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Members Update 2023 | Issue 1

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

WIDE+ attended and presented at the WTO Congress on Gender, 5-7 December 2022



WIDE+ members, from left to right: Mirela Arqimandriti, Nurhidayah Hassan, Kim Titcombe, Edmé Dominguez, Gea Meijers, Dewi Keppy (from WO=MEN), and Paulina Schiefelbein.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) held its first [Congress on Gender](#). The Congress' objective was to showcase research work conducted by trade and gender experts (members and non-members of the WTO Gender Research Hub). WIDE+ gender and trade working group members, along with members of the secretariat, participated in

the event. And WIDE+ organized a civil society strategy meeting with academic Caroline Dommen, Senior Associate at the IISD, at the [IISD | L'ESPACE](#) during the evening of 6 December.

WIDE+ and WO=MEN presented a joint research paper during the research panel on "Crafting gender-responsive trade policies and agreements". Gea Meijers, coordinator at WIDE+, and Dewi Keppy, program manager of the gender and sustainable economy program at WO=MEN, highlighted the importance of meaningfully including and engaging with civil society, especially, women's rights organizations at different levels of trade policy discussions. Researching the EU trade policy with its different engagement mechanisms, the paper concludes that participation of civil society is seen to be limited at the level of token participation. However civil society is able to have some impact on the the policy, albeit women's rights organisations are much less present. This paper will be published soon - watch this space!

The Congress itself did not have a significant presence of civil society organizations, despite the importance of the topic. WIDE+ will continue to advocate for women's rights and participation with the WTO and the EU. If you would like to be involved in these actions with the gender and trade working group, please reach out to Gea Meijers at info@wide-network.org.

WIDE+ signed TRIPS waiver letter to the Mexican government to side with developing countries at the WTO



WIDE+ gender and trade working group has undersigned this [letter](#) to ask of the Mexican government to continue supporting the position of many low and middle income countries demanding a TRIPS waiver. Such a waiver would allow the cheap

and increased production of vaccines and all other medicines relating to COVID-19 and be an effective step towards eradicating vaccine apartheid.

The letter was particularly addressed to the Minister of Economy Raquel Buenrostro Sánchez and Minister of Foreign Affairs Marcelo Ebrard, as they represented Mexico in recent negotiations at the WTO. The letter has been sent out on Monday, 5 December to Mexican authorities.

On 1 November 2022, Mexico submitted a joint communication with Switzerland to the World Trade Organization's TRIPS Council in order to dismiss the extension of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights waiver decision that currently only considers patent exemptions on COVID-19 vaccines. In fact, the global South wants to include therapeutics and diagnostics—an extension that States agreed to consider when the waiver decision was adopted in June 2022. See also: #Fem4PeoplesVaccine.

European Parliament Committee on International Trade reflects on Trade and Gender with WIDE+ expert



On the occasion of the European Gender Equality Week held by the European Parliament, the Committee on International Trade (INTA) introduced in its session on 25 October 2022 the topic of trade and gender. It assessed the current state of affairs within EU trade policy and discussed which steps could be taken.

Three experts were invited to provide their insights and experience, including Gea Meijers, coordinator of Women in Development Europe+ (WIDE+).

Other pannellists were Kara Kennedy, trade Counselor from the Canadian Embassy to the European Union (EU), and Anoush der Boghossian, head of the Trade and Gender

Unit at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

[Read the report of the meeting](#) by Lucía Tapia Pesquera.

[Read the presentation by Gea Meijers](#) on behalf of the WIDE+ Gender and Trade WG.

CB4VOL: Second project meeting to promote youth volunteering to fight for gender equality & social inclusion



CB4VOL project partners, with WIDE+, Asticude, Alianza por La Solidaridad, YWCA Palestine and Asticude in Nador, Morocco.

On 23-25 November 2022, the WIDE+ secretariat team went to Nador, Morocco, for an intermediate project meeting for the ERASMUS+ project "CB4VOL". The project, aims to promote and increase youth volunteering to fight for gender equality and social inclusion. With our partners, [Alianza por La Solidaridad](#) (lead organisation), [Asticude](#), and [YWCA Palestine](#), the consortium underwent a series of training sessions on volunteer cycle management (conducted by Alianza) and on gender concepts (conducted by WIDE+, with an extended training component online in the coming months).

WIDE+ will also be starting a youth volunteer programme for this project. If you would like to recommend young activists or feminists to be part of the project, kindly contact Nurhidayah Hassan at hassan@wideplus.org.

WIDE+ participated in the first project meeting of FINDHR on addressing bias in algorithmic hiring, 5 December, 2022

WIDE+ is part of a EU funded Horizon consortium to implement is a 3-year research and innovation project. It will in collaboration develop methods and training for an intersectional anti-discrimination approach for the technical, legal, and ethical problems of algorithmic hiring, and are applicable to a broad class of online applications . The project group met for the first time face to face. To read more: [FINDHR](#).



WIDE+'s message for International Migrants Day, 18 December 2022



“We need to center migrant women’s voices, experiences and expertise in the struggle for social justice, sustainable livelihoods and human rights. The time is ripe to call to action ways to dismantle the oppressive structures that prevent migrant women from accessing their rights”, according Nurhidayah Hassan, programme coordinator of WIDE+ Migration and Gender working group, who wrote the following reflection, with concrete recommendations: [Read Article](#).

Picture: WIDE+'s Migration and Gender Working Group joined a feminist march on 25 November 2021 to demand for an end to all forms of violence against migrant women.



Report by Lynn Watzka

Lynn Watzka, intern at WIDE+, attended the “From Allyship to action: How men can step up to end violence against women”, a public dialogue event organised by ODI and ALIGN on 22 November 2022. The event discussed the role of men in feminist change making and gave a platform to men who are already active against male violence in the policy making sector.

Sarah Pantuliano, ODI chief executive and panel moderator, pointed out that every country has an issue with male violence and it is time for men to step up. “A permissive patriarchal backlash” is happening, and the urgency to hold perpetrators accountable, change gender norms around masculinities, and men taking action in this to stop femicides and harassment is higher than ever.

The panel addressed a need for a paradigm shift and creation of platforms to address masculinities and male responsibility. The panelists discussed root causes of GBV in gender norms, and the power imbalance between them, male upbringing and socialisation. They also highlighted possible strategies for change which include fostering a culture of accountability, education and teaching boy’s emotional literacy, creating genuine and safe space for men to embark on their personal journey to have realizations about their role in the patriarchal structures and its systemics.

[To read the report, click here.](#)

MEMBERS AND PARTNERS NEWS

New policy brief by Mama Cash, "Feminist foreign policy: stronger action needed to resource feminist movements"



Mama Cash's new policy brief – [Feminist Foreign Policy: Stronger Action Needed to Resource Feminist Movements](#) – calls on governments that are serious about delivering on their promises and the much-needed outcomes for gender equality to be realistic about the investment needed.

At a moment when feminist movements are both making important gains and also facing increasing threats around the world, it is critical that the implementation of feminist foreign policies goes beyond political gestures and feminist rhetoric to deliver meaningful support to those at the forefront of advancing gender equality and human rights: namely, autonomous feminist movements.

New learning paper by GADN, "What is the role of Northern organisations in global justice advocacy?"

The [paper](#) explores the role many of those with 'Global North power and privilege' play in distributing (back) funds and other resources, and the extent to which they may be part of the problem in reinforcing existing power inequalities. Improvements in the way they operate are suggested, recognising and challenging power dynamics and colonial legacies. More fundamentally though, the paper identifies the duty of these organisations to challenge Northern governments and corporations for their responsibility in perpetuating global injustices.

GENERAL NEWS

Call for Applications for W7 advisors for Women 7 in Japan 2023

The Women 7 (W7) is a group of civil society organisations, and one of the official engagement groups of G7, who come together to advocate for gender equality and women's rights to governments within the Group of 7 (G7) process.

Through the W7 process, international women's civil society representing both G7 countries as well as Global South elaborates W7 policy recommendations to be compiled in the form of Communique, advocates for its issues within the G7 negotiations. They have now published a call for volunteer advisors to start working online together in January 2023: [CALL FOR APPLICATIONS](#)

CEDAW Reflection and submission deadline on representation of women in all decision-making systems

[CEDAW's upcoming half-day of general discussion on "Equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems"](#), is scheduled for 20 February 2023. Written submissions are due 14 February 2023. Please see the above link for more information.

Article: Judy asks - Is migration Europe's Achilles heel?

The EU's failure to forge an effective migration and asylum policy undermines European integration and benefits the far right. Protecting EU external borders cannot come at the expense of migrants' rights and lives. Migration is putting Europe to shame. Thousands of desperate people, many fleeing war and persecution, are dying in the Mediterranean.

This represents a humanitarian tragedy and a European failure. Read the commentary [here](#).

Podcast episode: W7 - After the Summit: What have we achieved?

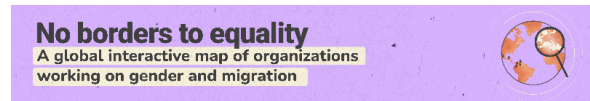
W7 stands for Women 7 and is a global alliance of NGOs working for more gender justice at the G7. For one year, 64 activists* from 24 countries considered the question: what must policymakers do to ensure greater gender justice worldwide? They sent their demands to this year's G7 President, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. The question then is, did the G7 listen? Tune in to this [podcast](#) to find out.

Call for Applications: UN Trust Fund to end violence against women

Podcast series by AWID: That feminist fire



Global mapping of organizations working on gender & migration by WIMN



WIMN invites you to check out this [expanded global interactive map of organizations working on gender and migration!](#) You can learn which organizations are led by migrant women as well as those who work to promote women rights, LGBTQI+ rights, labor rights, Black and Indigenous rights. You can also find those organizations working on climate-related migration.

New loss and damage fund announced at COP27 - A critical need or another empty promise in a time of climate crisis



Call for papers: Envisioning feminist economics strategies for an equitable and sustainable world

Publication by Count me in! consortium - Literature review: Feminist activism works!





This is a narrative [podcast](#) that unravels over 40 years of feminist movements—and reimagines a way forward.



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