and discussed. To find out more about the event, go to this link.

Upcoming Event, ”Spotlight on
Employment and Social Affairs will consider a draft report on a common European action on care.

The draft report is looking into the possible added value of common European action on care through a strong gender aspect and in view of reducing the gender care gap. It examines how the gender aspects of provisions of care, especially with regard to the uneven distribution of care responsibilities in formal and informal care. Over-representation of women in the care sector and the challenges related to this at EU level, including the consequences on the gender pay and gender pension gaps, are also addressed.

Global Migration, 28 April

The Spotlight Report on Global Migration (SRGM) focuses on key issues affecting migrants at the grassroots, national and regional levels. It brings grassroots organizations, activists and communities' voices to the forefront in speaking to decision-makers at the policy-level.

The report will be presented at a virtual launch event, as a contribution to the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) process. For further info, go to this link.

Date: Thursday, 28 April 2022
Time: 08:30 NY / 14:30h Geneva / 19:30 BKK
Format: 90 minutes virtual event + panel discussion