

International Women's Day

Women refugees and asylum seekers in the EU

Inter-parliamentary Committee Meeting, Brussels

3 March 2016

Purpose

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality is organising an inter-parliamentary committee meeting dealing with the issue of women refugees and asylum seekers in the EU. This meeting brings together MEPs, representatives of national parliaments of the member states, candidate countries and Norway, and those of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and the European Commission, amongst others.

The discussions will focus on combating violence against women refugees and asylum seekers, their situation in healthcare, and measures for promoting their integration.

Inside

This leaflet contains a compilation of relevant supporting analyses provided by Parliament's Policy Departments for the Committees on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, Employment, Civil Liberties, and Budgets, and for the Subcommittee on Human Rights.

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Publications

[Female refugees and asylum seekers: the issue of integration](#) - March 2016



This report presents an in-depth analysis of the most important issues faced by female refugees and asylum seekers in their host country. Particular attention is paid to issues regarding access to appropriate housing, including privacy and shelter in case of domestic violence. The availability of training and language courses, access to the labour market and to health systems, including psychological support and trauma healing, are also analysed. The report further provides a summary of international standards and of applicable European laws, together with details on available funding from the European level. Promising projects from the international level and from Member States are also included to illustrate the way ahead.



[**Reception of female refugees and asylum seekers in the EU, case study Germany**](#) - February 2016



A large majority of asylum seekers in the EU are male. Consequently, female asylum seekers represent a minority in need of protection. This study examines the reception of female asylum seekers in Germany, which provides a number of facilities in reception centres and additional protection for vulnerable groups. The study presents both the EU and the German legal framework concerning the reception of (female) refugees. It also assesses whether gender-sensitive asylum application procedures and reception conditions are provided in practice in Germany.



[**Asylum policy: Fact Sheet**](#) - December 2015



The aim of EU asylum policy is to harmonise asylum procedures in the Member States by establishing common asylum arrangements, with a view to offering appropriate status to any third-country national requiring international protection and ensuring compliance with the principle of non-refoulement. This Fact Sheet lists the advances made in this field under the Treaties of Amsterdam, of Nice and of Lisbon, the European Council programmes since 1999, and the main existing legal instruments and pending proposals.



[**Migrants in the Mediterranean: protecting human rights**](#) - October 2015



This study focuses on the existing and planned EU policies and actions to protect the human rights of migrants before entering the EU by sea or after they have left the territory of the EU. Instruments of sea border surveillance and cooperation with third countries have generally included human rights safeguards, although implementation, monitoring and control remain problematic. The study therefore offers specific recommendations to ensure a coherent human rights-based EU approach to improve the protection of the rights of migrants aiming to reach the EU.



[**Enhancing the Common European Asylum System and alternatives to Dublin**](#) - July 2015



This study examines the reasons why the Dublin system of allocation of responsibility for asylum seekers does not work effectively. As it is based on the use of coercion against asylum seekers, it cannot serve as an effective tool to address existing imbalances in the allocation of responsibilities among Member States. The EU is faced with two challenges: preventing risks to the lives of people seeking international protection; and organising the distribution of responsibilities and costs. This study gives recommendations for resolving current practical, legal and policy problems.



[**EU funds for migration policies: Analysis of efficiency and best practice for the future**](#) - July 2015



This study provides an overview of EU funding and agencies in the field of migration, asylum and integration: the External Borders Fund, the Return Fund, the European Refugee Fund and the Fund for the integration of third-country nationals. It begins with an assessment of their effectiveness and efficiency before examining whether the design of management, budgeting and control systems is effective in preventing the misuse of resources. It also illustrates good practices, lessons learnt and recommendations on achieving greater implementation transparency.



[**The EU budget for gender equality**](#) - May 2015



This study subjects the EU budget to a gender budgeting analysis revealing the impact of revenue and spending decisions on gender equality. It covers the operational expenditure of six selected policy areas. The authors adopt the capability approach, based on a broad definition of human well-being, following a bottom-up logic. The conclusions include the fact that many titles of the EU budget do not follow the EU's high level of commitment towards gender equality, and that specific gender indicators are not systematically used in the evaluation of actions.



[Labour market shortages in the European Union - March 2015](#)



This study gives an overview of labour shortages, looking at their types and causes, their occurrence within the EU-28 and possible measures to counter them. It finds that qualitative shortages, especially relating to skills shortages and mismatch, occur in several regions, sectors and Member States. While employers and Member States are the prime actors to counter labour shortages effectively, the EU can play an important supporting role through its influence on intra-EU mobility, by increasing the transparency and by using its structural funds.



[Discrimination of migrant workers at the workplace - May 2014](#)



Non-discrimination is a prerequisite in order to effectively guarantee the right of free movement of workers. Although EU legislation is in place, statistics indicate that migrant workers are being discriminated against in the EU labour market. This note discusses the legal framework protecting migrant workers against discrimination. It presents a summary of the impact of the economic crisis on migrant employment. It takes a closer look at the types of discrimination foreign-born workers may face in the workplace and provides some best-practice examples.



[Success stories in the field of asylum and migration - April 2014](#)



This note summarises the results achieved from 2007-2013 EU budget resources devoted to policies in the field of asylum and migration. It covers EU funding programmes in the field of fundamental rights and citizenship, asylum and migration, health protection and consumer rights, including the Refugee Fund, the External Border Fund, the Integration of Third-Country Nationals, and the Return Fund. These programmes have to be seen in the context of the Stockholm Programme which sets out the EU's priorities for the area of freedom, security and justice for the period 2010-2014.



[EU financing for NGOs in the area of home affairs, security and migration - January 2014](#)



This study analyses the EU financing for NGOs in the area of home affairs, security and migration. It describes the general principles of EU financing for NGOs, quantifies and qualifies it (under central direct management) in the area of home affairs, security and migration and assesses the administrative burden faced by NGOs applying for and receiving grants. It also examines the state-of-play of measures undertaken by the Commission to ensure the transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of the EU financing for NGOs in the area of home affairs, security and migration.



[Access to shelters of undocumented migrant women fleeing domestic violence - October 2013](#)



The consequences of domestic violence are difficult to endure and undocumented women face the additional pressure of worrying about their immigration status. This document provides a literature review on the ability of undocumented migrant women experiencing domestic violence to access shelter and support. It brings together data on characteristics of this group and the difficulties they face in seeking help. It includes eight case studies and lessons about the political/economic, social and individual-level barriers to seeking help for preserving their human right to safety.



[Gender related asylum claims in Europe - November 2012](#)



Across the EU, women constitute on average one in three of those applying for asylum in their own right. This study considers the law, policies and practice for gender-related asylum claims in nine Member States. The resulting comparative analysis demonstrates the many disparities in the way Member States handle such claims. The report concludes that women are not guaranteed consistent gender-sensitive treatment when they seek protection in Europe. It also gives recommendations for a range of institutions in order to achieve a gender-sensitive asylum system across Europe.



Policy Departments

There are five policy departments within the European Parliament's DGs for Internal Policies and for External Policies. They are responsible for providing both in-house and external high-level independent expertise, analysis and policy advice at the request of committees and other parliamentary bodies (delegations, President, Bureau, Secretary-General). Their expertise covers all areas of activity of the European Parliament. They are closely involved in the work of committees, which they support in shaping legislation on and exercising democratic scrutiny over EU policies.

Outputs

Most frequently prepared at the request of a European Parliament committee or delegation, the written output of the policy departments comprises a wide range of products, including studies, in-depth country- or issue-specific analyses, briefings examining issues of strategic importance, as well as notes containing short EU-oriented analyses of recent events or developments. They serve a variety of purposes: they can feed directly into the legislative work of a specific committee or serve as a briefing for delegations of members. The policy departments also draft the Fact Sheets on the EU, which provide an overview of European integration and of the European Parliament's contribution to that process. Furthermore, they provide background notes and speaking points.

Events

The policy departments organise events that enhance Parliament's analytical capacity and develop common approaches to current political issues. Public workshops, bringing together groups of experts, are organised to provide independent expertise via written and oral presentations. Expert panels are set up to provide members with regular written contributions or to feed into the parliamentary debate during meetings. Publications are generally presented during committee meetings.

Scrutiny

Policy departments provide research support to enhance the European Parliament's capacity to monitor EU negotiations and the implementation of international agreements. They have also developed an in-house methodology to scrutinise EU-funded projects.

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Fact Sheets on the EU

The Fact Sheets provide an overview of European integration and of the European Parliament's contribution to that process. They cover six main themes:

- how the European Union works;
- a citizens' Europe;
- the internal market;
- the economic and monetary union;
- sectoral policies; and
- the EU's external relations.

The online version is reviewed and updated regularly through the year.



www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets

Supporting Analyses

Access all Studies, In-depth Analyses, Briefings and At-a-Glance notes produced by the policy departments.



www.europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses

Thematic Digests

These leaflets group policy departments' publications relevant to events such as seminars and interparliamentary meetings.



Monthly Highlights

The Monthly Highlights provide an overview, at a glance, of the on-going work of the policy departments, including a selection of the latest and forthcoming publications, and future events.



To receive them, send an email to:

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