

The Freedom from Slavery Forum Asia

12 August 2021

Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW)

Borislav Gerasimov, Communications and
Advocacy Coordinator

Who are we?

- International feminist NGO network formed in 1994
- Almost 100 members from Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas
 - Regional networks, grassroots organisations, migrant rights, anti-trafficking, women's rights, sex workers' rights groups...
 - Provide direct assistance to migrants and victims of trafficking – psychosocial assistance, shelter, helplines...
 - National-level policy advocacy, networking, awareness and campaigning
- International Secretariat in Bangkok: initiates research, inter-movement and cross-regional knowledge exchange, international and regional advocacy

Growing social and economic inequality

Putting Profits Over People

Shareholder value began taking precedence over employee loyalty and well-being in the 1980s, a reader writes.

Oct. 29, 2018



New York Times, 29 Oct 2018

Dismantling of social protection in UK highlighted by UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty

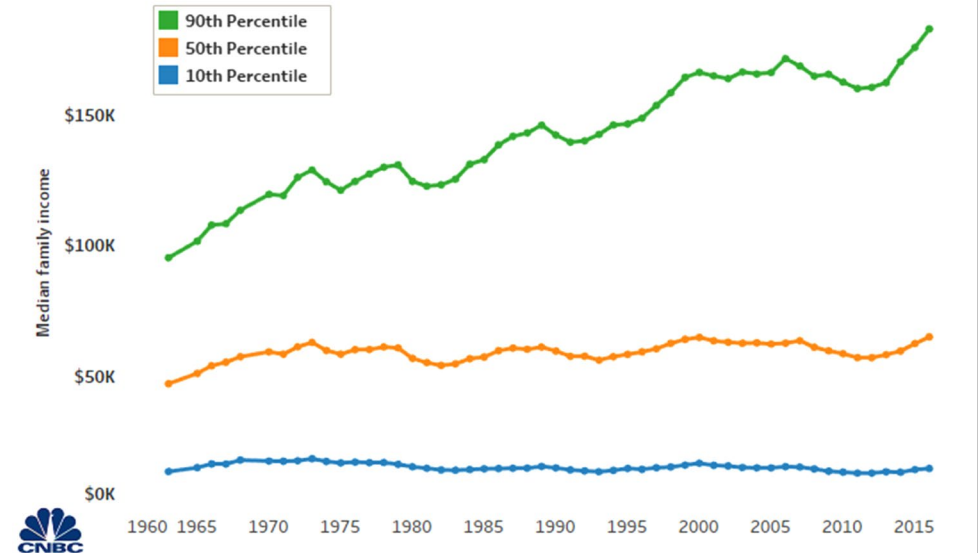
16/11/2018



16th November: A fifth of the population lives in poverty in the UK and this number is projected to increase as a result of the "systematic dismantling of social protection," according to the UN's Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights.

Widening income gap

SOURCE: Urban Institute



CNBC, 5 June 2019

Weakening of labour rights, rise of zero-hour, piece-rate jobs, “gig economy” and platform work

Unions and Labor Standards

Strong unions and employee organizing rights foster a vibrant middle class because the protections, rights, and wages that unions secure affect union and nonunion workers alike. Unfortunately, eroded labor standards, weakening unions, changing norms, guestworker policies that undercut wages, and monetary policies that prioritize controlling inflation over lowering unemployment have helped depress wages and erode living standards for all workers. EPI monitors factors that affect American work lives, including unpaid overtime, wage theft, the minimum wage, immigration laws, and collective bargaining rights.

Economic Policy Institute



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'Lime juicers': Gig economy workers threaten German labour model

Germany's workers are struggling against a cultural shift in employment contracts as the gig economy booms.

by **Stefan Nicola** • Bloomberg



17 Oct 2019

Climate crisis

July 2019 was the hottest month on record for the planet

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 25 August 2019

This year, large parts of India have seen the worst drought in decades... 600 million Indians... are facing acute water shortages... many farmers are leaving their land and villages. "I had to migrate here and live in this small room". *Al Jazeera*, 27 July 2019



Asian countries, including China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam, before emptying into the South China Sea. The river basin is home to the largest inland fishery in the world and more than 60 million people depend on it for their livelihoods.

National Geographic, 31 July 2019

Rise of authoritarian, “strongman” leaders



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Women in politics

Rise of the 'strongman': Dozens of female world leaders warn women's rights being eroded

Open-letter signatory Susana Malcorra says women 'need to be very prepared to fight back' amid global political shift

Kate Lyons

@MsKateLyons

Thu 28 Feb 2019 06:58 GMT



2,338



Backlash against women's and LGBT rights

50.50

Revealed: Trump-linked US Christian 'fundamentalists' pour millions of 'dark money' into Europe, boosting the far right

This political vision is explicit about seeking to shift power away from women and LGBTQI people. It aims to promote the "life" of the unborn (while disregarding the risks of unsafe abortions and pregnancies to women's lives); the "family," by which it means a return to traditional gender roles, without any space for LGBTQI people, and putting women back in the home, seen as their "natural" place; and the "freedom" of markets and religious institutions, specifically Christian ones, above all other claims of rights or liberties.

Open Democracy, 11 July 2019

REPORT

Trump Administration Steps Up War on Reproductive Rights

U.S. diplomats team up with a "rogues' gallery" of conservative states to roll back global reproductive health gains of the past quarter-century.

BY COLUM LYNCH | SEPTEMBER 18, 2019, 10:39 AM

Migration policies and rights of migrants

New Report Underlines the EU's Strategy in the War on Migration: Border Externalisation

CONTENT TYPE
News & Analysis

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Photos show US border facility crowded with migrant children

A Democratic congressman released the photos as the Biden administration faces increased scrutiny over the influx of migrants.

June 2021

Public attitudes towards migrant workers in Thailand

► Summary

At the end of 2019, Thailand hosted a total of 2.9 million registered migrant workers, comprising at least 7.6 per cent of the workforce (Ministry of Labour, 2019). With an ageing population, the high demand for migrant workers is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

Migrants were responsible for 4.3 - 6.6 per cent of Thailand's GDP in 2010 (ILO and OECD, 2017). Though migrant workers contribute to Thailand's development socially as well as economically, the general public attitude towards migrant workers tends to be negative. As this report has shown, **negative attitudes are expressed through discriminatory actions, such as limiting or denying entry, exclusion from access to services, and public support for laws that enshrine social exclusion of migrant workers and deny equal wages on par with nationals.**

Key Policy Recommendation

Promote inclusion and community engagement with migrant workers through policy and practice

Ensure that women and men migrants are able to fully access rights and freedoms of international labour and human rights.

Design policies that facilitate platforms for community events where migrant workers and the public can meaningfully interact.

Shrinking space for civil society

You are here: Commissioner for Human Rights > Human Rights Comments

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMENT

The Shrinking Space for Human Rights Organisations

STRASBOURG | 04/04/2017

EN FR

Reuters in Budapest

Wed 20 Jun 2018 15.06 BST



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ley & Technology VOA StudentU



Europe

Russia's Foreign Agent Law Has Chilling Effect On Civil Society Groups, NGOs

By Henry Ridgwell
January 24, 2018 07:50 AM

Hungary passes anti-immigrant 'Stop Soros' laws

Legislation approved by parliament restricts ability of NGOs to help in asylum claims



What does GAATW do?

- Building evidence from the ground up: grounded, feminist research among migrants and trafficked persons for creating an evidence base for policy advocacy
- International and regional policy advocacy:
 - Highlight root causes (as above), demand that states address them as a way of reducing trafficking and vulnerabilities
 - Demand state accountability for rights of trafficked persons, emphasise the need for involvement of those affected in policy making
- Strengthening civil society
 - Support for national-level evidence gathering and policy advocacy
 - Solidarity building and knowledge exchange across regions and issues (women's rights, migrants' rights, anti-trafficking, labour rights...)
- Work “on the ground”: support political education and mobilisation of women farmers, informal workers, migrants, etc.



HUMAN RIGHTS

at home, abroad and on the way...

Thank you!

Keep in touch:

borislav@gaatw.org

<https://gaatw.org/>

<https://www.antitraffickingreview.org/>