



# EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MIGRANT WOMEN ACTIVITY REPORT

**2023**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01 LETTER FROM **ENOMW CO-PRESIDENTS**
- 02 **FACES OF ENOMW: BOARD AND STAFF**
- 03 **YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS: KEY MOMENTS TO REMEMBER**
- 12 **ENOMW MEMBERS: WORKING IN NETWORK TO BE STRONGER**
- 14 **OUR EUROPEAN PROJECTS: SUPPORTING MIGRANT WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN THE EU**
- 20 **CAMPAIGNING FOR AFGHAN WOMEN: CONTINUED ADVOCACY**
- 21 **OUR ADVOCACY WORK: REPRESENTING MIGRANT WOMEN'S VOICES AND INTERESTS**
- 26 **COMMUNICATIONS: VISIBILISING ISSUES IMPORTANT TO MIGRANT WOMEN**
- 27 **FINANCES**
- 28 **THE WAY WE WORK: ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE**
- 29 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**
- 30 **CONTACTS**



## LETTER FROM CO-PRESIDENTS

2023 was another important year for our network, filled with important actions, initiatives and projects. It was also an important year for migrant women in Europe, as the European institutions worked on several legislative proposals: the new directive on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, amendments of the EU Anti Trafficking and Victims' Rights directives, and a preparation of a large new legislative package, known as the Migration and Asylum Pact. All these legislations will have a palpable impact on the lives of refugee, asylum seeking, migrant and undocumented women. Additionally, in 2023, the European Union started preparing for the European elections of 2024.

As an apologetically feminist, women-centred, secular network of migrant women, we had to be present in many spaces, to assert our rights, to represent our members's concerns, and to intervene with our analysis and proposals. This is a demanding task in an environment where women's rights seem to slide to the bottom of political agendas, and where the rights of women and girls are being undermined from all sides of the political spectrum. It is even more challenging to do so in the climate with pervasive structural racism, administrative violence and legal status discrimination which, for migrant women as a group, often takes the form of racialised misogyny and sexualised racism.

Despite the challenges, we are especially proud of this past year's achievements: thanks to the incredible efforts of our staff and volunteers, and our members' involvement, we were able to launch two important initiatives. One focussed on the legal tools and data collection in the field of fundamental rights of migrant women, and the other, on political participation and agency of migrant women. The two subjects are intrinsically linked, as women's substantive equality is not possible without fulfilling fundamental rights of all women and putting an end to discrimination and violence. It is also not possible to achieve when women are not represented, in a substantive way, in positions of power and decision making bodies.

These two initiatives were complimented by numerous interventions and actions, making it a rich and significant year for us. We are very grateful to all our members, our staff, and all our partners, who were with us in 2023 !

Noura Raad

Chiara Parolin





## OUR BOARD 2023-2024



**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  
(Afghan Women, Sweden)



**MANIA ALKHATIB**  
Secretary  
(MONIKA, Finland)



**EGLE PUIDOKAITE**  
Member  
(KSPPC, Lithuania)

## OUR STAFF & VOLUNTEERS 2023



**ANNA ZOBNINA**  
Strategy & Executive  
Director



**ALYSSA AHRABARE**  
Advocacy & Legal Lead



**FROHAR POYA**  
Research & Outreach Lead



**URSULA LE MENN**  
Communication Officer



**ROSA GONZALEZ**  
Project Facilitator



**ZAHRA SADJADI**  
Finance Officer



**ELENA MARATI**  
Legal Volunteer



**ATHINA PAPCHRISTOU**  
Project Volunteer



## YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

### STRENGTHENING MIGRANT WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND SELF-REPRESENTATION

#### CEDAW: Equal Representation of Women in Decision-Making

In 2023, the European Network of Migrant Women contributed to the CEDAW committee upcoming General Recommendation 40 on **"Equal and Inclusive Representation of Women in Decision-Making Systems."** We made a comprehensive written submission and participated in the committee's public consultation. On February 22, 2023, we intervened during the CEDAW Committee's 84th session to emphasise that political participation is contingent upon **the full enjoyment of human rights by all women**. We called for transparent, accountable institutions with parity in leadership structures, and formal mechanisms to report violence against women within political spaces. We also stressed the importance of **preserving the specific language in international instruments that explicitly protects women**.

READ ENOMW SUBMISSION TO CEDAW :

<https://shorturl.at/moZc1>



#### Year of Action for Migrant Women's Political Participation

ENOMW stands for women's active political participation, essential for **creating and sustaining egalitarian and democratic societies**. Excluding women from decision-making and public spaces perpetuates violence, discrimination, and harmful patriarchal practices.

**We launched in 2023 the project "AGENCY: Vote With Her"** supported by the European Parliament, to **train migrant women across 14 EU Member States for active engagement** in the 2024 European elections and decision-making processes. The **AGENCY public event in the European Parliament in Brussels** counted among the highlights of our year 2023.





## Mobilising around the 2024 Elections: A Day of Action at the European Parliament

- On November 28th, 2023, ENoMW organised a significant event at the European Parliament, **gathering over 30 migrant women for a day of mobilisation, debates, and action** in preparation for the 2024 elections.
- The day began with a visit of the **LIBE Committee session**, where MEPs discussed issues related to migration and asylum. This was the occasion for the participants to witness first end the EU decision-making process in action.
- ENOMW organised a conference featuring various local and EU-level women decision-makers with migrant backgrounds,, who highlighted **the critical role of migrant women in social and political spheres**.
- The panels addressed the violence migrant women face in the EU, such as sexist and racist discrimination, and limited access to fundamental rights and justice. Speakers advocated for **legislative measures that ensure their of all women, irrespective of their legal status**.
- Change-makers from the AGENCY project were given a platform to share their analysis and concerns. They **collectively raised a resonant call to recognise migrant women as political subjects, rather than passive recipients of help**.

By fostering empowerment, building capacity, and advocating for equitable representation, we are paving the way for a more inclusive and responsive European society.

The journey is ongoing, but every step brings us closer to realising a future where migrant women's voices are not only heard but also heeded in shaping the policies and decisions that affect their lives.





## YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

### 'TEAM PURPLE' IN STRASBURG

#### ENoMW's delegation of young migrant women at EYE

In early 2023, ENoMW received a subsidy from the European Parliament to support a delegation of **15 young women from migrant backgrounds to the European Parliament's Youth Event (EYE) in Strasbourg**. The event took place on June 9th and 10th, 2023. The young Afghan, Ukrainian, Iranian, Egyptian women among others, nominated by our members, travelled from Greece, Sweden, Malta, Finland, Spain, Italy, Germany and France, to represent ENOMW in this event.

The delegation was coordinated by ENoMW staff and led by the group leader Wazhma Sayle from the Swedish Afghan Women's Organisation. These young women who were named **"Team Purple"** by other participants at EYE, actively participated in many main and side sessions at the event, intervening and **highlighting issues related to male violence against women, migrant women's fundamental rights, sexual exploitation, boarder control, EU foreign policy, legislative processes such as the EU Directive on violence against women** .

WATCH THE SUMMARY OF ENOMW' DELEGATION TO EYE VISIT:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmROm5FMlzl>







# YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

## ANIMATED VIDEO “MOTHERS OF THE WORLD”

**Mothers of the World** is an animated short video, produced by the European Network of Migrant Women and directed by the film-maker Vaishnavi Sundar. It is inspired by the stories of **five migrant & refugee mothers from Afghanistan, Somalia, Ukraine, Philippines and Turkey.**

This 20-minute animation presents a series of portraits of the women who took difficult journeys into Europe, their quest for safety, security and stability for themselves and their children, their daily struggles and the courage and wisdom with which they deal with the new challenges in Europe. It concludes with the policy recommendations to improve the lives of refugee and migrant mothers in Europe.

The video is narrated in the original languages of migrant women portrayed in the film and is available with **English, Spanish, Italian, Farsi, Ukrainian, Lithuanian and Russian** subtitles on **Youtube**.

For the video **Mères du Monde** with French subtitles please **follow this link**.

Mothers of the World was produced in 2023 as part of the Mums@Work project co-funded by the European Union’s Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).

**AWARD WINNER Golden FEM! Refugee Film Festival**  
**BISFF Best Film Palestine 2023**  
**imeff OFFICIAL SELECTION 2023**  
**WatchOut! Tetovo Film Festival 2023**  
**OFFICIAL SELECTION 2023**

**MOTHERS OF THE WORLD**  
 A FILM BY VAISHNAVI SUNDAR

WATCH ONLINE WITH SUBTITLES IN  
 ENGLISH  
 FRENCH  
 ITALIAN  
 LITHUANIAN  
 PERSIAN  
 RUSSIAN  
 SPANISH  
 UKRAINIAN

European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund  
 European Network of Migrant Women  
 MUMS AT WORK

ANIMATION: LIPI | ANNIE | SNEHA | RAMYA ANKILLA | IASMIN PRATI  
 MUSIC: JESSICA MACDONALD | ADRIE | MUSIC: MADELIB | STUDIO COURTESY: GREG HALL STUDIO PT  
 SOUND MASTERING: RAJESH KANNAN | COLOUR: RAJA RAJAN | SUPPORTED BY: FILIA  
 SCRIPT, EDITING & PRODUCTION: VAISHNAVI SUNDAR | LIMEODAFILMS.COM  
 STORIES: Afghanistan - Gita Saeed | Philippines - Lisa Jataas | Somalia - Leyla Ismail | B & C | Turkey - Selen Ozbellez | Ukraine - Hanna Olynych





## YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

### BUILDING A EUROPE WHERE ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE FREE FROM PROSTITUTION

#### Mobilising Against Migrant Women's Fundamental Rights Violations in Prostitution

The European Network of Migrant Women (ENoMW) has been at the forefront of a strong and relentless campaign against the **sexual exploitation of migrant women in prostitution**. Our efforts culminated in a **significant victory in September 2023, when the European Parliament adopted a resolution recognising prostitution as a form of violence against women and girls**.

The resolution calls for a **holistic response to prostitution centered on women's rights**, including the decriminalisation of prostituted individuals and **the criminalisation of perpetrators, pimps, and buyers of sexual acts - the core tenets of the Equality Model**. This model has already proven effective in countries like Iceland, Ireland, France, Sweden, and Norway, where resources are allocated to help women exit prostitution and treat them as victims rather than criminals. On the other hand, buyers of sexual acts, drivers of the demand for the commodification of women and perpetrators of violence, are criminalised.

#### This achievement came after an extensive collective mobilisation.

ENoMW, representing the social group most targeted by pimps and human traffickers, in collaboration with CAP International, SPACE International, Equality Now, and the Swedish Women's Lobby called on the **European Parliament to commit to a Europe free from prostitution**. On May 22, 2023, women with lived experiences of prostitution, migrant and refugee women, feminist experts, activists, EU-wide platforms, and grassroots service providers gathered in Brussels for a closed session with members of the European Parliament, a press conference and an international expert conference on the intersection of discrimination in prostitution.





# YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

## WORKING WITH LEGAL EXPERTS TO PROTECT WOMEN'S RIGHTS

### ENoMW Nominated for Trust Law Impact Award

The highlight of the year was ENoMW's nomination by the Trust Law of the Thomson Reuters Foundation for its annual **Impact Award**. This award celebrates **the outstanding importance of pro bono work conducted as a collaboration between lawyers and civil society organisations to achieve social change**. ENoMW was the three shortlisted organisations for our impactful project on the fundamental rights of undocumented migrant women in the EU.

Our project aimed at **measuring the access to fundamental rights for undocumented migrant women in 9 EU Member States**. We organised a partnership involving our NGO, some of our members, and 17 dedicated lawyers, demonstrating the powerful impact of collaboration between CSOs and legal experts.

### READ THE REPORT THAT RESULTED FROM THIS PARTNERSHIP:

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





## YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

### ENOMW'S PARTICIPATION TO THE 67TH UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The European Network of Migrant Women participated in the CSW 67 in New York, an event of **enormous significance for migrant and refugee women globally**. This annual two-weeks gathering is a crucial platform where equality between women and men and **women's rights issues are addressed by governments, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders from around the world**, providing an unparalleled opportunity to advocate for the rights and needs of migrant women, influence global policy, and network with key actors in the women's rights and migration sectors.

The priority theme of CSW 67 was the **role of innovation, technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving equality between women and men and the empowerment of all women and girls**. This theme is particularly significant for migrant women, as information and communication technologies (ICTs) can both support and endanger them. ICTs have the potential to provide migrant women with access to information, services, and opportunities for education and employment. However, they also pose significant risks, including exposure to online violence, exploitation, and trafficking.

**ENOMW's was invited as an expert speaker for several side-events, including one on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) organised by Sweden and Mexico**, which was the occasion to raise awareness about the inherent violence of surrogacy, prostitution, and forced marriage, among other attacks on women's and girls' human rights and dignity.

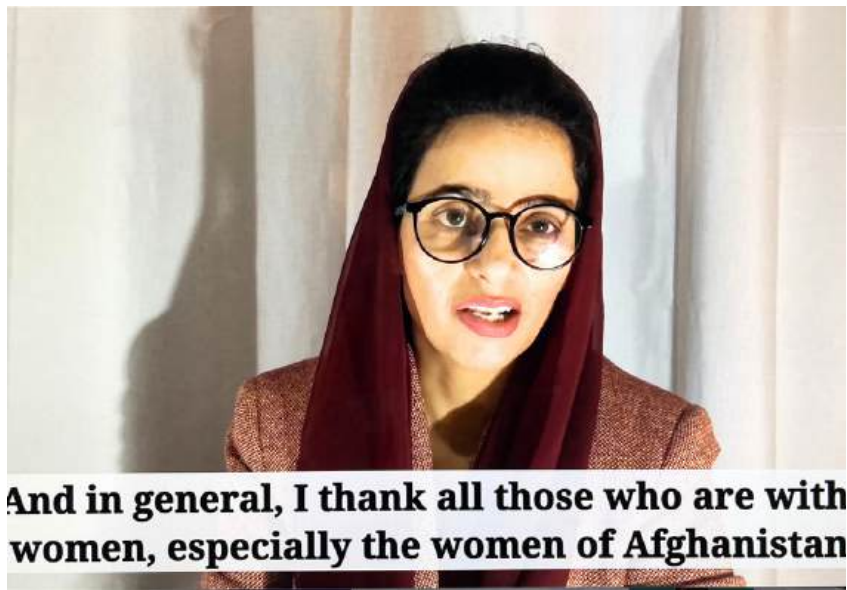
**ENOMW also gave an important intervention during the side-event co-organised by the Council of Europe and Iceland on migrant, asylum-seeking and refugee women and girls**. ENOMW shared its expertise based on our work in support of Afghan and Ukrainian women, along with our efforts to promote migrant women's political participation, access to fundamental rights, and meaningful labour market integration.

Through the two weeks of CSW 67, during events, strategic meetings and negotiations, ENOMW called for:

- Upholding existing legal frameworks such as the CEDAW Convention.
- Holding social media and other online platforms as well as Internet service providers accountable for their role in facilitating online violence and exploitation.
- Collecting and utilising data disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, and legal status to inform policies and interventions.

**With the number of displaced people and conflict-affected countries increasing, there is an urgent need to protect migrant women's fundamental rights.**









# YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN BASSANO DEL GRAPPA, ITALY

### ENoMW took stock of the year 2022



On Saturday, September 30th, and Sunday, October 1st, the European Network of Migrant Women held its **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** in Bassano del Grappa, Italy. With the support of our member organization, **Associazione Aura**, and our co-president, **Chiara Paolin**, we had the pleasure of hosting **50 women** from our 20 member organisations, along with individual members.

The General Assembly addressed ENoMW's **projects, events, advocacy efforts, communications, and overall strategy**. Participants also engaged in **workshops on feminist self-defense**, both intellectual and physical.

During the Assembly, members voted to welcome a new member organisation: **Weavers of Hope**, a nonprofit founded by **survivors of sex trafficking** in Italy and represented by **Blessing Okoedion**. Additionally, the Assembly elected four new board members:

- **Mania Alkhatib** (MONIKA, Finland)
- **Jennifer Okeke** (ICI, Ireland)
- **Egle Puidokaite** (Klaipėda Center, Lithuania)
- **Marizza Herrera** (Por ti Mujer, Spain)





## OUR MEMBERSHIP WORK: BRINGING TOGETHER, SUPPORTING AND AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS ACROSS THE EU



The European Network of Migrant Women illustrates **the power of collective action by involving over 50 organisations across 23 EU Member States**. At the heart of ENOMW's mission is the unification of members, representing the richness of global struggles for women's economic, political, and physical freedom.

ENOMW's membership ranges from grassroots service providers to NGOs focused on advocacy and research, covering various human rights subjects. Our members, spanning regions from Asia to Africa and Latin America, establish safe spaces for **migrant and refugee women, and those who support their cause**. Activities they conduct include economic empowerment, anti-discrimination advocacy, increasing access to justice, and combating violence against women and girls. Some of our member organisations run shelters, helplines, provide psychological and legal assistance, execute educational programmes, campaigns, and engage in protests, disruptions, and challenges to power. They also conduct research, publicise, and lobby local and national institutions.

ENOMW engages with its members through **a multifaceted approach, fostering an inclusive environment and actively involving them in projects**. Over the years, ENOMW has seen some of its members growing from informal volunteer groups to structured entities advocating for and working with migrant women. The network also provides **awareness-raiding and capacity building**, addressing areas related to migrant women's fundamental rights, violence against women, and advocacy. The creation of spaces for migrant women to meet, share, exchange and support each other has been a pivotal aspect of the Network's existence and mission.



As a network, we **ensure engagement of our members by including them in all our funding applications and projects** – either as partners, affiliated entities, subcontracted organisations or individual experts. As a result of these efforts, in 2023 almost half of our membership were involved in different projects of ENOMW.

- **HumMingBird**- we subcontracted three member organisations (Polish Migration Forum, Akidwa, and Malta Migrant Women Association) to conduct national research about the impacts of Covid on lives of migrant women. Our members in Italy and Belgium also supporting organising interviews and focus groups with migrant and refugee women.
- **WORLDPLACES** - we organised exchange trips for four members of our member organisations, in Greece (Melissa Network), Poland (Polish Migrant Forum), Czech Republic ( Sdružení pro integraci a migraci - SIMI), and Lithuania (Klaipėda Social and Psychological Support Centre - KSPPC) hosted by the project coordinator Quid in Verona. Our member Weavers of Hope is a part of the project advisory board.
- **AGENCY: Increasing political participation of migrant women in the EU** - 10 of our members in Finland, Cyprus, Spain, Italy, France, Ireland, Lithuania, Greece, Belgium and the Netherlands were involved in this project, organising events and supporting the change-makers most of whom came into the project by the recommendation and selection of our member organisations.
- **FULFIL: Protecting and Promoting Fundamental Rights if Migrant Women** – this project was collectively designed and is being implemented with 2 of our members - IROKO ONLUS in Italy and OLYMPE ASSOCIATION and France. Additionally, it involves 3 of our members in the Ethics committee of the project.
- **FORUM** – three of our members (Akidwa, FFM and La Fate) were involved as partners participating in the creation of the *No Borders to Women's Rights* campaign.
- **MUMS AT WORK** - 5 of our members were involved in the project as Advisory board, overseeing the project implementation.



Additionally, we also make sure to give visibility to our members' work by awarding selected members with the **FILIA Courage Award** - participation in the largest European grassroots feminist event, held annually in the UK.



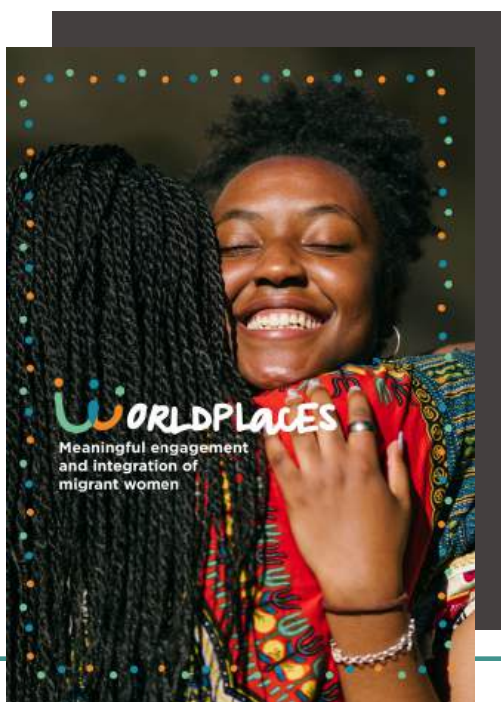
# OUR EUROPEAN PROJECTS: SUPPORTING MIGRANT WOMEN IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

## MIGRANT WOMEN'S FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

### WORLDPLACES: WORKING WITH MIGRANT WOMEN

Worldplaces promotes better and more fulfilling **integration of migrant women in the workplace** through a 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, and body and identity. As part of this project, jointly with our member AWSA-Be, we produced a toolkit on Meaningful Engagement of Migrant Women, translated in French, Italian, Spanish, Greek and Portuguese.

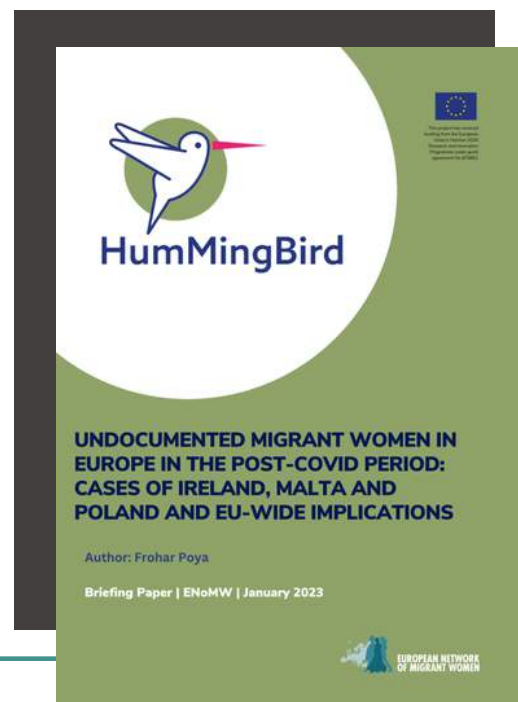
**DISCOVER THE TOOLKIT :**  
<https://www.migrantwomennetwork.org/2024/04/12/worldplacestoolkittranslations/>



### HUMMINGBIRD: UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANT WOMEN

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. As part of it, ENOMW conducted a series of field-trips, focus groups and interviews with refugee and migrant women. The result was the publication of the policy brief on undocumented migrant women in several EU states.

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





## 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.

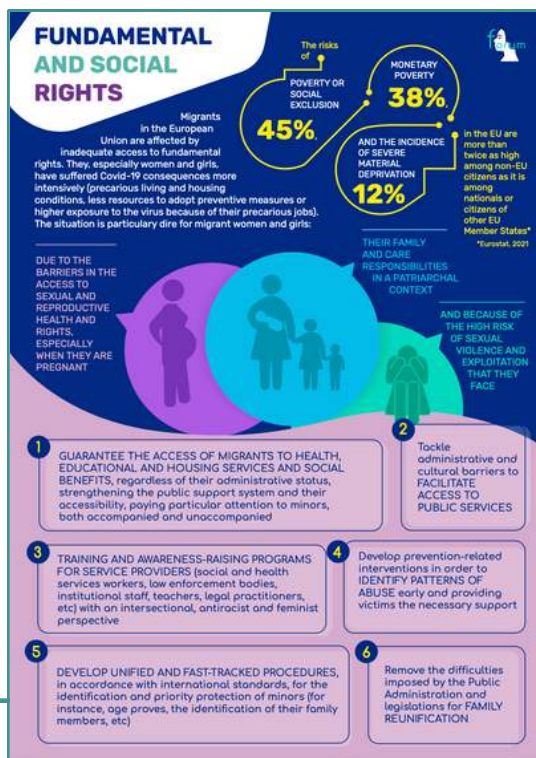
### *No Borders to Women's Rights*

On January 20th, 2023, the European Network of Migrant Women, together with its members AKIDWA, La Fate Onlus and Forum Femmes Mediterranee, concluded the FORUM project with a final event in Strasbourg, under the rallying cry of **"No Borders to Women's Rights."** Strasbourg is an active participant in the Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities Programme and the home of numerous EU and European institutions. This significant gathering brought together policy makers and civil society organisations to openly discuss and address the myriad barriers migrant women face in accessing their rights across Europe.

The event featured a presentation of the 2022 **Council of Europe Gender Equality Committee Recommendation on migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking women and girls.** This vital recommendation underscores the need for States to implement measures for safeguarding the rights and well-being of vulnerable women and girls. Leyla Kayacik, **the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees,** and Ivana d'Alessandro, representing the **Council of Europe's committee of experts on intercultural integration of migrants,** led discussions on political participation, civic engagement, labor market integration, and more, underscoring the **multifaceted approach required to integrate migrant women fully into European societies.**

### DISCOVER FORUM'S POLICY BRIEF:

<https://rm.coe.int/policy-brief-forum-en-final/1680a9f45c>







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

2023 saw the completion of the Mums at Work project, that aimed 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.

On 4 March 2024, we organised the final project's event in Brussels - **Mothers of the World**. This full day event brought together nearly 500 persons, including many migrant mothers and their families, local authorities and NGOs, activists and EU policy makers.

Contrary to the usual format of the EU project events in Brussels, we decided to organise a **community-focussed event where migrant mothers would feel truly welcome**. As a result our event dedicated to migrant mothers brought together migrant female artisans and chefs, child activities, small group workshops on perfumery, voice work and maternity. This was combined with several panels featuring Belgian organisations supporting migrant women.

We also had a pleasure to host the Zamāan choir of our member AWSA-Be that the audience greatly enjoyed. The event was completed with a live performance of Daba Makurejah, a West African dub artist.

During the event we screened 2 videos: the Mothers of the World animation and **a short video with interviews of migrant women** who participated in the project in different roles. The latter video, with deeply touching personal testimonies of women can be accessed [via this link](#).





## LEGAL TOOLS TO ADDRESS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MIGRANT WOMEN

### FULFIL: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WOMEN IN EUROPE

FULFIL, coordinated by ENOMW in partnership with Iroko and Parolin Law in Italy, OLYMPE Association in France, Association against Femicide in Portugal and European Women's Lawyers Association, focuses on capacity-building of legal professionals in the area of fundamental rights of migrant women in Europe. Project's ambitions are to deliver **training program** to 600 legal professionals, 100 migrant women and 50 CSOs across the EU, **a report bringing a women's rights perspective on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights**, and the first in Europe **case-law database** on migrant women's fundamental rights violations that will be launched in the end of 2024.

2023 was dedicated to conducting legal research and mapping, establishing the needs of legal practitioners and creating the framework for collecting and analysing case-law that eventually would populate the case-law database. We also identified relevant experts within European Network of Migrant Women and European Women's Lawyers Association, to form the Ethics and Quality Committee whose task is to overview the implementation of the project from ethics and quality of results perspective.



Finally, in December 2023, the team of FULFIL met in Lisbon to discuss the project's progress. Project partners elaborated the content of the **report Women's Rights Perspective on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights with a specific focus on migrant and refugee women and girls**. We also finalised the training materials used in the national and EU training for legal experts, and established criteria for the case-law website to be launched in 2024 ([www.womensrightsdatabase.eu](http://www.womensrightsdatabase.eu)).

Additionally, we held a public event, hosted by the Portuguese Association against Femicide, **Breaking the Silence: Violence against Women as Torture**. This event brought together legal professionals, feminist and VAWG organisations in Portugal to discuss the gaps in EU and national legislature on violence against women and girls perpetrated by non-state actors.

**EVENTO INTERNACIONAL**

**BREAKING THE SILENCE:  
VIOLENCE AGAINST  
WOMEN AS TORTURE**



## MIGRANT WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

### AGENCY: AMPLIFYING MIGRANT WOMEN POLITICAL VOICES

2023 was the year we launched a new project, supported by the European Parliament, **AGENCY: Vote with Her**. This project brought together 10 of our member organisations and nearly 60 migrant women in 14 EU states, aiming to **mobilise some of the migrant communities to engage in the European Parliament election**, with a specific focus on supporting politically motivated women with migrant background to meaningfully participate at local, national and EU level.

Nearly 90 women of diverse cultural and ethnic background and ages (with youngest 16 and oldest 56 y.o.), applied to participate in the AGENCY training - a recruitment process supported by our members and femLENS partners. Almost 60 of those women went through the training in May-October 2023, made of online sessions and in-person bootcamps.

As as a platform made of and led by migrant women, we understand well the barriers faced by women of migrant background in accessing and understanding very complex EU processes and structures.

Therefore, one of the main aims of the training, which ranged from lecture-style presentations, to interactive exercises, research and photography tasks, was to **demystify and bring closer to women on the ground the jargon, architecture and decision-making within the EU institutions**.

At the same time, the participants had an opportunity to practice **low-threshold photography techniques that our partners from femLENS delivered** in order to the change-makers to create their unique photo-stories. Those visuals would later make into campaigns that the women of AGENCY would implement in their localities ahead of the EU elections 2024.



## Dublin Bootcamp: Amplifying Migrant Women's Voices

- On June 17th, 2023, ENoMW hosted the first **in-person capacity-building workshop under the AGENCY project in Dublin.**
- This initiative brought together around 30 migrant women of diverse backgrounds, ages, and life stories, uniting them with a common goal: **to become agents of change in their communities and at the EU level.**
- The workshop focused on public speaking and campaigning through the innovative use of **photovoice**, a participatory photography method that empowers participants to capture and share their experiences and perspectives.



The energy and positivity among the participants were palpable through the event, setting the tone for sessions filled with inspiration and learning.

Participants gained the tools and confidence to articulate their stories and advocate for their rights.



## Berlin Bootcamp: Harnessing the Power of Storytelling and Photography

- The second AGENCY bootcamp took place on July 22nd, 2024, in Berlin, where 38 migrant women gathered.
- We collectively delved into **using photography for powerful campaigns and mastering impactful public speaking.**
- Participants also engaged in a comprehensive workshop on **storytelling**, learning to craft compelling narratives that highlight their experiences and aspirations.
- This underscored **the importance of narrative in advocacy**, providing migrant women with the skills to convey their messages effectively.







## CAMPAIGNING FOR AFGHAN WOMEN

2023 marked 2 years since the take-over of Afghanistan by the Taliban, which, since its coming to power imposed severe restrictions on the rights of Afghan women and girls, resulting in systemic and widespread human rights violations.

Building on the work done with the resettled Afghan women in Europe in 2022, our network continued advocating for the rights of Afghan girls and women and demanding accountability from the EU as a union, and international community, in its foreign policy, as well as asylum.

In 2023, EUAA as well as several individual states (Finland, Denmark, Sweden) recognised that Afghan women and girls are entitled to international protection as a social group persecuted in Afghanistan in the meaning of both the Refugee convention and the EU directive on the common standards for the qualification and international protection of refugees.

This, however, did not result in the substantive change in the reception of Afghan women in Europe, as **many continue to be stranded in third countries**, unable to return to Afghanistan, and unable to reach Europe.

Furthermore, the EU adopted a double standard in relation to the de facto authorities in Afghanistan. While recognising severe violations of human rights perpetrated against Afghan women, the Union tacitly recognised the legitimacy of the terrorist government through bilateral diplomacy and certain agreements.

ENOMW monitored closely these processes, in particular lobbying the European Parliament to **condemn any steps leading to legitimising the Taliban regime and allowing egregious violations of Afghan women rights to continue.**

In January 2023, together with our Afghan members, we launched a social media campaign **LET HER LEARN** that followed yet another edict by the Taliban, i.e. ban on public education of females above 12 y.o. We also used the video [500 DAYS OF OPPRESSION](#) that **documents 10 violations of women's rights under CEDAW**, to inform the MEPs about the grave situation of Afghan women.





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

The European Network of Migrant Women **engages with decision-makers, and monitors legislative actions within EU, European as well as international institutions.** ENOMW also develops analyses, positions, recommendations, and amendments on texts and initiatives that are relevant to migrant women's rights. Our advocacy combines **public awareness campaigns, network building, event organising, and stakeholder meetings.**

Guided by the **"leave no one behind" principle,** our advocacy prioritises the most vulnerable women and girls. We believe in self-representation and **we build the capacity of women with migrant backgrounds to become drivers of change.**

**These engagements are crucial for advancing the rights and interests of migrant women, influencing policy, sharing best practices, and building alliances.** It enables ENOMW to **voice concerns, propose solutions, and collaborate with diverse entities to foster a more fair and just society.**





In 2023, ENOMW substantively engaged in the processes for the adoption of a **Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence** and the revision of the EU **Anti-Trafficking Directive**. Both processes extended into 2024.

ENOMW intervened at each stage, from the design of the proposals to the adoption of the final versions, through responding to the European Commission consultations, analysing the proposals and formulating amendments, providing data to the European Parliament committees, monitoring dynamics within the Council of the EU, leading meetings with relevant stakeholders, or coordinating national level advocacy through our members.

These efforts contributed to positive outcomes, such as the **inclusion of the exploitation of surrogacy and forced marriage among the causes of human trafficking in the Anti-Trafficking Directive**, and the criminalisation of forced marriage and female genital mutilation in the Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence.

The action Free from Prostitution that ENOMW organised in May at the European Parliament contributed to a great feminist victory: The adoption of a **resolution by the European Parliament in September 2023** highlighting the inherent violence of prostitution and the need to discourage men's demand for the commodification of women. This resolution, initiated by MEP Maria Noichl, is a historic development.

ENOMW also engaged in the negotiations related to the **new Migration and Asylum Pact** entirely that overlooked migrant women who make around 50% of the migrant population. We consistently expressed concerns about the Pact's likely negative effects on the human rights of migrants and refugees, especially women and girls. Through our statement "**EU Migration and Asylum Pact through the Eyes of a Woman**", we highlighted the urgent need to address issues impacting **migrant women** specifically, emphasising their unique situations and bringing their perspective to the front of the stage.



## EU Expert Groups and Platforms

The Network is a member in several EU expert groups and platforms, including the **European Commission's Expert Groups on Asylum and Integration, and on Labour, the EU Anti Trafficking and Victims' Rights Platforms**. The focus of the Asylum and Integration group in 2023 was the EU Pact on Integration and Asylum and its implementation after adoption, the EU talent pool, and the review of the Implementation of the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027. The EU Anti Trafficking platform's focus was the revision of the EU Anti Trafficking directive, and concurrent EU presidencies. ENOMW was also invited to speak as an expert before the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), attended by EU government representatives. In all these meetings, we presented **our views on the impact of these policies on the lives of migrant women strongly advocating for the inclusion of the need of migrant women in all policy areas**.

## European Left Forum & Resisterhood Event of the European Parliament

The European Left Forum, an annual by the left and green Members of the European Parliament (EP), experts, trade unions, and CSOs hosting discussions on equality and social justice, environment, peace and security. This 7th edition was in Madrid and was particularly significant as it took place just a few months before the 2024 EP elections. ENOMW was invited as an expert, and during the Feminist Assembly, we presented **gross human rights violations faced by migrant women in the care sector** an issue that impacts EU societies as a whole. At the event organised by the same political family in the EP in Brussels, we presented our analysis on the situation of refugee and migrant women as a group in the EU.

## European Migration Forum

The 8th European Migration Forum, which focused on 'Specific needs, skills, and communication for stronger inclusion,' took place on December 4 and 5, 2023. It brought together more than 250 participants from all over Europe. At the forum, ENOMW advocated for **better prevention and access to mental health services for migrant women**, and for their inclusion in the labor market.





## Choisir la Cause des Femmes Event in Nantes

This event in December 2023 was an important gathering for feminist organisations across Europe with the aim to explore the best laws for women in EU States. Strategic discussions were based on a Europe-wide investigation detailed in the book titled “Le meilleur de l’Europe pour les femmes” (The best of Europe for women). Alongside organisations from across the EU, ENOMW discussed how to legally implement the identified minimum standards.

Member organisations of ENOMW from **eight countries** were present to share insights on the fight against reproductive and sexual exploitation, the promotion of migrant women's access to fundamental rights, and the enhancement of migrant women's agency and political participation.

## European Parliament Civil Society Day

In November 2023, ENOMW was invited as a speaker by the Renew Europe group for a Civil Society Day at the European Parliament, hosted by MEP Abir Al-Sahlani. Part of the event was dedicated to the EU Migration Pact and our co-president Noura Raad was among the panelists highlighting the **the lack of harmonisation of the legal regimes in different EU states, administrative violence and discrimination**, and overall lack of structured assistance, which has profoundly damaging effects on asylum seeking and migrant women

## Swedish Annual Forum on Gender Equality & Regional Forum on VAWG in Lithuania

In February 2023, we were invited to present our analysis at the **largest annual feminist event of Sweden**. The panel dedicated to migration & prostitution included the Swedish Anti Trafficking ambassador, OSCE-ODIHR, Swedish police and anti-trafficking experts. Several months later ENOMW was asked to participate as expert in a regional meeting on Baltic-Eastern European states dedicated to the subject of male violence and the forthcoming directive on VAWG.



## ENOMW's Visit to Colombia

In March 2023, ENOMW office was invited to Bogota, for a **strategic exchange on prostitution and sexual exploitation of migrant women**. This event, supported by the government of France, brought together the leading experts on VAWG, CEDAW committee members, UN Women Colombia, and activists, coinciding with the conclusion of a 2-year programme supporting the complex needs of Venezuelan women exiting prostitution in Colombia. The conclusions of this programme were crystal clear: for a post-conflict country where migrant women from Venezuela amount to 400.000 victims of prostitution only in Bogota, **exit programmes for prostituted women cannot be efficient without a comprehensive legal framework that also criminalises those who profit and benefit from the exploitation of women**.



## ENOMW at ESEC of France

The Economic, Social and Environmental Council (ESEC) is a constitutional consultative assembly of France. In November 2023, ENOMW was invited to speak at the event "Women's Rights: what's at stake in the 2024 European elections?", organised by ESEC, the French National Assembly and the Senate. In this event, we shared our key insights on the **political mobilisation of migrant women, violence and discrimination they face, the tokenisation of migrant women without substantive representation, and the ways to improve political participation of migrant women**.



## ENOMW at the Largest Grassroots European Feminist Conference

In October 2023, four of our members awarded the FiLiA Courage and Persistence Award, attended FiLiA, the annual international feminist conference in the UK, supported jointly by ENOMW and FiLiA organisers. During the opening ceremony each of them gave a powerful speech accepting the award, passed to them by our former co-president and a former recipient of the same award. This was a galvanising moment that demonstrated the **importance of the work, courage and persistence of our members, who received a standing ovation from some 2000 feminist activists gathered at this event**.

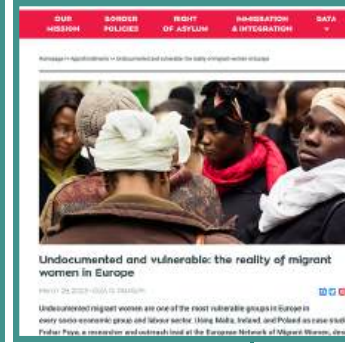






# COMMUNICATIONS

## ENOMW in the Media



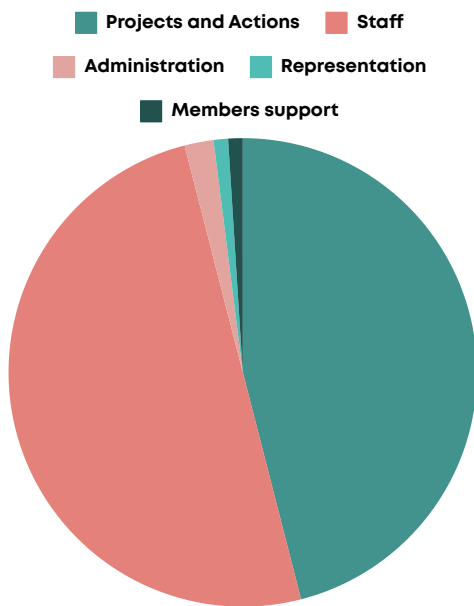
## SOCIAL MEDIA GENERAL OVERVIEW 2023

- **Instagram:** 5.260 followers (+1k)
- **Facebook:** 19.468 followers
- **X(formerly Twitter):** 5.223 followers (+1k)
- **LinkedIn:** 4.229 followers (+1,1k)
- **Total Facebook reach in 2023:** 207.876 ( +22%)
- **Total Instagram reach in 2023:** 149.704 (+872%)

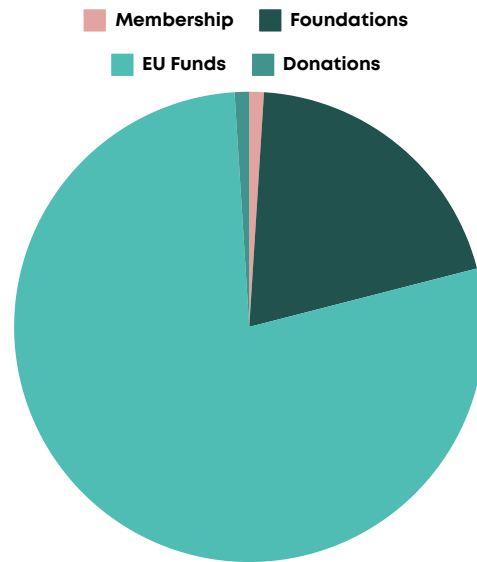


# FINANCES 2023

## EXPENSES



## INCOME

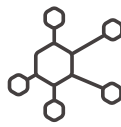


2023 saw steady financial operations with the annual income of the network counting as Euro 261,268, in addition to over Euro 100,000 funds that the network carried forward from the year 2022, and a deferred income counting at above Euro 600,000 by the end of the 2023 financial year. Our annual expenses counted as Euro 319,617 with the funds expended evenly between activities and projects, and operational costs.

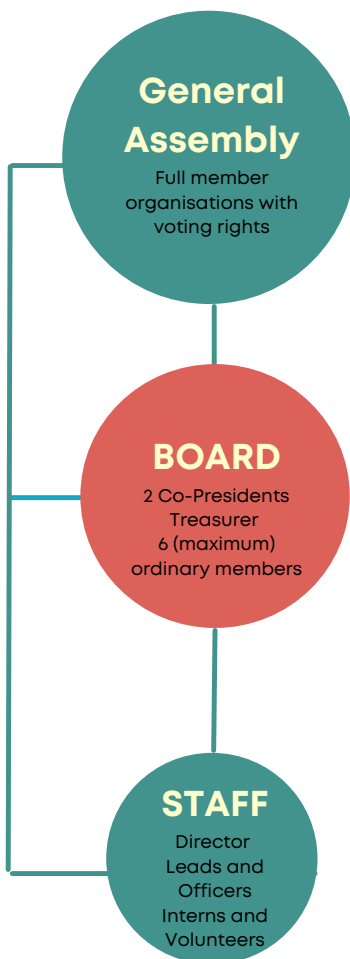
**ENOMW'S FINANCIAL POLICY:** <https://bit.ly/3JL54Tm>







# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MIGRANT WOMEN



**The General Assembly (GA)**, 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. The GA 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 GA. 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 GA meetings. According to the Board Policy adopted by the GA, at least 85% of the Board must be migrant women.

The Staff is composed of the employees of the led by the Strategy and Executive Director. Other members of Staff include Leads and Officer, as well as other roles (such as Project Facilitator, Administrative Assistant), 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, as well as freelance contractors. Staff members are in charge of managing interns and volunteers.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Amongst our many partners and collaborators we would like to particularly thank the **TrustLaw of Thomson Reuters Foundation**, who recognised our work by shortlisting our project among the three nominated for its impact award.

We want to thank **CAP International, Equality Now, SPACE International and Swedish Women's Lobby**, as well as the members of the **Brussels Call** coordinated by the European Women's Lobby, for their support and collaboration with our network in our joint advocacy and action to reach a Europe Free from Prostitution. We also thank the **French Coordination for the European Women's Lobby** for their continuous collaboration.

We would like to highlight our partners in **femLENS**, an association of female photographers, who collaborated with us in the AGENCY project proving training and guidance to 60 participants of the project.

As always, we would like to thank **FiLiA** with whom we continue to collaborate in the ENOMW Courage Award annually.

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

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.

We would not be able to conduct our activities without **our team**: all the staff members who worked daily on developing 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 volunteers**.

Finally and above all, **we thank every member organisation and every woman in our Network who have made us what we are today**. Our members is the reason this network exists, and continuous communication and exchange with members, their contributions and initiatives, is what makes our platform rich and active.

**Together, we continue to celebrate migrant women's courage 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  
**X (formerly Twitter):** @ENoMW  
**Instagram:** @migrantwomennetwork

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



**EUROPEAN NETWORK  
OF MIGRANT WOMEN**