SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF WOMEN BELONGING TO ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS

April 7th, 2010

Virginia Wangare Greiner | Chair
- We are a network of migrant women’s organizations with national platforms in 13 EU Member States and individual members in 20 countries
- Among the network members we have a wide range of expertise on issues pertaining to migrant women
- All members have been working on a range of issues at national levels and are looking forward to synchronizing their efforts to bring them to the EU level
Our history

- January 2007 – 3 day workshop in Brussels
  European Women’s Lobby invited experts from migrant women’s organizations around Europe to share their experiences as migrant women living in Europe

- Results of the first meeting were documented in a publication “Equal Rights, Equal Voices: Migrant Women in the European Union”
Areas of violence on Migrant women

The following issues have been identified as barriers towards the Social Integration of Migrant women:

- Legal Status

- Education and employment

- Sexual health and reproductive rights

- Violence against migrant women: FGM, Honor killing, Trafficking in women, Forced -marriages, Domestic Violence

- Participation in public and political life
Legal Status

- Dependency / Immigrant status
  → independent legal status

- Permanent status – probability or right
  → clear and simple procedure for acquiring of permanent status in the country of residence

- Lack of fundamental rights for undocumented migrants
  → full access to basic rights and development of channels for legalization

- Lack of acknowledgement of cultural specifics within immigration legislation
  → development of cultural sensitiveness of country legislation

Virginia Wangare Greiner
Education and employment

- Lack of recognition of qualifications obtained in sending countries
  → transparent and prompt procedures for recognition of qualifications

- Limited possibilities for further education, especially professional courses for specific groups of migrants
  → access to further education and diverse vocational courses

- Language barriers
  → free language courses
Education and employment

- Limited state support for entrepreneurs
  → measures to encourage

- Barriers to promotion at the work place
  → creating and enforcing equal opportunities

- Widespread unregulated employment
  → enabling regulations of working permit procedures

- Exploitation (in particular of undocumented workers)
  → introduction of measures to monitor and inspect work places

- Over representation of migrants women in low paid and low skilled jobs
  → ensuring employment mobility
Sexual, health and reproductive rights

- Limited awareness and lack of access to information and sexual health education
  → running information campaigns for migrants

- Lack of understanding of health needs and cultural specifics of migrant women by service providers
  → development of educational tools on migrants health needs for service providers

- Conditional access to healthcare
  → broadening criteria for entitlement to the healthcare for migrants
Violence against migrant women

- Migrant women are not free from violence
  → specific legislation has to be implemented

- Lack of framework within statutory agencies for an integrated approach to zero tolerance to violence
  → statutory agencies have to involve experts from migrant communities

- Lack of special treatment/sensitive approach to women in specific situation, including stigmatization
  → providing tailored educational trainings for service providers
Participation in public and political life

- Lack of information about the host country’s political system, women’s rights and election rights available in different languages
  → broad and easy access to information in the host country

- Migrant women political activists should not be fake leaders
  → broadening participation and empowering grass-root leaders

- Lack of capacity building programs for migrant women activists
  → availability of resources for migrant women NGOs for providing trainings

- Lack of migrant role model within civic society
  → promote migrant women as role models

Virginia Wangare Greiner
Final thought

- Gender mainstreaming should be incorporated in all migration policies at national and EU level

- Ensure that the specific needs of migrant women are reflected in all immigration and integration policies and strategies at national and EU level
Thank you for your attention!

Virginia Wangare Greiner
info@migrantwomennetwork.org

And soon more information on:
www.migrantwomennetwork.org