

# EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MIGRANT WOMEN ACTIVITY REPORT

2022



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**10 YEARS OF ENOMW:** TACKING STOCK

**YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS:** KEY MOMENTS TO REMEMBER

**OUR ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS:** SUPPORTING MIGRANT, REFUGEE, ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN AND GIRLS RIGHTS AND INCLUSION IN THE EU

**OUR ADVOCACY WORK:** REPRESENTING MIGRANT, ASYLUM SEEKING AND REFUGEE WOMEN AND GIRLS INTERESTS

**SOLIDARITY BEYOND BORDERS:** THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MIGRANT WOMEN'S WORK IN SUPPORT OF AFGHAN AND UKRAINIAN WOMEN

**ENOMW WITHIN THE GLOBAL FEMINIST MOVEMENT**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**THE WAY WE WORK:** ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

**FINANCES**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**CONTACTS**



# 10 YEARS OF THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MIGRANT WOMEN

## TAKING STOCK: CO-PRESIDENTS' ADDRESS

2022 was an important year for ENOMW as it constituted a milestone: **10 years of activity, passion, hard work and successes.**

In 2022 many projects were completed and others started, all of them go in one direction: the protection of the rights of all women and girls, migrant in particular. We have been and still are at the forefront of the fight against sexual and reproductive exploitation and trafficking.

We are promoting the inclusion and protection of migrant mothers in the labor market.

We have grown our capacity, our membership and our expertise.

We are training young migrant women to become women's rights leaders. We are building a network of legal experts specialised in defending migrant women's fundamental rights in the European Union.

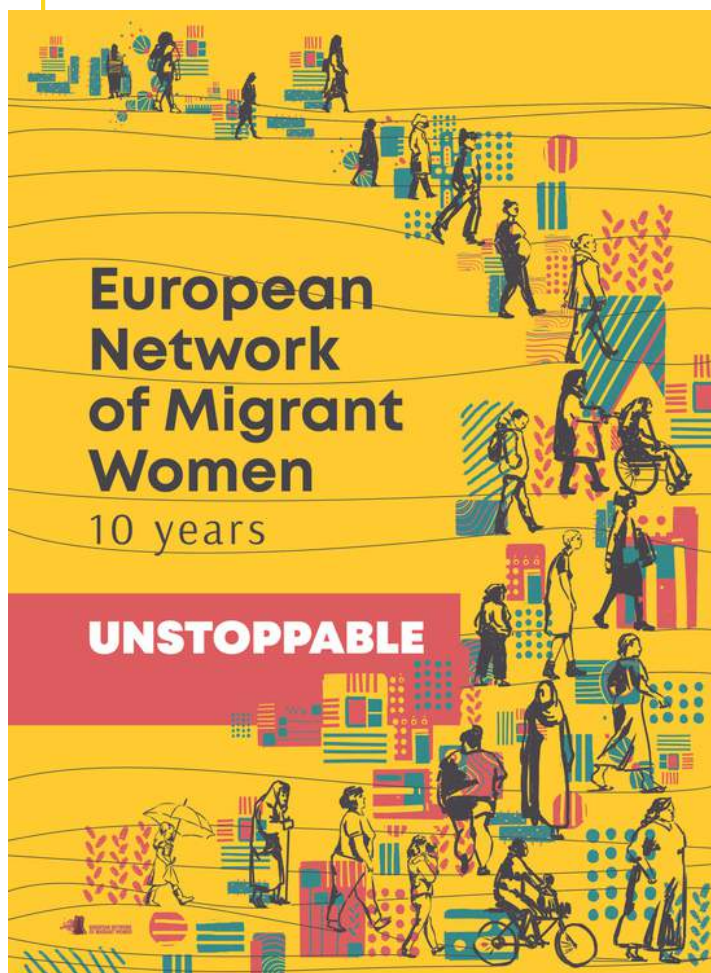
**The Network lives thanks to the associations that are part of it and women are its beating heart.**

We have worked on the EU directive on trafficking in human beings and on the EU directive on violence against women and domestic violence, because we know how important it is to make our recommendations known to decision-makers.

**All our actions are designed to have concrete consequences on women's lives, we are not just words, but agents of change.**

In ten years we have achieved a lot and we plan to do more in the future. It is important to underline that, behind all this, lies the commitment of many women who carry our missions and values. **Our Network is growing, and there is still work to be done.**

Chiara Parolin and Noura Raad,  
co-presidents of the European Network of  
Migrant Women



In 2022, the European Network of Migrant Women (ENoMW) celebrated its 10 years!

Formalised in Belgium in 2012 as an international non-profit association, **ENoMW has spent the past 10 years promoting migrant women and girls rights in every aspect of their lives.**

For 10 years, ENoMW has been **fighting against men's violence against women and girls**, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, commodification of women and girls in prostitution, pornography and surrogacy, erasure of women, discrimination, and exclusion.

For 10 years, ENoMW has been fighting for migrant women and girls to be **recognised as full human beings, agents of change**, free to exist with dignity and without fear of persecution.

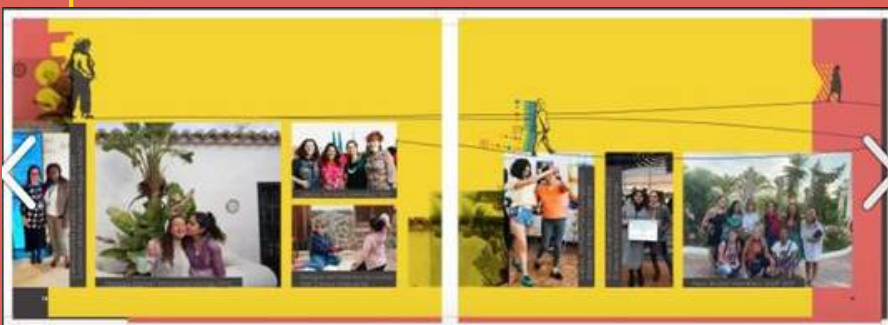
For 10 years, ENoMW has conducted projects and research to promote migrant women **meaningful** inclusion in European societies: access to the labor market, to information, justice, health, fundamental rights, training, childcare...

**Together we advocate for our dignity, freedoms and rights.**

For 10 years, ENoMW has been building platforms to welcome migrant and refugee women and amplify their voices, focusing on enhancing young women political participation and building solidarity across borders. We have advocated at EU and global levels, entering spaces where migrant women are not always welcome to **unapologetically share our analysis and demands.**

Given the political climate in Europe, it is not a small business for a migrant women platform to start, to survive, to grow and to thrive. We have done so, and today we are proud of it. **Through all difficulties, we have never forgotten who we are fighting for.**

Girls and mothers, victims of men's violence and war, activists in countries with oppressive political regimes, domestic and care workers, engineers, teachers, lawyers, artists, journalists... Migrant women represent the unique cultural and linguistic diversity of the global movement for women's liberation from all forms of oppression and violence.



Discover and download the European Network of Migrant Women 10 years booklet, retracing 10 years of history and movement building through pictures!

<https://shorturl.at/oDENT>







# YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

## A PLACE FOR US ALL: OUR GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN FINLAND

"It was a true honour to host and organise the European Network of Migrant Women's General Assembly here in Finland celebrating its 10-year anniversary. Witnessing the gathering of such remarkable feminist migrant women from across Europe has been an inspiring testament to the power of unity and shared purpose."

**MONIKA Association (Finland), member of the European Network of Migrant Women**



From the 26th to 28th of August 2022, **the European Network of Migrant Women gathered its members in Finland for its Annual General Assembly.**

Over 50 women of all backgrounds, representing nearly 50 member organisations based in 23 European Union countries joined us to share 3 days of activities, collective learning and feminist consciousness raising.

- Hosted by our Finnish member organisation **MONIKA Multicultural Association**, we visited the outstanding **housing centre** they run for migrant women victims of violence: the only single-sex emergency shelter for women in Finland! In this space, MONIKA provides holistic support to the women and their children. They also run a crisis and an integration centre, along with a phone hotline for migrant women in need.
- We gathered in nature to conduct self-defence, poetry, meditation, and artistic workshops, and to celebrate our 10th anniversary!
- We conducted sessions on **advocacy, solidarity building, network organising, and women's rights.** We reviewed the past years work and took stock of our achievements.
- We heard from women who had to leave **Afghanistan and Ukraine.**
- MONIKA Association organised a dinner reception with **Finnish decision-makers.**
- We met and exchanged the **member organisations of MONIKA** - 17 migrant and refugee women groups all across Finland.
- We welcomed a new member organisation in our network: **Klaipedia (Luthiania)**
- We elected new board members:
  - **Spogmay Jabarkhil**, representing Afghan Women organisation, Sweden
  - **Jules Buckley**, representing Akidwa, Ireland
  - **Noura Raad**, representing Forum Femmes Méditerranée, France
  - **Chiara Parolin**, representing Aura, Italy
  - **Widad Hamri**, representing Osez le féminisme!, France







# YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

## FIGHTING FOR MIGRANT, ASYLUM-SEEKING AND REFUGEE WOMEN FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

"The issue of access to rights for migrant women goes beyond the borders of a single state. Not being able to address this crucial aspect in a meaningful way is a major limitation of the EU."

**Adama-Sirra Le Blay, founder and Director of Olympe Association (France), member of the European Network of Migrant Women**

Undocumented migrant women are at the intersection of multiple forms of systemic prejudice and violence. They face discrimination based on their sex, legal status, and ethnic origins. Often, lack of legal status renders undocumented migrant women unable to contact the police, hospitals, or shelters and seek help, leading to the enhancement of their risk to suffer fundamental rights violations.

Very aware of these realities, members of the European Network of Migrant Women gathered into a Legal Working Group. There, was born the idea to produce a report providing an overview of access to fundamental rights by undocumented migrant women in the EU, with a specific focus on particularly at risk groups, likely to lose their legal status - women in prostitution, asylum seekers, domestic workers and victims of domestic violence.

We worked on this study for two years, through a partnership with *pro bono* lawyers from the TrustLaw of Thomson Reuters Foundation, and relying on the expertise and efforts of lawyers and legal experts from our network, our members and our team. In June 2022, we launched an extensive report - based on 300 pages of legal analysis - and its executive summary. **It constitutes a landmark legal mapping of undocumented migrant women's access to fundamental rights at the European Union level and in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Hungary, Spain, Sweden, and Greece.**

The launch of the report took place in Brussels (Press Club Europe) and gathered activists, legal experts, CSO representatives and decision-makers. We shared key findings and provided policy recommendations.

**READ THE REPORT UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANT WOMEN: A NEGLECTED CHAPTER IN FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS PROTECTION:**

<https://www.migrantwomennetwork.org/2022/06/23/new-report-undocumented-migrant-women-a-neglected-chapter-in-fundamental-rights-protection/>



Since its launch, the report has informed policy recommendations, notably we have used it to develop a list of amendments and contributions to the European Parliament's proposal for a new directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence.

### FULFIL PROJECT: PROTECTING MIGRANT WOMEN'S FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS



We have also used the findings of the report to design a follow-up project funded by the European Commission.

The FULFIL project, kicked off in November 2022, aims at building capacity of EU legal professionals, equality bodies, diplomatic missions and law enforcement agencies in France, Italy and Portugal, to **make a more effective use of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in legal assistance, intervention and litigation, at national and European level, in cases of violation of migrant women's fundamental rights.**

The project is divided into several actions:

- Constructing an analysis of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights from a women's rights perspective.
- Designing and delivering a training program to legal professionals across Europe, civil society organisations and migrant women.
- **Building the first database of case law related to the protection of migrant women's fundamental rights in Europe.**
- Building a European network of legal professionals with the goal of **supporting strategic litigation and mainstreaming a women's rights interpretation of the existing fundamental rights framework.**







## YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

### FIGHTING AGAINST MIGRANT WOMEN REPRODUCTIVE EXPLOITATION IN THE SURROGACY INDUSTRY

"Women do not give birth to property, we give birth to people. Those who justify reproductive exploitation omit that people cannot be sold under Human Rights Law. The justification of reproductive exploitation is based on an individualistic, libertarian philosophy that converts desires into rights."

**Patricia Ponce Pascuale, Director of Haurralde Foundation (Spain), member of the European Network of Migrant Women**

Noting the lack of research on the links between reproductive exploitation and trafficking in women, **the European Network of Migrant Women and the International Coalition for the Abolition of Surrogacy (ICAMS) jointly carried out a study on cross-border practices related to surrogacy, forced pregnancy and selling of ovocytes**, practices inherently contrary to human dignity and equality between women and men.

We collected data through a desk research and surveys and analysed the results. We also drew on academic sources which, while not addressing this specific subject, evoke related issues such as migration, trafficking and surrogacy. Through the report, we identified and mapped the patterns of exploitation : women used as "surrogate mothers" in the reception country, women recruited and brought to another country for the purpose of reproductive exploitation, "surrogate mothers" moved to another country during the gestation (to circumvent legislation, for the convenience of the client, etc.), and displacement of mothers in the context of selling of the children (baby trafficking, illegal adoption). We also analysed case studies from Ukraine, Greece and Mexico.

The overall aim of this investigation was to fill the gaps in an area where access to information is almost non-existent, and to highlight increasing harmful practices targeting migrant women and children to the attention of EU level policy makers. **Notably, we issued a joint statement with other EU platforms to call the European institutions to include the crime of reproductive exploitation in their relevant legislative initiatives as violence against women and trafficking in human beings.**

**READ REPRODUCTIVE EXPLOITATION IN THE SURROGACY INDUSTRY, EN / FR:**

<https://www.migrantwomennetwork.org/2022/10/21/migrant-women-and-reproductive-exploitation-in-the-surrogacy-industry-joint-investigation-by-enomw-and-icasm/>



## OUR PROJECTS:

# SUPPORTING MIGRANT, REFUGEE, ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN AND GIRLS RIGHTS AND INCLUSION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

"What makes ENoMW's projects unique is that in each of them we bring a distinct women's rights perspective. This perspective requires deep structural analysis, rigorous attention to detail and uncompromising commitment to women and girls' rights. Rather than pursuing short-term project goals, we aim to engage in actions that are organic to our long term vision of political social change through which all women and girls can be emancipated"

**Anna Zobnina, Strategy and Executive Director of the European Network of Migrant Women**





## IN 2022, THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MIGRANT WOMEN (ENOMW) PARTNERED IN 8 PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION.

The below projects, in which ENOMW partnered in 2022, are divided in 4 main focus areas: men's violence against women and girls, migration, migrant women's political participation, and meaningful labor market inclusion.

### I./ MEN'S VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS:



#### **COALESCE: PSYCHO-SOCIAL, LEGAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANT WOMEN VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

The COALESCE project aims to provide support to migrant women victims of trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation in Europe by facilitating identification, assistance and support, and improving transnational cooperation among frontline professionals. The project focuses on placing the voices of trafficked women at the centre.

Amongst the project results, we count 6 country reports, a Guidebook for practitioners working with women victims of human trafficking, policy briefs covering EU level and the 6 countries of the project, and more!

**DISCOVER COALESCE PROJECT RESULTS:**  
<https://www.migrantwomennetwork.org/coal-esce/>



#### **MOVE: TACKLING MEN'S VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN THROUGH AN INTERCULTURAL APPROACH**

Displaced women and girls face increased risks of violence. The MOVE project aims to tackle men's violence against women and girls, including "honour" related violence and oppression.

It focuses on increasing the readiness and skills of frontline professionals and of specialised perpetrator programmes staff to effectively identify and work with male perpetrators of violence against women with a migration background using a culturally sensitive approach.

### II./ MIGRATION

#### **HUMMINGBIRD**



Hummingbird's aim is to improve understandings of changing nature of migration flows, drivers of migration, and possible future implications of today's policy decisions. The project explores non-traditional data sources for migration research.

**READ ENOMW'S POLICY BRIEF**  
<https://www.migrantwomennetwork.org/2023/02/02/hummingbird-briefing-paper/>



### III./ MIGRANT WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

#### **FORUM: COMBATING STIGMATISATION OF MIGRANT AND REFUGEE WOMEN AND GIRLS**



The aim of FORUM is to combat the stigmatisation of migrants and refugees, with a specific focus on women, through the promotion of democratic and civic participation within groups that are less involved in the UE policy making-process.

VISIT FORUM WEBSITE: <https://forumproject.eu>



### IV./ EMPLOYMENT



#### **TEACH DIGITAL**

Teach Digital's goal is to improve the digital skills and confidence of educators working with migrant women to provide them with relevant tools, effective to enhance migrant women inclusion in the labour market.

VISIT TEACH DIGITAL WEBSITE:  
<https://www.teachdigital.eu/>



#### **RIDE**

RIDE aims at improving migrant women's inclusion in the labor market through re-skilling or upskilling in the digital sector, through designing and delivering courses tailored for migrant women.

VISIT RIDE WEBSITE:  
<https://www.ride-project.eu/>



#### **WORLDPLACES: WORKING WITH MIGRANT WOMEN**

Worldplaces promotes better and more fulfilling integration of migrant women in the workplace through series of toolkits and actions across Europe on different themes: engagement of migrant women, leadership, as well as work-life balance, workplace-based language and cultural exchange, body and identity.

DISCOVER ENOMW'S TOOLKIT ON MIGRANT WOMEN'S ENAGEMENT:  
<https://shorturl.at/czO56>



#### **MUMS AT WORK: SUPPORTING MIGRANT MOTHERS LABOUR MARKET INCLUSION**

Mums at work aims to increase employability, sustainable income and social inclusion of migrant mothers. The project provided structured support, group counselling, job orientation, job placement, and civic right training, to 90 migrant mothers in 6 EU countries.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT:  
[www.migrantwomennetwork.org/mums-at-work/](http://www.migrantwomennetwork.org/mums-at-work/)





## OUR ADVOCACY WORK:

# REPRESENTING MIGRANT, ASYLUM SEEKING AND REFUGEE WOMEN AND GIRLS' INTERESTS

"The European Network of Migrant Women advocates for the fundamental rights and dignity of all women and girls, and against women's commodification. Beyond categorisations that erase the most vulnerable of us in data and policies, we recognise that women's collective emancipation relies on an understanding of our shared oppression. Navigating spheres that are neither designed for or welcoming of feminist voices, we produce analysis and demands that are rooted in reality, grassroots action, and ongoing research. As power does not concede, we are creative, we work in network, we build solidarity and communities. We are unapologetic, work hard and do not rest in our search for justice."

**Alyssa Ahrabare, Advocacy and Legal Lead of the European Network of Migrant Women**



ENoMW's advocacy is both proactive and reactive: we make proposals, actively reach out to decision-makers, monitor the legislative initiatives of the European institutions, form analysis, positions, recommendations and amendments that we promote through a multifaceted strategy which articulates general public awareness raising, network building, event organising and meetings with various stakeholders.

We are guided by the **“leave no one behind principle”**: our advocacy includes and focuses on the most vulnerable women and girls: underage, undocumented, disabled, older, lesbians, third-country nationals, etc. In addition, we believe in **self-representation** and provide women with migrant backgrounds, including young women, platforms, tools and trainings through which they can express themselves and be agents of the change they want to see.

Our advocacy focuses mainly on three different levels: **European Union, Council of Europe, and United Nations**. In 2022, ENoMW attended around 30 advocacy meetings and events.

Amongst them, we can highlight our participation in the European Commission expert group meetings on migration, as well as different international events such as European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) Forum in Brussels, where our co-present Noura Raad was among the panelists, and the EU Migration forum in October 2022.

We were invited to share our analysis with the members of the **European Parliament**. Notably, we were heard on the topics of **migrant women mental health, surrogacy, exploitation in prostitution, as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights**. During these interventions, we shared our work and research, including the conclusions of our reports on migrant women mental health and on reproductive exploitation through surrogacy. We also highlighted **the international law violations by the pornography industry and its disastrous impact on women and girls worldwide**.

At UN level, we participated in various briefings with the CEDAW committee, and initiated our own **in-person CEDAW briefing in Geneva on migrant women political participation, during the 83th session of the committee**. There, we highlighted our various projects, as well as our report, toolkit, and recommendations on the meaningful inclusion of migrant women and girls in all aspects of political life.





# COUNCIL OF EUROPE: RECOMMENDATION ON PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT, REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKING WOMEN AND GIRLS



In February 2022, **the European Network of Migrant Women was granted the observatory status within the Council of Europe Gender Equality Commission.** This status allows us to attend the two commission's annual meetings, and share our analysis and positions on the various topics discussed between the States, in relation with women and girls rights. In addition, this enables us to comment on the documents the commission is working on, including the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy, Recommendations and reports. **In addition, the Council of Europe listed several of ENoMW's productions in its website.**

Our nomination followed two years of work in collaboration with the Gender Equality Commission, in the context of the elaboration of their **Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls.** We participated in hearings and in-person briefings and contributed through written submission. We took this opportunity to share our analysis with the Council of Europe Youth and Migration Unit and contributed to the report on migrant women by Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, amongst other work.

In May 2022, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, meeting in Turin, adopted the Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls. This Recommendation, while not binding for the States, provides **important measures to better respond to needs and challenges migrant women face: from adequate transit and reception facilities, to their health needs or establishing 'gender-sensitive asylum policies'.** It includes a checklist of measures to ensure migrant women's human rights are protected and guidance to member States regarding women's needs in terms of social services, employment, education and participation, to ensure that public policies fully contribute to the integration and empowerment of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls. **Many of ENoMW's recommendations were included in the final text.**

## COE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOURCES ON MIGRANT, REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKING WOMEN:

[www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/migrant-and-refugee-women-and-girls](http://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/migrant-and-refugee-women-and-girls)

# SOLIDARITY BEYOND BORDERS: THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MIGRANT WOMEN'S SUPPORT TO AFGHAN AND UKRAINIAN WOMEN

"Since August 2021, with the Taliban coming into power, and February 2022, with the escalation of Russian aggression in Ukraine, the European Network of Migrant Women has been directly involved with Afghan and Ukrainian women and girls resettling in Europe. We have raised their voices internationally and facilitated their integration through collective solidarity with the support of our members and allies. This serves as a testament to the unique understanding and empathy that one woman can have for another. The Afghan and Ukrainian women, like any other refugee women, left everything behind in the blink of an eye. As a Network, we continue to fight and advocate relentlessly for the rights refugee women and those who remain in their countries of origin."

**Frohar Poya, Research and Outreach Lead of the European Network of Migrant Women**



Painting by Nigina Aimal,  
Poem by Sondos Nezam Alokzaee,  
Afghan women.

## **We wont go back**

We are Afghan girls, we won't go back  
We have suffered for years, we won't go back

If you prevent the girls of this land from seeking knowledge  
we have the knowledge in our hearts, we won't go back!

If you bind our feet with the chains of ignorance  
we have wings to fly, we won't go back!

If you break the light of this dark path, soon  
We have candle in our hands, we won't go back!

If you set fire to flowers and greenhouses with pride  
We have seeds to plant, we will not go back!

Even If you take the land so that we don't plant our seeds  
We still have the soil and pot, we will not go back!



## **STAND UP WITH AFGHAN WOMEN: SUPPORTING AFGHAN WOMEN NEWLY RESSETLED IN EUROPE**

**Since August 2021, nineteen million women and girls's freedoms have been under attack by the so-called "reformed Taliban" after their takeover of Afghanistan. In spite of the Taliban's promises, they are depriving women and girls of their fundamental rights and the situation is only deteriorating.**

In the months following the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, the European Network of Migrant Women organised **three international solidarity events "STAND UP WITH AFGHAN WOMEN"** in which we committed to not forgetting about the women of Afghanistan, those still remaining in the country and those who have fled. The first event was organised in August 2021, the second took place in January 2022, 6 months after the takeover, during the Oslo talk between the Taliban and European leaders. The third one was organised in August 2022, one year after the takeover, as the attention of the international community had shifted away from the situation.

**At the same time, our network supported the evacuations of around 500 at risk Afghans women, notably, women activists, jurists and journalists, as well as young women and girls.** We reached out to governments to request safe passages and we worked to ensure their safety throughout their journey. In 2022, we focused on supporting these newly arrived women in the EU (Spain, Germany, France and other EU states) with their further integration through active training and continuous communication. Notably, **many of our members - e.g. Melissa Network in Greece, Polish Migration Forum in Poland, Haurralde Foundation in Spain, La Voix des Femmes in Belgium - worked to support Afghan women in Europe in practical ways.**

As a network we organised a **residential training in Malaga (Spain) with 25 newly arrived Afghan women**, that included the workshops on **independent living, access the labour market, IT sector in Spain, mental wellbeing, self-defence, as well as violence against women and girls.** We also organised separate activities for **mothers and daughters**, unpacking issues related to **coercion, systems of domination, and infringement of freedoms** justified in the name of interpersonal relations, religion, culture or the so-called "honour". We used the **FORUM theatre technique to enact everyday life situations where young women experience control and discrimination, and explore different ways to respond to them.**

Through the evaluation of the workshop, we noted that the women who participated reported an **increased sense of independence and confidence as well as an increased motivation for pursuing political, educational and career goals.** In parallel, they testified of a **decreased sense of isolation**











In 2022, ENoMW organised **3 online capacity-building workshops to enable women recently evacuated from Afghanistan to meet, create support networks, and learn new skills (notably on ICTs and human rights)**. Each workshop lasted for 3h and farsi live interpretation was provided. Around 30 Afghan women attended each of them. Themes covered included universal indivisible and inalienable human rights of women and girls, refugee and migrants' fundamental rights in the EU, women's solidarity, dreams, ambitions, and reality as well as sense of self and boundaries.

All year long, ENoMW has called on the European institutions, the UN agencies and bodies, as well as EU heads of states and citizens, to take a **principled position against the gross human rights violations perpetrated by the de-facto Taliban government against girls and women of Afghanistan**.

Notably, we co-organised an event titled "Human Rights of Afghan Women: Present and Future" in the **Parliament of Spain** where **several Afghan refugees relocated in Spain took the floor to directly address the decision-makers of their host country, including the Parliament's President**. The event was followed by a publication of conclusions in English and Spanish that were distributed to all members of the Spanish parliament. This initiative was covered in several media outlets and led to **13 more Afghan families being granted visa to Spain from Abu Dhabi**.

ENoMW also provided financial contributions to initiatives supporting Afghan women from our Greek member organisation Melissa and an Hungarian organisation She4she. We bought 8 computers for Afghan refugee women and built spaces for them to remain integrated within our network.

In December 2022, to mark 500 days since the Taliban taking-over the country, we launched a **video campaign titled 500 Days of Oppression that documented 10 facts of gross violations of human rights of Afghan women in the framework of the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, CEDAW**. We created postcards and sent them to **all members of the European parliament**, urging them to react to the violations perpetrated by the Taliaban against Afghan women and girls.

**WATCH #500DAYS ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=hSpAseilmeM>

**DOWNLOAD SHARABLE MATERIALS:**

[www.migrantwomennetwork.org/afghan-women](http://www.migrantwomennetwork.org/afghan-women)



# STAND UP WITH UKRAINIAN WOMEN: FIGHTING AGAINST EXPLOITATION, DISCRIMINATION AND ABUSE OF WOMEN AND GIRLS FLEEING WAR

"Due to language barriers, educated Ukrainian women face hurdles accessing high-skill positions in the EU. Their diplomas need time-consuming EU validation, demanding mental and physical resilience. Consequently, many resort to low-skilled jobs, losing their specialized expertise. This is particularly challenging for mothers, lacking childcare support during work."

**Union of Ukrainian Women Association (Greece)**

**On the 24th of February 2022, the world woke up to the shocking news of Putin's invasion of Ukraine.** After eight years of conflict in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and the annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014, more than 3 million people were already in a catastrophic situation, struggling to get access to their basic needs, living in fear and uncertainty. Right after the invasion, according to the UNHCR, over 368,000 people, mostly women and girls, were on the move.

**Very aware that in war and conflict, women and girls are at a direct risk, the European Network of Migrant Women committed to taking action in support of Ukrainian women and children fleeing the country.** On 28th of February 2022, we issued a statement to alert on the risks for displaced women and girls: **trafficking for sexual exploitation, being targetted by pornography and prostitution criminal networks, abuse and rape, denial of abortion rights** in countries neighbouring Ukraine, notably Poland, among others. In addition, we highlighted the situation of Ukrainian women **exploited in surrogacy** as the Kyiv-based surrogacy company had, from the beginning of the war, sequestered so called "surrogate" mothers and their newborn babies in a bomb shelter, while continuing to shill the commodification of women's bodies online with images stating "Make Babies Not War."

"I'm so glad we were able to turn on the heating today. Yesterday it was so cold that my fingers and my daughter's fingers turned blue." "In the bomb shelter I was very afraid for my children, they kept sleeping all the time because of the lack of oxygen." "I have seen women walking across the border with babies in their arms, that's all they could carry." "I was sexually attacked and lost my baby in the process." "My child won't let me go to the toilet alone, he's so scared all the time." "I have to return to Ukraine to save my husband from Russian captivity." "People ask me, why do you always cry? You are safe here in Belgium."

Testimonies of Ukrainian women shared during the 15/12/2022 event organised by La Voix des Femmes, Belgian member organisation of the European Network of Migrant Women



The European Network of Migrant Women created a **working group on the situation of Ukrainian women** and built connections with organisations working on the ground, in Ukraine and at the border, as well as with our members supporting Ukrainian refugees in different EU countries. **We created a mapping of helplines and support services for victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation in 31 European countries**, translated it in Ukrainian and disseminated it online and via organisations working with Ukrainian women.

We raised **funds** to collect emergency supplies for women and children at the beginning of the war. We participated in institutional meetings, notably with the European Commission, to raise our concerns, we organised to provide a modest material support for our member **Ukrainian Women Union in Greece**, an organisation supporting Ukrainian refugee women.

Our Belgian member **La Voix des Femmes** has been helping newly arrived Ukrainian women to self-organise in Belgium, they organised an event in December 2022 to raise awareness about the dreadful situation faced by displaced Ukrainian women and girls in Belgium, 10 months after the beginning of the war : due to the housing crisis in Belgium, Ukrainian women were **exploited in farms and factories, and sexually and domestically exploited by individuals who hosted them**.

In spite of the European commitment and the directive supposed to guarantee they get a **temporary protection status**, in practice, Ukrainian women have and continue to face many refusals. Women who have to go back to Ukraine (to attend a funeral for instance) lose all of their rights. These are some of the facts, ENoMW highlighted in our **submission to the Cabinet of Commissioner Helena Dalli on the state of play of equal treatment of Ukrainian refugees**.

We also created a **short guide highlighting danger situations and “red flags” for women fleeing Ukraine to identify risks of trafficking**. This infosheet was translated in Ukrainian and Russian and distributed through organisations working on the ground with Ukrainian women. We also gathered contacts of support organisations and frontline service providers that Ukrainian women could reach out to in different EU Member States.

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ENoMW WORK ON UKRAINIAN WOMEN’S RIGHTS:**

<https://www.migrantwomennetwork.org/2022/07/17/sexual-exploitation-infosheet/>





## PENS AND PAINTBRUSHES: SPREADING DISPLACED AND REFUGEE WOMEN'S MESSAGES THROUGH ART



Illustrations exhibited at FiLiA, by Yuliia Tveritina Diaries, Ukrainian artist

The European Network of Migrant women has focused on amplifying the voices of Afghan and Ukrainian women through the many ways in which they want to express themselves, their suffering, hopes and dreams, as well as their political messages to the EU and the world.

Notably, the group of Afghan women who participated in the Malaga workshop wrote a collective open-letter to Ukrainian women after Russia attacked Ukraine. This letter was shared with the members of Spanish Parliament.

"Ukrainian women: We, Afghan women, understand you. Even though we live thousands of miles away we also had a country as you did. We used to enjoy the weather, the sky, and the ground of our country. We also went to school and so did you. Until another country forced us to leave and so they did to you. We understand you because many years back Russia also invaded Afghanistan, and we could never forget. **Being a woman is more than just surviving.** Some of us were dreaming to become doctors and teachers and help our people, but we were forced to escape. (...) We hope that international community and European union help and support all Afghan and Ukrainian women in the same way, as we are the same."

Nigina Aimal, young Afghan woman, made a painting of a woman wearing traditional Afghan clothing and dancing. We framed this symbol of hope and gifted it to the Spanish Parliament president. We also gave a copy of it to the deputy Mayor of Helsinki, Afghan woman herself, Nazima Rasmyar. In addition, we made postcards out of it that were sent out to Members of the European Parliament and other key EU stakeholders.

The European Network of Migrant Women and femLENS also organised the exhibition "**War through the eyes of women**" during 2022 edition of the FiLiA conference. Afghan, Ukrainian, Iranian, Congolese and Colombian women were able to show their visions of the war through their art.

# THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MIGRANT WOMEN WITHIN THE GLOBAL FEMINIST MOVEMENT

2022 was marked by the **violent opposition of conservative and masculinist movements to progress in women's rights**, commonly called “**backlash**” within the global women's rights movement. Following the major UN international conferences of the 1990s, there has been growing and strong resistance to women's rights, in particular the **right for women to have control over their own bodies**. Women facing multiple forms of discrimination: young women, elder women, migrant, asylum seeking and refugee women and girls, women with disabilities, lesbian women, are particularly impacted by the rise of conservatism in many countries. In parallel, **harmful narratives within what is known as progressive movements lead to the normalisation of discourses encouraging the commodification of women in prostitution, pornography and surrogacy**. Women's rights are also attacked through the progressive **confusion and erasure of women in language**, including in international texts and frameworks. This shift prevents a woman focused approach within policies dedicated to women's rights, protection of women from sex-based discrimination, equality between women and men, and violence against women and girls. It is also an **obstacle to the collection of data disaggregated by sex**.

**This is why the role of feminist organisations and movements is increasingly important.** By resisting challenges to women's rights, creating spaces for the most vulnerable women and girls to gain protection, fighting for equal access of all women to justice and fundamental rights and deploying efforts to tackle men's violence against women and girls, **women's rights organisations everywhere are making concrete progress to achieve *de facto* equality**. The European Network of Migrant Women's ambition is to be part of this collective movement, through constantly reinforced cooperation with grassroots and advocacy organizations, as well as formal and informal feminist women's networks worldwide

“Conflict, violence against women, denial of rights and continuous exploitation of women around the Globe in recent time remind us of the importance of linking up, connecting and supporting each other as women - the international conventions and tools such as the CEDAW and Istanbul conventions give us the mandate to continue challenging patriarchy and advocate for women's rights. As feminists staying connected and ensuring no woman is left behind should always be our priority.

**Salome Mbugua, founder and Director of AkiDwa (Ireland), member and former president of the European Network of Migrant Women**



In 2022, ENoMW awarded several of our members to highlight their particular courage and persistence in the global fight for women’s rights. **The price constitutes in an invitation to attend FiLiA, the largest annual grassroots feminist conference in Europe.** Every year, the European Network of Migrant Women participates in this conference, usually taking the floor in several panels to **raise awareness on the specific issues faced by migrant women in the EU.** FiLiA is also a great opportunity for us to connect with organisations, activists and experts and find synergies to more effectively pursue our goals.

“FiLiA conference - the only international event that connects women of all backgrounds - remains an incredible platform for all of us. In the last three years during my participation through the European Network of Migrant Women, I have been amazed by the spaces provided especially for women from the Global South. The support is enormous. The thought provoking discussions leave you wanting more. It is exceptional.”

**Salome Mbugua, founder and Director of AkiDwa (Ireland), member and former president of the European Network of Migrant Women**

As a network of around 50 organisations across 23 EU Member States, the European Network of Migrant Women also focuses on participating in and supporting its members initiatives at national and local levels. In 2022, ENoMW participated in several events organised by its member organisations, including **Aura’s (Italy) event on mental health of migrant women**, which was based on ENoMW 2021 report’s findings on the topic, **Wezesha’s (Ireland) event “Silenced voices“** about conflict related sexual violence, and in the **Portuguese launch of ENoMW’s report on migrant women fundamental rights**, hosted by the High Commission on Migration during the 16 Days against Violence against Women.



# COMMUNICATIONS

## SOCIAL MEDIAS GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Instagram: 4.313 followers
- Facebook: 19.396 followers
- Twitter: 4.246 followers
- LinkedIn: 3.096 followers
  
- Total Facebook reach in 2022: 282.266
- Total Instagram reach in 2022: 27 974

The total reach progressed in 2022 compared to 2021 on both facebook and instagram.

## FOCUS: MIGRANT WOMEN REALITY WATCH

### **Migrant Women Reality Watch (MWRW)**

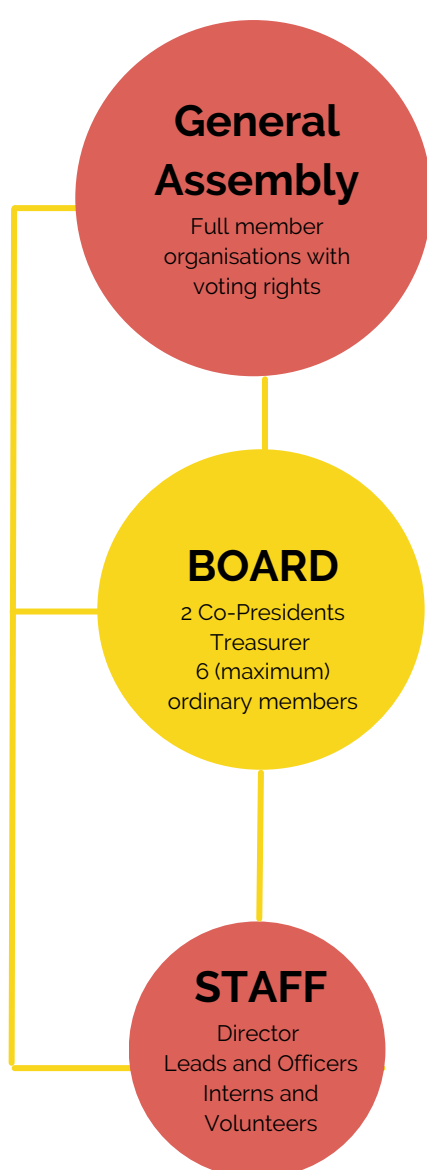
has been a series of live interviews, hosted on ENoMW's Facebook page and then posted on ENoMW's youtube channel, in which we interviewed women about a wide array of subjects, according to their areas of expertise.

MWRW aims to provide access to information not available in mainstream media, from a critical feminist perspective, in accordance to the vision, mission and objectives of our network.

A total of 8 events were hosted in 2022.



# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MIGRANT WOMEN



The **General Assembly**, composed of full member organisations with voting rights, is the highest decision-making body in the European Network of Migrant Women. It has the power to introduce structural and substantive changes in the organisation. Only the General Assembly has the power to dissolve the organisation.

The General Assembly meets once a year and is responsible for **electing new Board Members** and **admitting/dismissing full member organisations**.

Full member organisations have the right to nominate a representative to the Board.

Supporting member organisations and individual members can attend the General Assembly. However, they cannot vote and they cannot run for the Board.

The Board of the Network is composed of 3 to 9 members in total, including two co-presidents, treasurer and ordinary members. Board members can be elected every year by the General Assembly. Each board member's **term is two years, with a possibility to be re-elected two times serving a maximum of six years continuously in total**.

The Board is responsible for the overall political leadership in the European Network of Migrant Women as well as the management of Staff. They take decisions between General Assembly meetings. **According to the Board Policy adopted by the General Assembly, at least 85% of the Board must be migrant women.**

The **Staff** is composed by the employees of the European Network of Migrant Women led by the **Strategy and Executive Director**. Other members of Staff include **Advocacy and Legal Lead, Research and Outreach Lead, and Communication Officer**, as well as other roles (such as Project Officer/Facilitator, Administrative Assistant or Development Officer), in accordance with the needs and financial capacity of the organisation.

Staff members are in charge of **executing daily activities and operational management** of the European Network of Migrant Women.

Staff of the Network may include full or part time employees, including in the Brussels office, as well as freelance contractors. **Staff members are in charge of managing interns and volunteers.**

## OUR BOARD MEMBERS 2022-2023



**NOURA RAAD**  
co-president (FFM, France)



**CHIARA PAROLIN**  
co-president (Aura, Italy)



**JULES BUCKLEY**  
Treasurer (AkiDwa, Ireland)



**JENNIFER OKEKE**  
Member (ICI, Ireland)



**SPOGMAY JABARKHIL**  
Member (AWO, SWEDEN)



**WIDAD HAMRI**  
Member (OLF, France)

## OUR STAFF MEMBERS 2022



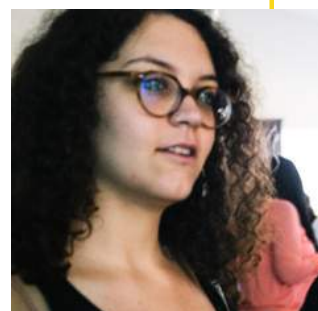
**ANNA ZOBNINA**  
Strategy & Executive Director



**ALYSSA AHRABARE**  
Advocacy & Legal Lead



**FROHAR POYA**  
Research & Outreach Lead

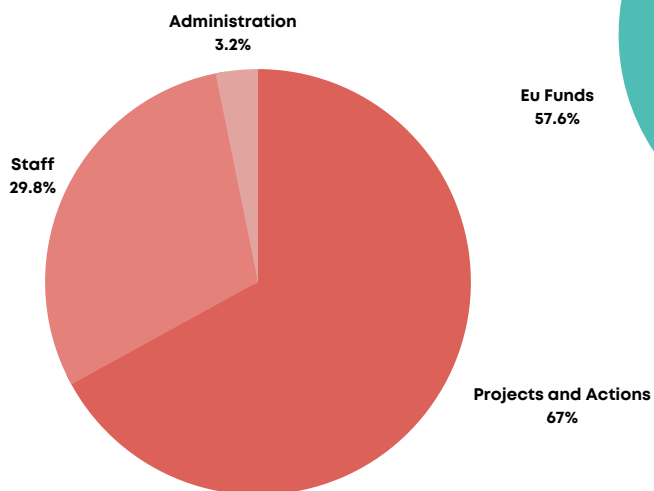


**ADRIANA S. THIAGO**  
Communication Officer

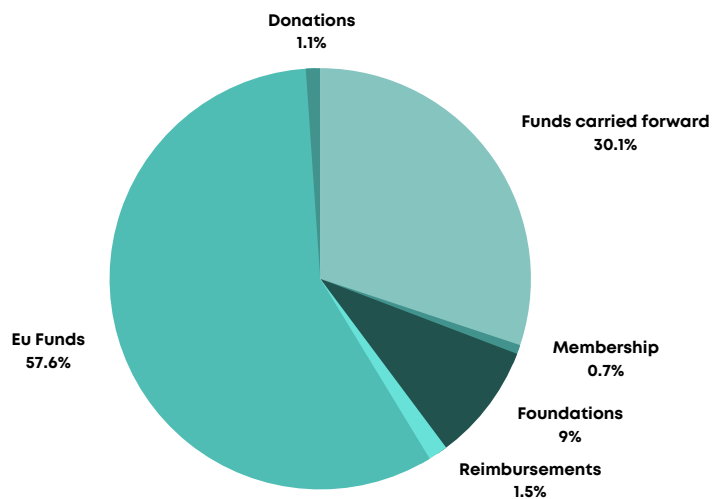


# FINANCES 2022

## EXPENSES



## INCOME



2022 saw a steady growth in our financial operations with the annual income of the network counting as Euro 608025,54, which included the funds we carried forward from the previous year. Our annual expenses counted as Euro 420046.49, with the majority of funds expended on activities and projects.

**ENOMW'S FINANCIAL POLICY:** <https://bit.ly/3JL54Tm>



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As a Network, we would like to warmly thank **our member organisations - they are the very foundation of our work, guiding our strategy, positions and action.** With their expertise, we are stronger and more legitimate to carry our collective voices within European spaces and fight together for our rights and interests.

Amongst our many partners and collaborators we would like to particularly thank the **TrustLaw of Thomson Reuters Foundation**, who supported the research for our report on the fundamental rights of undocumented migrant women. We also want to thank **PpDM** (Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights) who, jointly with our members, launched the report in Portugal. We share our appreciation of **EWLA** (European Women's Lawyers Association) with whom we collaborated in the evacuations and support for Afghan women, as well as **LEM España** (Spanish Women's Lobby) who supported our event in the Spanish Parliament. We would like to highlight our partner **femLENS**, an association of female photographers whose contributions were indispensable in some of our activities with migrant women. We are also grateful to our partner **ICASM** (International Coalition for the Abolition of Surrogate Motherhood) for the joint work we conducted on surrogacy. Finally, we would like to thank **FILiA** with whom we continue to collaborate in the ENOMW Courage Award annually.

We extend our appreciation to all our **funders and donors** without which we could not carry our work.

We are also grateful to **our board**, composed of brilliant women with very diverse background. While they are committed to their own organisations in various countries, they still give some of their time and expertise to this Network, making it grow. They are lawyers, tech experts, CSO advocates, mothers, sisters... **They represent our Network's richness.**

We would not be able to conduct our activities without **our team**: Anna Zobnina, ENoMW's Executive and Strategy Director who coordinates this demanding work, our Brussels team, Alyssa Ahrabare, Frohar Poya and Adriana S. Thiago, who worked daily on developing new projects, strategies, communication materials, advocacy actions, research, legal analysis and much more. Of course, these achievements are directly linked with the tremendous work of **our committed interns and volunteers.** We want to particularly thank Hajar Salimi, who contributed extensively to our report on fundamental rights of migrant women, and Rosa Gonzalez who supported our communication work.

Finally and above all, **we thank every woman in our Network who has made us what we are today.** We celebrate migrant women's **courage** to leave what they know to seek freedom, safety and security for their families and themselves.

# CONTACTS

## EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MIGRANT WOMEN (ENoMW)



vzw Amazone asbl  
10 rue du Méridien  
1210 Bruxelles  
Belgium

+32 (0)2 229 38 00  
info@migrantwomennetwork.org

**www.migrantwomennetwork.org**  
**FB:** @migrantwomeneurope  
**Twitter:** @ENoMW  
**Instagram:** @migrantwomennetwork

Registered AISBL N: 0847831468  
EU Transparency Register ID: 458348329860-11

