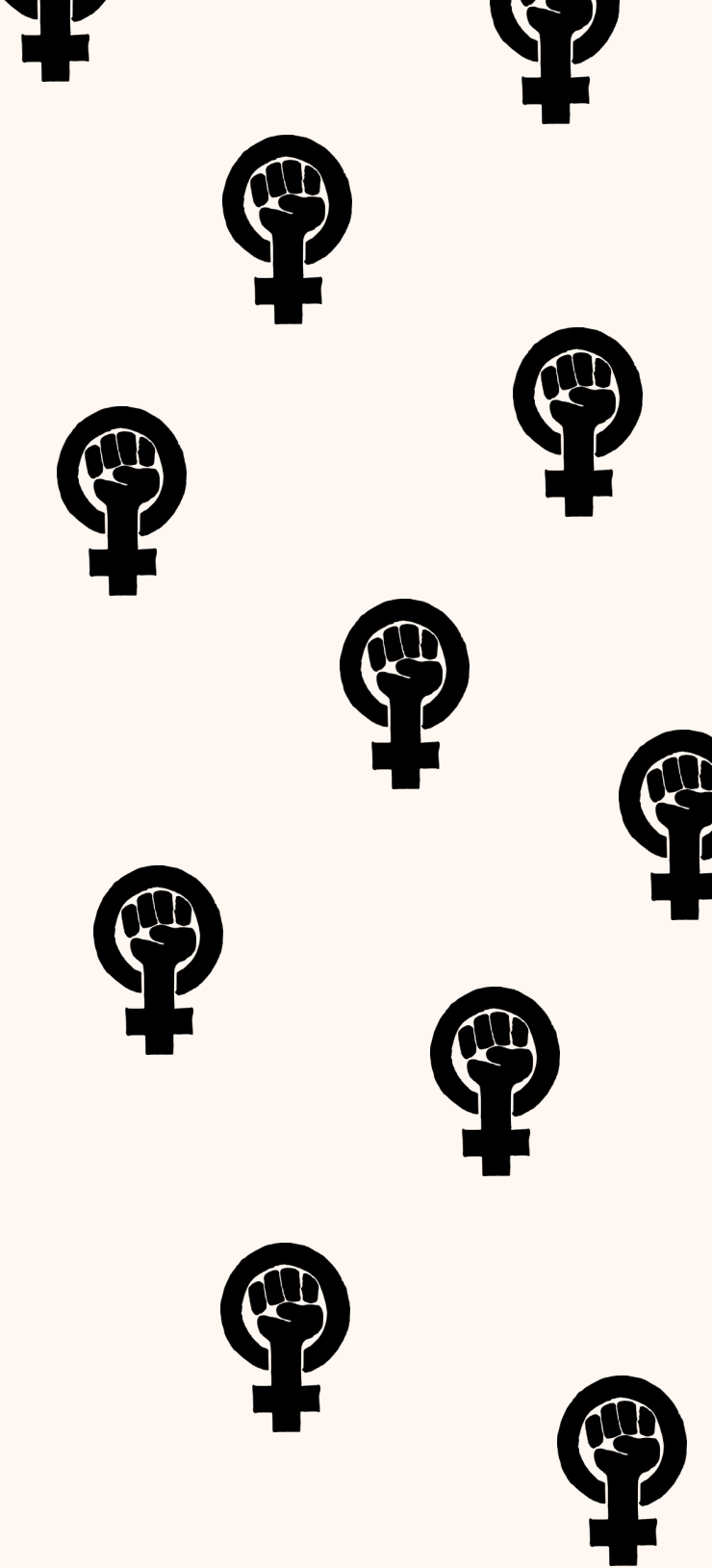


# REPORT 2017-2018



**FEMINIST  
SOLIDARITY  
WITHOUT BORDERS**



**EUROPEAN NETWORK  
OF MIGRANT WOMEN**

# NETWORK'S PRESIDENT: **WELCOME NOTE**



2017-2018 was busy and incredibly encouraging period for ENOMW. Our membership increased significantly and we continued to generate the debate on equality and justice for migrant women in Europe. Due to the recognition of the Network, we were involved in many discussions and meetings, which have and continue to shape policies on different areas including Violence, Health, Employment, Integration and Human Rights. Thanks to the feminist campaigns, some of our member countries saw major achievements, which included decriminalising abortion in Ireland by a referendum vote. The #MeToo reached its high, bringing to light the experience of sexual assault by women world-wide.

At the same time, during this period the political crisis over refugees faced high stakes, with increased smuggling and trafficking of people, the bodies of 26 Nigerian girls found dead in the Mediterranean in November 2017. Despite this sad reality governments in Europe continued to tighten borders with fences, walls and guards. Migrant women continued facing specific challenges and risks, including family separation, trauma, health complications, physical harm, exploitation and violence. It is clear that there is more, and not less, need for the protection and supports for migrant women and girls, and, especially those who are on the move this very moment. The EU countries also need to develop better and more meaningful integration policies, by investing into concrete strategies and measures on combatting violence, strengthening socio-cultural, economic and political aspects, by ensuring migrant women are granted opportunities equal to other residents of Europe - access to education, employment and social support. As ENOMW members we have a huge role to play in our respective countries by being politically active, by ensuring our voices are heard, and by engaging in all areas of decision making.

For migrant women to break the multiple barriers and to achieve our full rights, we need full visibility at EU and National level; we need transparency, engagement, financial and structural support. This Network, as a body representing members from 20 EU countries, is in a unique position to offer our skills for creating an equal, fair and democratic Europe for all.

**Salome Mbugua**  
**President**  
**European Network of Migrant Women**

***SALOME MBUGUA** is a native of Kenya living in Ireland. With over twenty years of experience of grassroots mobilisation, advocacy and research in the area of human rights, women's empowerment and anti-discrimination, she is the founder of two human rights organisations, Akidwa - Migrant Women's Network in Ireland and Wezesha Dada. She is currently serving as a Human Rights Commissioner of Ireland.*

# MIGRANT AND REFUGEE WOMEN AND GIRLS: **EMANCIPATION AND LEADERSHIP**



**I am walking in the sea with the stars  
and I read my own book that I wrote**

poem by Razia Jamili  
Melissa Migrant Women Network, Greece



We believe the universal human rights should be afforded to all women, without bias to their ethnicity, age, ability, non/religion, sexuality, family, legal or economic status.

We recognise the universality of patriarchal oppression of women and we also recognise that racist, economic, legal violence impacts migrant women in profound and deliberate ways.

We recognise the agency, voice and history of women across continents, cultures and millennia.

We celebrate the bravery of the women who move across borders in pursuit of freedom, independence, happiness.

We recognise that patriarchy, racism, economic exploitation, are the systems in which women have been coerced and groomed to participate.

We recognise the importance of raising awareness of women, on our condition – on the ways we are oppressed and the ways we participate in the oppression of self and other women.

**Together, in solidarity, we struggle for the complete and total emancipation of women, uncompromisingly, without borders.**

**In doing so, we pave the way for the space, visibility, recognition and leadership, for migrant, refugee and ethnic minority girls and women – our members and the numerous others who stand next to them.**

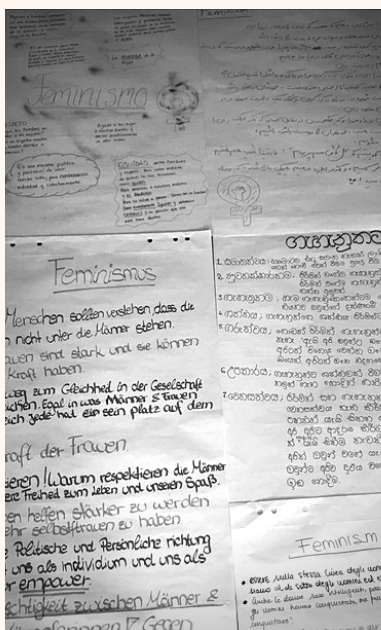


# PROGRAMME OF ACTION 2017-2020: **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**



In the end of 2016, following the consultation with our members, we set out a strategic plan incorporating the direct views, needs and demands of migrant and refugee women. Now, in the mid-term of implementing our strategy, we are taking stock of what has been achieved, in which areas lie our main obstacles and what could be done better, in order to reach our long-term goals.

We are under no illusions that the three priority areas outlined in our strategy are vast and difficult, particularly, at the background of a very serious backlash against women, migrants and fundamental democratic principles, that we are living through. We wish it were an easier time. However, this does not deter us from, incrementally and passionately, executing the plan we had set forth by applying the principles, values and strategies that we have in stock.



## **UNIVERSAL AS PRINCIPLE**

We are on organic entity and this means that we listen to the women. It also means that we listen to, and actively involve, the women from diverse and different backgrounds.

It also means that we see the women. By seeing them we see the condition they share across the age, class, ethnicity, language, religious differences.

We listen and we see, when women celebrate their victories, when they are fleeing domestic abuse and when they are struggling not to be deported.



# ORGANIC, NON-HIERARCHICAL, VISIONARY: BUILDING A MOVEMENT



European Network of Migrant **WOMEN** is not simply a collective of **MIGRANT** women **NGOs**. We are a **COLLECTIVE** with a clear **VISION**, shared **MISSION** and common **GOALS**. Those are rooted in the principles of **JUSTICE**, **EQUALITY** and **FEMINISM**.

## WHERE DO WE COME FROM ?

European Network of Migrant Women (ENOMW) was formalised as an AISBL (International Non-Profit Association) in Belgium in 2012. Prior to this a number of migrant women organisations, who eventually became the founding members of the Network, had already forged partnerships and voiced the need for a formal structure that would support, visibilise and promote the specific concerns and rights of migrant women at the European level. At the initial stages we received the support from the European Women's Lobby (EWL) – the largest European women's rights platform – to whom we are forever grateful for her guidance and solidarity.

Eventually, we were able to develop into an autonomous, self-reliant and clearly defined organisation, with an ambitious mission to transform the world into a place where migrant, refugee and ethnic minority women do not only act as 'receptients of help' but decision-makers and leaders, fully in charge of their own lives. This development did not come without a struggle: we struggled for recognition, partnerships and funds. And, as our journey continues, we have found our allies, our supporters and our friends.

# MEMBERSHIP: FROM SERVICES TO ADVOCACY



Our members are the reason this network exists. They come from different parts of the world: from Asia through Africa and the Arab world to Latin America, as well as the intra-European migrants, they represent a unique cultural richness of women's global struggle for economic, political, physical freedom. In the period 2017-2018 we reached the membership of almost 50 organisations and over 50 individual members in 20 EU countries.

Our member organisations run shelters and hot-lines for migrant women. They provide psychological and legal assistance. They execute educational programmes and campaigns. They protest, disrupt and challenge power. They also research, publicise and lobby within local and national institutions.

Most importantly, they create a safe space for some of the most affected by discrimination persons in our societies - migrant and refugee girls and women. In this space women come to heal, exchange, learn and co-create their own lives and stories.

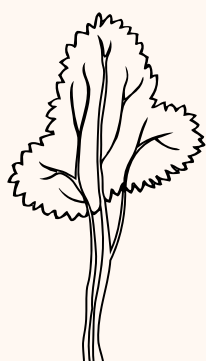
## THEY PROTEST



## THEY EDUCATE



## THEY ORGANISE



## ORGANIC GROWTH

While increasing our membership is important for us, our main aim is not to expand at all costs but rather to create a strong collective united by a common vision and an organic environment where individual migrant women and NGOs can exchange ideas, support each other and grow together.



# ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS: INDEPENDENT AND COLLABORATIVE



## ON THE GROUND WITH MEMBERS

As a Network we make an extra effort to maintain a continued and in-depth contact with our members. Often we do it through field-trips. In the last two years we held meetings and co-organised events with our members in Poland, Denmark, France, Spain, Greece and Sweden.



## DIALOGUE AND SUPPORT IN VIRTUAL SPACE

Our members are spread all around Europe, therefore the use of digital technologies is especially important for us to ensure uninterrupted communication. We organise online, using different platforms, and we also use them to provide capacity building to our members, as part of our intra-network skill exchange scheme.



## TOGETHER AS A COLLECTIVE

One of the most important moments for the Network is when our members come together. Our Annual Assemblies are not simply the time to evaluate our progress and discuss targets. Each annual meeting has a specific subject, includes capacity building and awareness raising workshops and member-to-member skill transfer exercises.



## PARTNERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN UNION'S PROJECTS

**CO-CREATING A COUNSELLING METHOD FOR REFUGEE WOMEN GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE VICTIMS** project aims at creating a specific counselling method, involving both end-users – refugee women GBV victims – and service providers, the counsellors. *Funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme.*



**SMART VOLUNTEERING FOR FEMALE MIGRANTS** is a multi-agency project, between civil society, business community and migrant women, promoting active participation of female migrants in socio-economic life of Europe. *Co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union. [www.smartvolunteering.eu](http://www.smartvolunteering.eu)*



**GET CLOSE TO OPERA** project develops inclusive arts training programme supporting best practice in migrant and refugee contexts focusing on Opera as the delivery artform. *Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. [www.getclosetoopera.eu](http://www.getclosetoopera.eu)*



# PUBLICATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS: FACTS, ANALYSIS AND POSITIONS



**SMART Volunteering** is a report authored by ENOMW based on the research conducted by the SMART Project partners in Belgium, Cyprus, France, Italy, Spain and UK. It shows the perceptions and barriers to volunteering among migrant women and the crucial role of NGOs and business actors in creating the conditions conducive to employability. It broadens the traditional concept of volunteering by highlighting its more strategic aspects. **Download Report**



**Europe-Africa Crisis** is an ENOMW's research into the context leading to a 10-fold increase in trafficking of young women from West Africa along the Mediterranean route into Italy. Accompanied by recommendations, it highlights the role of European and African authorities, securitisation of borders and male demand for paid sexual acts, as key factors responsible for a dramatic increase in sexual exploitation of migrant women in Europe. **Download Report**



**#GirlsVoices** is a collaborative work between European Women's Lobby (EWL) and the Network and a follow up to the joint report/project *#WomensVoices* conducted in 2016. The factsheet lays out the statistics, legislative framework and recommendations on Girls in Migration and presents one of the best practices to support migrant girls, run by ENOMW member Melissa Network, in Greece. **Download Factsheet**



**VAWG in the Asylum Procedures: Policy Recommendations** provides an overview of recommendations, based on the available legal instruments, on the most important measures to establish a fairer outcome for women in the asylum process: **Download Recommendations**

## NETWORK'S STATEMENTS:

- **2017 Statement on Female Genital Mutilation:** <https://bit.ly/2Tw5UZX>
- **2017 Statement of Solidarity with Refugee Women:** <https://bit.ly/2RteHP3>
- **2017 Statement on Femicide of West-African Women:** <https://bit.ly/2hkiA8N>
- **2018 Statement on 2018 International Human Rights Day:** <https://bit.ly/2QroIHQ>

## NETWORK'S CONTRIBUTIONS:

- **2018 First Refugee and Migrant Parliament Resolution:** <https://bit.ly/2VCjhck>
- **2017 EU Coalition to End VAW 8 March Statment:** <https://bit.ly/2mFqQkp>
- **2018 Act On Hope SRHR Conclusions:** <https://bit.ly/2C3lhAU>
- **2017 Recommendations on Global Compact for Refugees:** <https://bit.ly/2hkiA8N>

## POLITICAL LEVEL: REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY



Even though our capacity for effective representation remained limited in 2017-2018 we were able to participate in a number of key high level meetings to promote the interests of migrant women. This included UNHCR, OHCHR, UN Women, CEDAW Committee, Council of Europe, OSCE consultations and events. We received status of an Observer at Permanent People's Tribunal on Turkey and Kurds, presented our analysis at the largest Secular Conference in Europe, spoke at Democracy Forum in Poland, were selected as scholars at the Trust Law Conference, among many other events.



### **CSO PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS (CPDE)**

In 2017-2018 the Network co-represented the European region in the Migrant's Constituency of CPDE who, along with Care International, supported our advocacy on the rights of the refugee women in the Global Compact on Refugees. [www.csopartnership.org](http://www.csopartnership.org)



### **#GIRLSVOICES: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT EVENT**

This event, co-organised with the European Women's Lobby on 29 november 2018, gave us an opportunity to give platform to our members: for young migrant women – to speak directly on the issues that shape their lives, and those working with refugee girls – on the results of their work and the obstacles they face.



### **FIRST MIGRANT PARLIAMENT**

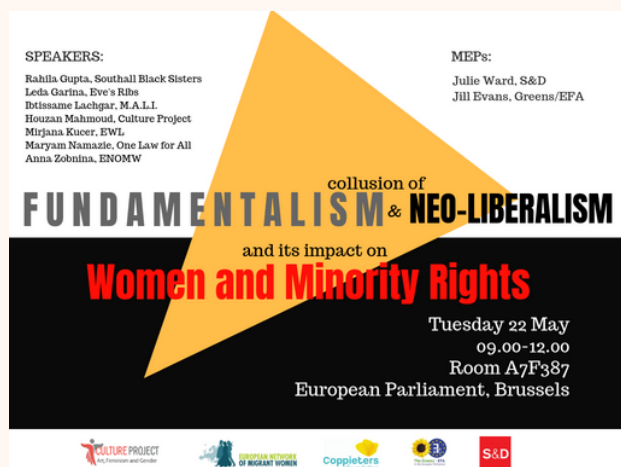
"The First Migrant and Refugee Parliament", represented by over 50 migrants rights organisations, took place in the European Parliament in Brussels on 18 October 2018. As one of the co-coordinators of this event we made sure a women's group was formed and our demands were clearly featured in its final resolution.

## **KEY MESSAGES IN OUR ADVOCACY:**

- Direct representation of migrant and refugee women
- Recognition of agency of women in migration
- Ratification of the Istanbul Convention in its full scope
- Collection of sex-, age-, ethnicity - disaggregated data
- Application of VAW laws to girls under 18 as per international law
- Inclusion and representation of young women
- Flexible / core funding for grassroots (migrant) women-led NGOs
- Independent legal status for migrant/refugee women
- Access to employment for migrant/refugee women
- Addressing root-causes of forced migration and displacement
- Recognition of male violence against women as a ground for international protection
- Abolition of commercial system of exploitation of women



# RAISING AWARENESS: SEMINARS AND CAMPAIGNS



## FUNDAMENTALISM AND NEO-LIBERALISM

This conference organised in the European Parliament with the support of Coppieters Foundation was a part of an on-going project we are undertaking jointly with the Culture Project. The project examines the collusion between the fundamentalist ideologies and neo-liberal policies and their combined impact on the rights of women and ethnic minorities in Europe.



## SEXUAL-REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WOMEN

SRHR of migrant women is a subject that crosscuts the work of all our members. For this reason we use every opportunity to highlight its importance. We are especially pleased that in 2018 our members could share their expertise with a large community of SRHR experts at EuroNGOs international conference.



## MISOGYNY AND RACISM

Two years in a row we are partnering with FILIA, the largest feminist conference in Europe, who has hosted three of our panels with the Misogyny and Racism as one of them. [filia.org.uk](http://filia.org.uk)



## ISTANBUL CONVENTION

The Council of Europe's Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence is of the most important instruments available to migrant women in Europe. While the ratification of the Convention is still in progress we are actively raising awareness on its importance.



# RAISING AWARENESS: SEMINARS AND CAMPAIGNS



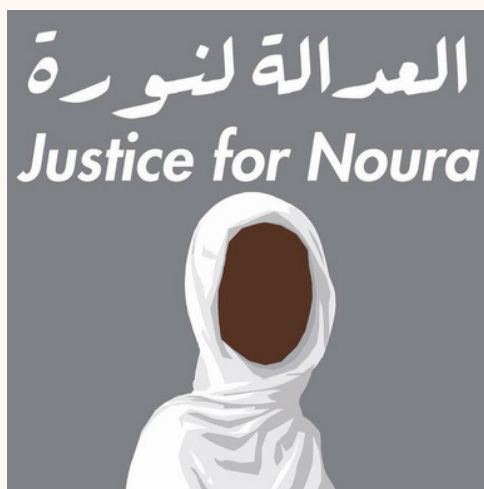
## RISE UP AGAINST OPPRESSION

The public campaign *#RiseUpAgainstOppression*, available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic and Russian, is a collection of 35 posters, representing the diverse voices of women, including many of our members, activists, scholars, politicians, and the sex trade survivors, concerned with the problem of sexual exploitation of women. It explores the male control of female bodies at the intersections with capitalism, colonialism, poverty, racism, migration, sexuality, as well as the moral questions of “choice”, “freedom”, “rights”. The idea of this collection is to position the debate on prostitution within a wider framework on human rights and let the viewer reflect on multiple ways in which patriarchal violence against women is interlinked with other forms of systemic inequalities. The collection is currently on tour in Portugal and the UK with more exhibitions in the pipeline.

**If you want to host our poster-exhibition in your country, contact [info@migrantwomennetwork.org](mailto:info@migrantwomennetwork.org); we will be happy to share this campaign with you!**



## THE CASE OF NOURA HUSSEIN: INTERNATIONAL MOBILISATION



When in April 2018 our partners in the Afrika Youth Movement alerted us to the potential execution a young Sudanese woman – victim of child-marriage and abuse, who had defended herself against a sexual perpetrator – we could hardly imagine the volume of the international support the case would eventually receive. While we were petitioning OHCHR, sending letters to the African Union, speaking with journalists and mobilising partners in Europe, thousands of people around the world were joining forces, indignant with the injustice and inspired by Noura's bravery. By the time Noura's death sentence was overturned in June 2018, the campaign had reached the momentum, with dozens of Human Rights organisations lending their support and political leaders demanding #JusticeForNoura. With the help of the *Equality Now*, and many others, Noura's defence team was

able to win the appeal, reducing her Sharia-based death penalty to a fine and time in prison. However, at the time of writing this report Noura's remains in prison, her life still in danger. Thousands of women remain subjected to the similar treatment – their stories never reaching the big media. What we learnt from campaigning for Noura's justice is that the link with the grassroots activists – no matter where they are in the world – should remain our priority, and, that a real public mobilisation can make a difference.

# COMMUNICATION: DOCUMENTATION AND EXPOSURE



We live in a world where women's history is continuously written off or forgotten. Migrant women organisations, who are chronically underresourced, often rely on volunteers and cannot afford staff for media/communication. Frequently, they lack the exposure that their vital work on the ground needs in order to attract funds. We take preservation of our work as a Network seriously and we are committed to documenting and showcasing the work done by our members.



## DOCUMENTING OUR WORK

We try to document everything that we do, despite often limited resources and severe shortage of time prioritised for our actions. Our field trips, public events, member workshops and informal moments of exchange, are not only the historic records of our work. They constitute the depository of knowledge to which we can return to reflect and evaluate our progress.



## BUILDING PUBLIC PROFILE

In the last two years our communication team have worked on documenting our progress and maintaining an up-to-date profile of the Network. As a result, not only we have reached greater visibility but assembled archives and databases. Our media profile may not be huge, but it is recognisable and shaped directly by our members.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

24 November - 21 December

Post reach

102k



Post engagements

24.9k



While the direct contact with women is our priority we do not underestimate the importance of social media. Through its channels we are reaching new audience, communicate with our supporters and share information about our actions. Currently our Facebook reaches between 85k and 125k a month with active engagement between 20k and 55k and steady growth. We are also present on Instagram, Twitter, Youtube and Vimeo.



# WHAT MIGRANT WOMEN DO: MEMBERS' BEST PRACTICES



## FINLAND: SPECIALIST SERVICES FOR VAW VICTIMS

**MONIKA MULTICULTURAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION** is an umbrella organisation, established and administered by migrant women, comprised of 17 migrant-women NGOs. Based in Helsinki, with 20 years of experience in service provision, they offer a holistic support and rehabilitation to migrant women victims of domestic violence and trafficking. MONIKA operates its own Shelter and Crisis Centre, that provides crisis help, a hot-line and assisted-living, as well as the integration services. [monikanaiset.fi](http://monikanaiset.fi)



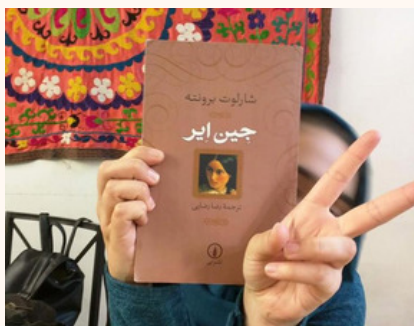
## MALTA: BETTER FUTURE, WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICE

**MIGRANT WOMEN ASSOCIATION** is a migrant-women-led initiative providing safe space and support to migrant women of varied ethnic origins. Their project Better Future, dedicated to women at risk of SGBV is a multi-agency response system with survivors at the heart. One of the few services in Malta targeting the refugee women, it is also engaged in advocacy on behalf of their client group. [migrantwomenmalta.org](http://migrantwomenmalta.org)



## BELGIUM: "WOMEN AT THE CAFE"

**ARAB WOMEN SOLIDARITY ASSOCIATION** is a feminist secular association promoting the rights of women from the Arab world. Since 2008 activists of AWSA organise visits to the so-called "Arab" cafés in Brussels known to be frequented exclusively by men. *Women at the Café* is an educational intervention aimed at creating an open dialogue between women and men. AWSA also offers trainings to encourage others to enact similar initiatives. [awsa.be](http://awsa.be)



## GREECE: SHELTER FOR REFUGEE GIRLS

**MELISSA NETWORK** is an Athens-based hub of psycho-social support and education, run by migrant women, serving over 150 refugee and migrant women daily. Additionally, the women of Melissa operate specialist services and a shelter for unaccompanied girls for whom the facilities lack not only in Greece but in the whole of Europe. FB: [@Melissanetworkgreece33](https://www.facebook.com/Melissanetworkgreece33)



## SPAIN: ¡EL LÍMITE LO PONGO YO!

**POR TI MUJER** is a feminist NGO defending the rights of migrant women, established by the Latin American women in the Valencia region. Every year they run actions and campaigns aimed at exposing machist violence. In 2018 their action "I draw the line" was dedicated to combatting sexual harassment and taking back the public spaces. [asociacionportimujer.org](http://asociacionportimujer.org)



## EUROPEAN AFFAIRS: BRUSSELS OFFICE



The year 2018 brought us a new and long-term home in Amazone, a house in Brussels that hosts women rights NGOs. Our Brussels Officer, Sinem Yilmaz, completed her first year in the office, implementing the Network's EU-funded projects, representing us in European institutions and supervising our amazing volunteers. Throughout 2019-2020 we will continue hosting up to two volunteers in Brussels, holding visibility events, developing our partnerships and creating space and visibility for our members at the EU level.

" In Brussels, we have been engaged with a wide range of national and international organisations working on migration and women. Having a permanent office and representation in the European Capital, ENoMW aims at strengthening its links with the EU level institutions and NGOs and to articulate the concerns and demands of migrant women. At EU policy level, ENoMW tries to follow both women's rights and migration policies, which makes it challenging due to limited capacity and staff in the Brussels office. Despite all, we managed to represent the network at high level consultation meetings and events in EU institutions.

In 2017-2018 our membership continued with European NGO Platform on EU Asylum and Migration Policy (EPAM) coordinated by UNHCR, European Social Fund (ESF) Transnational Platform on Migration, EC DG Home Expert Group on Labour & Migration, European Civil Society Platform on Trafficking in Human Beings and Coalition of European NGOs to End Violence against Women, led by the European Women's Lobby. We also participated in the study-visits organised by ESF Transnational Platform and shared our members' best practices in the area of labour market participation of migrant women.

We are aware that having an influence in the "Brussels bubble" is extremely difficult. However, we work hard to keep the discussion alive and remind everyone that there are migrant and refugee women and girls in Europe."

*SINEM YILMAZ, born in Turkey, is completing her PHD at Ghent University, Belgium. Her main area of expertise is economic participation and rights of migrant and refugee women, and European policy.*



[www.amazone.be](http://www.amazone.be)

### OUR NEW HOME:

**AMAZONE** is not simply an office. It is an eco-dynamic initiative and a sustainable project that hosts the offices of nearly twenty women's organisations, an exhibition space for feminist art, a Slow Food restaurant and a vegetable garden. It is also a Documentation & Resource Centre that collects and disseminates documents related to gender equality from the authorities, the women's movement and the academic world.

# IN FOCUS: MIGRANT & REFUGEE GIRL-CHILD



Patriarchal Violence against Women starts young and extends over a female life-cycle. Some of the worst forms of VAW (e.g. infanticide, FGM, forced marriage, rape, sexual exploitation) affect women before they reach the age of majority. Girls often migrate to escape this violence. At the same time, they become its first victims when crossing borders in search of safety and better life.

Very often young girls have no choice but to follow their parents in the migration journey. When they reach Europe they are confronted with a difficult choice: either to quickly "become European" or to be enclosed in her ethnic community, excluded from wider society by cultural relativism and racism. At the same time, families often exert specific gendered pressure on girls, expecting them to maintain group's "culture and tradition", as the ethnic identity becomes an instrument of social cohesion in minority communities. Added to this is the pressure of objectification, sex role stereotypes and exotisation of migrants, facilitated by mass media, pop culture and pornography, widespread in Europe. All pressures combined, migrant girls become subjected to heightened forms to racialised violence against women, the trauma often resulting in "identity crisis" and long-term mental health problems silenced by social taboos and stigma.

European Network of Migrant Women is committed to highlighting and analysing the situation of girls in migration, supporting our member-organisations in their work with girls and providing space and capacity-building to the girls who joint the Network as individuals.

## THE MISSING GIRLS

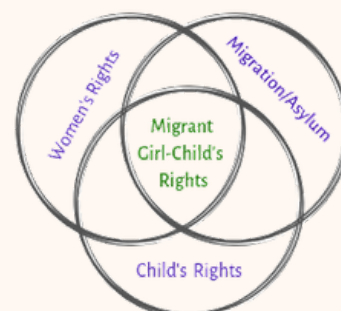
According to the International Organisation for Migration, at least 10.000 children were missing after they crossed the European borders in 2017. The evidence from our members and partner NGOs suggests that a large number of them – and perhaps a vast majority – are girls. However, little to none discussions on this subject take place at the EU and national level. We are alarmed by this silence and remain committed to drawing attention to the problem of disappearing migrant girls.



WATCH COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE  
STATEMENT ON MISSING MIGRANT GIRLS

## INTERSECTIONALITY: MORE THAN A BUZZ WORD

The rights of the migrant & refugee girls lie at the intersection of three policy areas: on women, children and migration. It is not surprising that this legal complexity leaves the girls invisible in the eyes of policy-makers and civil society. Our mission is to advocate for a multi-sectoral approach in policy and service provision and to ensure that ALL girls enjoy their fundamental rights and freedoms.



# NETWORK'S YOUNG WOMEN: DEMANDING RADICAL CHANGE



"2018 has been an extraordinary year for the Network. We entered 2019 motivated to strengthen our efforts to demand equal rights and representation of migrant and refugee women, along with a strong commitment to speak clearly, and with truth, against any form of Violence against Women. We have never compromised our values, and we are not giving up on influencing the public debate for the wellbeing of women of present and future generations and in memory of the women who fought for the rights that we have.

2018 has also seen a vivid commitment of the Network to ensure a real and strong participation of young women, to fill in the intergenerational gap and strengthen the very much needed solidarity between women to fight patriarchy. Our goal to ensure that every woman can speak based on her experience, is stronger than ever. With this goal in mind we are looking forward to seeing in 2019 the Radical Girlss project that will connect and strengthen the voices of 13-20 / 20-30 y.o. migrant and refugee girls.

Most importantly, as young women of the Network, we would like to express our gratitude to the Network for being heard with attention, included with intention and involved with purpose. We have found a safe space in where we are not tokenized but valued with honesty and care. We grew up in the last year through the opportunities that the Network has offered us, and through the critical thinking and capacity of analysis that we have developed during the different moments of engagement.

In 2019, take your time to hear young women. Support young women and guide them to be the fierce advocates that are needed in this current historical moment where women's rights are facing a serious backlash.

Violence against women is universal, and young women are demanding to be in the frontline of the fight against patriarchy. It is not a matter of years of experience, but it is a matter of being a woman. Let us raise our voices together, loudly, without fear.

In Solidarity,"

*SODFA DAAJI is a 25 y.o. Tunisian-Italian feminist activist working across Europe & Africa. She is the leader of Young Women and Girls activities in ENOMW, Co-Chair of Afrika Youth Movement (AYM) and founder of an Italian feminist NGO "Without Filter".*



WATCH #RadicalGirlss INTRO

## #RADICALGIRLSSS: VISION & MISSION

We want to live in a society where Girls are treated with dignity and respect. Where they have space, resources and power to grow into autonomous, liberated and responsible members of society.

European Network of Migrant Women's mission is to create such space within our own structures and, by doing so, to extend our vision to other organisations and movements.



# EVERY WOMAN MATTERS: CROSSCUTTING ISSUES

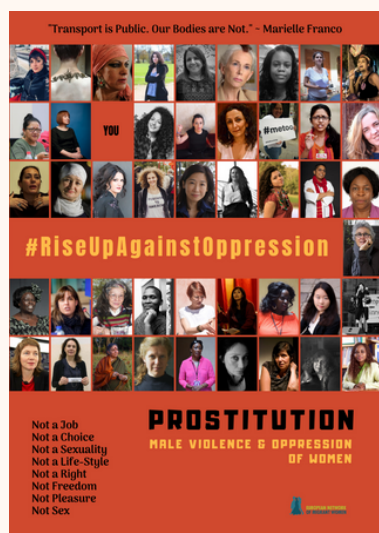


## SEX ROLE STEREOTYPES



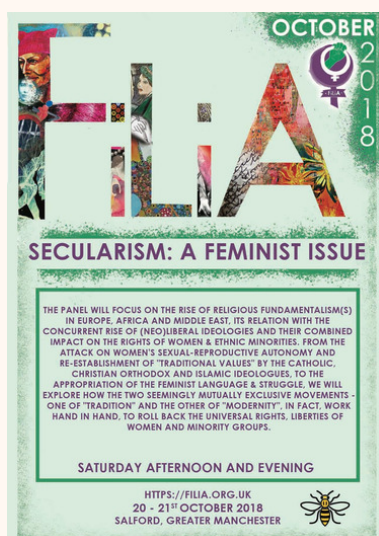
Article 5 of CEDAW asks the States to eliminate Sex Role Stereotypes, also known as Gender. Similarly, the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention demands the states to eradicate harmful gender constructs lying at the roots of VAWG. In line with these international obligations all our work is underlined by a commitment to creating a society in which ALL women and girls, regardless of their ethnicity, economic position, religion, abilities or age, are free from gendered expectations, pressure and violence.

## SEXUAL OBJECTIFICATION & VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



One of the most harmful consequences of Sex Role Stereotyping is a patriarchal construct of a female body as a sexual and reproductive commodity to be consumed and controlled by men. Having an intersectional understating of women's condition, it is our strong belief that without putting an end to the widespread cross-cultural objectification of women, the other struggles for women's rights - in politics, business, art and science - will never see true progress. Therefore, a lot of our efforts goes towards exposing and combatting sexual objectification of women facilitated through prostitution, pornography and other outlets of the sex trade.

## RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM



Religious fundamentalism increasingly poses a threat to women's universal rights. Not only in Saudi Arabia and Iran, but Europe too, fundamentalist ideologies are getting hold of communities and nations. From Christian Catholics and Orthodox, to Islamists and Hindu fundamentalists, these movements are patriarchal in essence and are linked with nationalism, racism and ideas of "pure identities" defined by ethnicity and religion. Some of these movements successfully merged with power institutions. Migrant women who are often defined as carriers of "family honour" are their the first victims. We are committed to drawing attention to this problem and protecting women's universal rights under secular democracies.

# COLLECTIVE WORK: COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP



Building partnerships with other organisations and movements is essential to our work. We do it because we know that we can be more effective acting in a coalition. We also do it because we understand the power of a constructive dialogue. Entering in coalitions is a political decision and we take it responsibly. This means that we always remain true to our values, vision and priorities.



## INTERNAL COLLABORATIONS

The key aspect of our collaborative work lies in our own membership. As much as we can, we try to identify opportunities to support our members in their work, whether through direct engagement, joint actions or project partnership. These collaborations serve to strengthen the intra-network engagement and visibility of our members and maintain the link between the local/national and EU level – a considerable gap that we identified through our membership work in 2017–2018.



## EXTERNAL COLLABORATIONS

The grassroots focus of our work makes the partnerships with international organisations especially important for us. Given the documented adverse effects of *INGO-isation* on grassroots organisations in terms of funding and visibility, we especially appreciate the partners who value and support direct engagement of migrant women in shaping the agenda and work that concerns our lives.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

We thank all organisations, initiatives and movements who collaborated with us in 2017–2018. We are particularly grateful to our partners at the European Women's Lobby (EWL), Afrika Youth Movement, Ideas For Europe at Coppieters Foundation, Care International, Culture Project, Portuguese Platform For Women's Rights, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW), FILIA Conference, M.A.L.I. Maroc, One Law For All, Trust Law.

## RESOURCES: FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



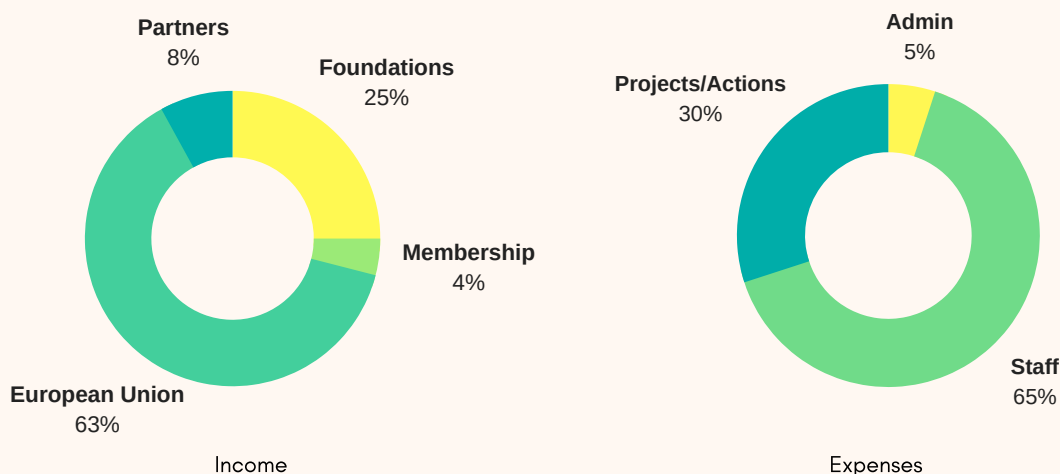
The stability of our operations depends on the generosity of our funders, donors and individuals. Retaining the grassroots focus in our work and staying close to our members means we remain true to our vision and mission and can be more effective in our advocacy. It also means that the core funding is vital for us. What the Network has achieved has been done with very limited funds, incredible input of our members and in-kind contributions of our supporters and volunteers.

**If you want to support our work, you can donate through our [PayPal Donate Page](#)**

**If you want to support our members directly, visit our page [MEET OUR MEMBERS](#)**

**For questions concerning financial support: [donate@migrantwomennetwork.org](mailto:donate@migrantwomennetwork.org)**

Network's financial operation 2017-2018.  
Our yearly statements can be obtained upon request.



### OUR FINANCIAL POLICY

ENOMW is a growing platform with an ambitious mission to transform minds, ideas and relationships in order to fully emancipate and give power to migrant and refugee women.

We only accept funds that allow us to retain our independence and integrity. We do not accept funds or partnerships that enforce conditions and agendas not in line with our values and mission.



# STRATEGY AND POLICY COORDINATOR:

## CONCLUDING NOTE



The period 2017–2018 was a challenging and exciting time for the European Network of Migrant Women as a whole, and, for many of our members, individually. We have learnt a lot: politically, strategically and financially. In the meantime, this platform has become an extraordinary achievement of the collective work of women, recognisable not only in its results, but its organic structure – the kind of structure that only comes to life when women work together, and, continue doing so, in the face of most adverse circumstances.

Coordinating such a structure cannot be easy. Particularly so, when women's self-organising still receives little social recognition and support, and, at a time in history when much of civil society leadership have been subsumed by the corporate politics. However, as difficult as it seems, it is also inspiring and rewarding.

As women, as feminists, globally, we are in the process of recovering and discovering our political and collective Selves. As it is being exemplified in so many parts of the world, the age of women's "likability" is over. It is now the time for accountability and a serious structural change. As a Network, we are proud to be a part of this process.

**ANNA ZOBNINA**, born in St Petersburg, Russia, is a feminist activist, researcher and lesbian mother of two girls. She is a selected expert with the European Institute for Gender Equality and a current member in the Executive Committee of the European Women's Lobby (EWL).

## NETWORK'S TEAM:

### PROFESSIONALISM AND PASSION

This report would not be possible without all those who gave their time, skills and expertise to the Network. We thank every person who have contributed to our work in 2017–2018 and made ENOMW a stronger platform to achieve our common goals.

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