

UNSTOPPABLE

European Network of Migrant Women (ENoMW) is turning 10 years ! Formalised in Belgium in 2012 as an International Non Profit Association with the mission to promote the rights of migrant women, now in 2022 we come together to review and celebrate our history, our achievements and a way forward.

"Migrant women mean business. As the only feminist platform of migrant women organisations we have come far from where we started 10 years ago. It has been a journey full of challenges and achievements, and today, we pay tribute to all the women who made this network become what we are, that is, a force to be reckoned with."

- Dr Salome Mbugua, ENoMW Co-President

"ENoMW has become a home for the feminist activists of migrant background who share the same uncompromising vision of the world free from violence, exploitation and oppression. In this network we are proud to give this space to the women who live under multiple discriminations and whose voices are often ignored in 'big' political discussions."

- Dr Noura Raad, ENoMW Co-President

SURVIVORS

Given the political climate in Europe and across the globe, it is not a small business for a migrant women grassroots NGO platform - and the one with members in different parts of Europe - to start, to continue and to survive. We have done so, and today we are proud of it. We have survived the hostile environments and the slogans to "go back home". We have survived the duress to be silent about the abuse and discrimination migrant and refugee women face. We have survived the pressure to be "easy", to speak the language and to promote the ideas "likable" by funders, institutions and media that do not reflect the actual needs and struggles of migrant women. We had survived the social isolation before COVID and we also survived it during COVID !

And while we survived, **we have strengthened our vision, we have clarified our direction and we have become stronger as a collective entity with lived experiences** - beyond theoretical discussions - of migrant and refugee girls and women in Europe.

ADVOCATES

Our members are not simply migrant women. They are not simply migrant women organisations. They are **advocates for the rights of those they represent** - and many times those they represent are the least visible and most discriminated against. They are refugee girls and single mothers, they are victims of war and of male violence and exploitation; they are women's rights activists in the countries with oppressive governments and violent gendered hierarchies, they are domestic and care workers,



they are women engineers, teachers and lawyers, artists and journalists who had to take work way below their qualification; they are undocumented women...They come from all corners of the world representing unique cultural and linguistic diversity and the global struggle for women's liberation from all forms of oppression and violence.

We, together with our members, advocate for their dignity, freedoms and rights - **our dignity, freedoms and rights.**

COMING TOGETHER IN HELSINKI

27-28 August 2022 will bring together the members of ENoMW - hosted by one of ENoMW's founding members MONIKA Multicultural Women's Association, Finland - to celebrate our achievements, the sisterhood and the non-compromising belief in the **universal, inalienable and indivisible human rights of women and girls of which migrant and refugee women and girls make an intrinsic part.** We will come together to reaffirm our values and our work for the betterment of women - regardless of their legal status, skin color, ethnicity or age - in a society free from sexist, racist and economic violence and exploitation.

Together with us, we will have two honorary guests, **Gita Saeed** - an Afghan writer and women's rights activist - and **Maria Dmytriyeva** - a women's rights activist from Ukraine. The two women will join our meeting at the time when Afghanistan is being torn by the military rule of the Taliban rapidly stripping Afghan women of their most basic rights, and, at the time when Ukraine is being torn by the war the Russian state waged against its peaceful population forcing over six million to flee the country. In both countries women and girls pay the highest price for the war, as not only they become the direct target of male military aggression but the fundamental rights and freedoms of women become secondary to the priorities set by war and survival. And while the two countries may have caught the world's attention, as a network we remain keenly aware that war, conflict, invasions, and violence is part of women's lives in many more parts of the world, and male violence against women remain the major cause for women seeking safety outside their homes and their native countries.

We remember and merit **the struggle of every woman who takes liberty and courage to cross borders, seek safety, security and fundamental freedoms that every woman and girl deserve.** We also recall every woman who had no opportunity to leave, staying to care for elderly parents, or having no means to travel, or simply, taking an informed decision to remain and defend her country.

Women's migration cannot be stopped. Women's search for a dignified life cannot be stopped. Women's demand for our rights and a life free from violence and discrimination cannot be stopped.

We are unstoppable and the European Network of Migrant Women is a living testimony of this !

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