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## Members Update 2023 | Issue 6

Do you have any suggestions on what to share with members? Email us at: [info@wide-network.org](mailto:info@wide-network.org).

### **WIDE+ signed letter to reject the US nomination of Ajay Banga to be World Bank president**

A group of international civil society organisations has signed [this letter](#) to reject the US nomination of former MasterCard CEO, to become World Bank president. Banga, vice-chair of US private equity group General Atlantic and former chief executive of MasterCard until the end of 2020, was nominated by Joe Biden despite his explicit lack of credentials to lead the World Bank Group towards seriously tackling the generational challenges of climate change and global inequality.

Banga lacks the credibility to lead the World Bank in its stated objective of promoting sustainable development and eradicating poverty, or in addressing economic and social rights of the most vulnerable communities, let alone climate change.

### **WE-EMPOWER working group met in Brussels to promote the political participation of migrant women**



During Women's History Month in March, the [WE-EMPOWER project](#) partners, along with other members and partners of the migration and gender working group of WIDE+, and youth volunteers of the network, met in Brussels from 20 - 23 March, 2023. Over 30 people, primarily migrant women leaders and young feminists, came together. This project financed by the EACEA for the ERASMUS+ programme promotes the participation of migrant women in democratic life in Europe. The meeting in Brussels was the first in-person international training for the project partners and the objectives were capacity-building, networking, and exchange.

The first day of the training focused on capacity-building sessions on strategic communications, social media, and storytelling. The second day was geared towards deepening each other's understanding of the EU's political process. The importance of migrant women as experts and changemakers were stressed by participants and speakers in the panel discussion with speakers Anila Noor, Founder of [New Women Connectors](#), Alexandra Weerts, Senior Project Coordinator, [Eurocities](#), and Delmy Galeano and María Gálvez Dávil, members of [Red Latinas](#). The group had also interesting and energetic exchanges with migrant women groups based in Brussels, like [Marche Mondiale des Femmes Belgique](#), migrant women theatre group, [Voiceless](#), and women-led association [Collectif Des Femmes](#).

The training concluded with a dialogue session which European Parliament Member, [Ramona Strugariu](#), a Romanian politician representing REPER in the Renew Europe Group. WIDE+, [Romanian Women's Lobby \(ROWL\)](#), and the participants presented the activities to promote the rights of migrant women in Europe. MEP Strugariu also prepared a list of responses to questions posed by the group which had been earlier sent to her. Overall, she agreed with the group that the work, expertise, and experiences of migrant women are important and that they should have the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes.

Laura Albu from ROWL (a partner of WE-EMPOWER), who organised the dialogue, sees MEP Strugariu's role as opening doors for the group to the European Parliament. Laura observed that MEP Strugariu had shown "respect for diversity of knowledge, wisdom, and dreams of our group of migrant women associations." At one point during the meeting, after discussing issues around FRONTEX, border policies, and the treatment of migrant women in Europe, MEP Strugariu remarked candidly to the group, "Everything seems so easy and normal to discuss with you". The group's response was "It's because you're in a room with a group of feminists!"



A full report on this event will be ready in May. A video collage can be seen on our twitter profile:

<https://twitter.com/FeministWIDE>

## PARTNER NEWS

### New resource: GBWN 2019-2022 best case studies

The Gender Budget Watchdog Network (GBWN) has put together a set of [case studies](#) in Macedonia and Western Balkan region that highlight successful practices in gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) and demonstrate the positive impact that GRB can have on women's lives. These case studies have been carefully selected based on their relevance, effectiveness, and innovation.

There are examples from different areas, from agriculture, menstrual hygiene, and combating domestic and gender-based violence to health and social care, These best-case studies will reassure, once again, that by applying systematic and comprehensive GRB appraisal and advocacy approaches, changes are possible.

## The declaration of feminist digital justice



On March 6, [DAWN](#) and [IT for Change](#) launched the much-awaited [Declaration on Feminist Digital Justice](#). This Declaration, born out of a year-long collaboration between 35 feminist scholars and activists from across the world, outlines the contours of a new gender-just digital compact to address intersectional exclusion and exploitation in the digital platform infrastructure, digital welfare state, and data & AI economy.

Individuals and organisations can undersign the [declaration](#).

### [New study highlights crucial role of trade unions for algorithmic transparency and accountability in the world of work](#)

AlgorithmWatch conducted the study, who is a partner in the [FINDHR project](#) with WIDE+. According to the study's authors, the next step is to start creating specific hands-on tools and exchange to support worker representatives. First hands-on guides and legislative advances exist.

#### Algorithmic transparency and accountability in the world of work

A mapping study into the activities of trade unions

Conducted on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Analysis, February 2023



ALGORITHM  
WATCH

## GENERAL NEWS

### Ecofeminist Online Workshop Starter Guide for Young Activists by WECF, 12 April, 2-3:30PM CET



Are you an activist hoping to engage other young people on issues that you care about? Then WECF's ecofeminist workshop starter guide might be just what you are looking for! Register for the event [here](#).

### Online event: Digital bargaining hub launch, 26 April

Public Services International (PSI) is launching the [Digital Bargaining Hub](#), the first online, free, publicly accessible, searchable database of real-world bargaining clauses, union guidance, and framework agreements on issues related to digitalisation. Designed for trade unionists and others interested in promoting workers' rights through collective bargaining, this collection of clauses from unions across the world is available for you to adapt and use at the bargaining table. Register for the event [here](#).

## ILO launches Global Care Policy Portal and Care Policy Investment Simulator

Two new online tools that aim to help encourage progress towards the goals of adequate maternity protection, paternity and parental leave, and quality childcare and long-term care services have been launched by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The [ILO Global Care Policy Portal](#), is a knowledge hub on legal and statistical indicators on national care leave policies and services, created to advance the ILO's transformative agenda for gender equality and non-discrimination.

To help calculate the investment requirements, employment benefits and impact on gender equality of different care policies, the ILO has also developed the [Care Policy Investment Simulator](#). The Simulator is the largest online care policy-modelling tool available.

## European Parliament approves pay transparency directive

A large majority in the European Parliament [voted in favour of adopting the EU's pay transparency directive](#) aiming to narrow the EU gender pay gap. The [directive](#), proposed by the Commission in March 2021, will now need to formally be adopted by member states and transposed into national law within three years after entering into force.

## Feminist Analysis of COP27 Climate Finance Outcomes

Feminists and activists follow the UN climate negotiations, including the recent 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to ensure that not only decisions and processes "do no harm," but that they also fund transformation and not [false solutions](#).

Negotiations on climate finance are often inaccessible, inefficient, heavily influenced by the private sector, and lack transparency. Many of the systemic issues prioritized by activists and feminists do not reach the negotiating tables, except perhaps during civil society interventions. Read the analysis by [The Feminist Action Nexus for Economic and Climate Justice](#) and [The Women and Gender Constituency here](#).

## [2023 report on gender equality in the EU](#)

Among the highlights, in February 2023, Member States agreed to move forward with the EU's accession to the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention and request the consent of the European Parliament. This was a historic breakthrough after years of stalemate in the Council and which will allow the EU to finally accede the Convention.



Employers will need to take corrective measures if the pay gap exceeds 5% without justifications, while employees will have the right to access sex-disaggregated data on salary and know the criteria used to define salary and pay rises, which will need to be gender-neutral.



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