



**EUROPEAN NETWORK
OF MIGRANT WOMEN**

**EUROPEAN NETWORK
OF MIGRANT WOMEN
LAUNCH AND HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR**

INFO PACK

**18 June 2010
European Economic and Social Committee
Brussels**

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PROGRAMME

Date and time: Friday 18 June 2010, 9:30-13:00

Venue: European Economic and Social Committee, 99 rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels

9:30-10:15: WELCOME ADDRESS – OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MIGRANT WOMEN

Virginia Wangare Greiner, Chair, European Network of Migrant Women

Leila Kurki, President of Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship Committee, European Economic and Social Committee

Myria Vassiliadou, Secretary General, European Women's Lobby

Françoise Pissart, Director, King Baudouin Foundation, EPIM member

10:15-11:15: HIGHLIGHTING MIGRANT WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO INTEGRATION IN EUROPE

Chair: Thomas Huddleston, Migration Policy Group

Karima Ben Ahmed, Forum Femmes Méditerranée, France, 'ENoMW's contribution to challenging immigration and asylum policies and legislations'

Nusha Yonkova, Immigrant Council in Ireland, 'Best practices to protect migrant women against violence'

Suzanne Monkasa, Réseau des femmes migrantes et d'origine étrangère (REFI), Belgium, 'Best practices to create education and employment opportunities'

Alwiye Xuseyn, AkiDwA, Ireland, 'Best practices to improve migrant women's health'

11:30-13:00: ROUNDTABLE WITH DECISION-MAKERS

Chair: Parvin Ali, FATIMA women's network

Belinda Pyke, Director for Equality between Men/Women, Action against Discrimination, Civil Society, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission

Diane Schmitt, Head of Unit Immigration and Integration, Directorate Justice, Freedom and Security (JLS), European Commission

Isabelle Durant, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Group of the Greens-EFA, Belgium

Virginija Langbakk, Director, European Institute for Gender Equality (video presentation)

John Kellock, Head of Department External Relations & Networking, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

María Ochoa-Llido, Head, Migration and Roma Department, Council of Europe

13.00-14.30: CLOSING RECEPTION

19:30-24:00: EVENING PARTY

(Venue: Espace Matongé, 78 chaussée de Wavre, 1050 Ixelles)

WHO WE ARE

The European Network of Migrant Women (ENoMW) is a European network of non-governmental organizations which represents the concerns, needs and interests of migrant women in the European Union.

Our objectives

- To promote equal treatment, equal rights and better integration for migrant women in Europe.
- To provide regular input on all areas of EU policy development and implementation that have an impact on migrant women's lives.
- To help shape social policies and design action programmes addressing migrant women's specific needs
- To represent member's organisations and lobby for and with migrant women to have a stronger voice at the European level.
- To support migrant women's organisations and movements through information and trainings.

What we do

The different members of the network have been working more specifically on the following themes that are crucial to migrant women's integration:

- Employment e.g. AkiDwa and the Immigrant Council in Ireland organise regular stakeholders meetings with social partners, employers and the government to improve access to employment for migrant women in Ireland. FATIMA, in association with the East Midlands Development Agency, hosted a national seminar for migrant women and business and support agencies, to draw up gender guidelines for migrant women entrepreneurs.
- Health, including sexual and reproductive rights e.g. Maisha in Germany has been delivering health services for undocumented families in partnership with the city of Frankfurt. This initiative of culturally sensitive health services has been recognised as a good practice in Germany.
- Violence against women e.g. MONIKA in Finland delivers legal services and support, including shelters, for migrant women facing violence.
- Working conditions e.g. the Commission of Filipino Migrant Workers in the Netherlands has been working actively with the trade union for decent work for Migrant Domestic Workers, one of the main sectors of employment for female migrants.
- Participation in public and political life e.g. By bringing together existing migrant women's organisations in the different countries, the network aims at enabling migrant women's voices to be heard at the national and European level.
- Immigration, Integration and Asylum policies and legislation e.g. We have released an open letter to the Ministers attending the 4th Ministerial conference on Integration, Zaragoza, Spain, 15-16 April 2010.

Our participation as speakers in European and international conferences

Since 2007, the European Network of Migrant Women participated as speakers in the following European and international conferences:

- The European Women's Lobby conference "Equal Rights. Equal Voices. Migrant Women in the European Union", 19-21 January 2007.
- The Council of Europe debate on measures to improve the democratic participation of migrants, Strasbourg, 25 June 2008.
- The Third World Social Forum on Migration, Madrid, 11-13 September 2008
- The European Network Against Racism seminar on "Framing a positive approach to migration", Paris, 6-7 November 2008.
- The Network organised on 1 December 2008 with the European Women's Lobby a public high-level conference focused on "Integrating a gender perspective in integration policies: the way forward" with representatives from the European Commission, the ILO and the OCDE.
- The OSCE seminar on "Gender-sensitive Labour Migration Policies", Slovenia, 16-17 February 2009.
- European Integration Forum, 20-21 April 2009 and 12-13 November 2009.
- The Assembly of European Regions meeting of the gender observatory, Brussels, 28 May 2009.
- The UNIFEM conference on "Women and migration in Europe and the CIS", United Nations, Geneva, 4 November 2009.
- The Council of Europe conference on "Women and migration, including in the context of the financial crisis", Antalya, Turkey, 12-13 November 2009.
- Conference hosted by the Vice-Minister for European Affairs of Valencia, "Tackling gender based violence on the grassroots level", Valencia, Spain, 25 November 2009.
- Kvinno International Conference on mentoring and networking for migrant women, Copenhagen, 20-21 November 2009.
- Council of Europe conference on "Migrants and Violence against women in Europe", Paris, France, 10-11 December 2009.
- European Parliament Hearing, "Social integration of ethnic minority women", 7 April 2010.

Policy documents produced at the European level

- Amendments to the Council of Europe Resolution on measures to improve the democratic participation of migrants, May 2008.
- A Joint Statement with the European Women's Lobby on the European Pact on Asylum and Immigration (adopted by the French Presidency in October 2008) that was sent to all Justice and Home Affairs Ministers, September 2008.
- Regular input in relevant European Women's Lobby policy papers: As an associate member of the European Women's Lobby, network members provide regular advice based on their expertise to the EWL on the key issues to migrant women's integration and input in EWL policy documents (e.g. EWL answer to the JLS consultation on the Stockholm programme, December 2008).
- A factsheet on migrant women with the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) and the European Women's Lobby, February 2010.
- An article on "Reframing Immigration, Integration and Asylum from a Gender Perspective: Ensuring Gender-Fair Policies" for the European Social watch Report on Migration, to be released in November 2009.

- Open letter to the Ministers attending the 4th Ministerial Conference on Integration, Zaragoza, Spain, 15-16 April 2010.
- Gender-based guidelines to apply the Common Basic Principles from a gender perspective (based on 12 national consultations held in 2008), to be released in 2010.

Our structure

Our Organization is a non-profit organisation its purpose is to establish across Europe a democratic and effective network which represents the concerns, needs and interests of migrant women in the European Union. The European Network of Migrant Women has members organisations in 16 European countries.

The internal structure of the network is the following:

- General Assembly: The General Assembly of the European Network of Migrant Women meets once a year, decide on a programme of activities and elect a Board of Administration, including the chair of the network every second year.
- Board of Administration: The Board of Administration is composed of 7 elected members.
- Working Groups: The network has operational working groups to enable the network to develop such as the fundraising working group and 5 thematic working groups looking at key issues to the integration of migrant women: employment, violence against women, health, political and public participation and immigration and asylum policies.

Links with other European networks

The European Network of Migrant Women is an Associate Member of the European Women's Lobby. Individual members of the network are active members of the European Network against Racism, the European Anti-Poverty Network, the Black European Women's Council and the Fundamental Rights Civil Society Platform of the Fundamental Rights Agency.

Funding

The development of the European Network of Migrant Women has been made possible thanks to the support of the EPIM Programme of the network of European Foundations, through the European Women's Lobby Project "Equal Rights. Equal Voices. Migrant Women in the EU".

LIST OF ENoMW MEMBERSHIP

BELGIUM	
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Réseau belge des femmes immigrées et d'origine étrangère (REFI)	
	▶ Amigos de Moçambique asbl, Contact : Razia ALIBHAI
	▶ AMUKA asbl . contact: Elizabeth TEKANOBO
	▶ APIMEE asbl-vzw, contact : Véronique KABONGA
	▶ CCAEB –ONG asbl, contact : Suzanne MONKASA
	▶ Collectif des Femmes asbl, contact : Martine KAPITA
	▶ Dar El Ward vzw, contact : Najat SAADOUNE
	▶ Femmes de là-bas Ici asbl, contact Latifa GADOUCHE
	▶ FOZVL vzw, contact: Elizabeth RODRIGUEZ
	▶ ITINERANCE asbl, contact : Nadia BELKALEM
	▶ Les experts de la vie asbl, contact : Nadia BOUMAZZOGHE
	▶ MWANGAZA asbl-vzw, contact : Lorraine KITUTU
	▶ OPONI MAMA – OTONGI MBOKA asbl, contact : Hélène MADINDA
	▶ RVDAGE/VL vzw, contact : Modi NTAMBWE
	▶ Union des Femmes Africaines asbl, contact : Eugénie KALIMUNDA
CYPRUS	
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CZECH REPUBLIC	
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	▶ European Contact Group in the Czech Republic (EKS): see website
DENMARK	
Contact person: Hakima Lasham Lakhri, hakima-l@hotmail.com	
Ethnic Minority Women's Council (Etniske Minoritets Kvinders Råd, EMKR)	
	▶ World's Women in Denmark/ Verdens Kvinder i Danmark: see website - contact: Alma Bekturganova Andersen
	▶ Foreining for Danske Internationale Kvinder/ Association of Danish

	International Women: see website - contact: Hakima Lasham Lakhri
	▶ Women's House/ Kvindehuset: see website - contact: Hawa Hussein
	▶ Invandrer kvinder Centre: see website - contact: Margrethe Wivel
	▶ BABAYLAN/ Phil. Women's Network in Europe: see website - contact: Filomenita Mongaya Høgsholm
FINLAND	
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MONIKA - Multicultural Women's Association: see website (platform of 16 organizations)	
	▶ African Civil Society in Finland, see website , contact: Roland Nwose
	▶ Suomi-Syyria Ystävyyseura ry, contact: Mania Alkhatib
	▶ Non-Residential Nepali Association, contact : Pratigya Khanal
	▶ Wadajir ry, contact : Amira Väänänen
	▶ Tiir – Somali-naisten Yhdistys ry, contact : Moalim Hamdi
	▶ Suomi-Sudan seura ry, contact : Andrea Packalen
	▶ Omega ry, contact : Sini Soljasalo, see website
	▶ Irakin Naisten Yhdistys ry, contact : Ala Saeed, see website
	▶ Finnish-Chinese Association, contact : Michelle Vuori
	▶ Golis Naisten Yhdistys ry, contact: Amran Mohamed Ahmed , see website
	▶ Etelä-Kurdistanin naisyhdistys, contact : Rukia Mahmud
	▶ Suomalais-filippiiniläinen yhdistys ry, contact: Teresita Ruutu , see website
	▶ Kiinalainen Ystävyyseura ry, contact: William Law, see website
	▶ Afaes ry, contact: Fatima Usman, see website
	▶ The Finnish Thai Association ry, contact: Vanitsri Tirkkonen, see website
FRANCE	
Contact person : Karima Ben Ahmed, benfadel.karima@neuf.fr	
Réseau des Associations Françaises pour la Promotion des Droits des Femmes Migrantes en France	
	▶ Association voix de femmes (<i>Women's Voices</i>): to fight against forced marriages see website - contact: voixdefemmes@wanadoo.fr
	▶ Réseau des jeunes filles victimes de violences en Hérault: see website - contact : m-f-p-f.montpellier@wanadoo.fr
	▶ Réseau Agir avec Elles : to help migrant women victims of violences. contact: reseauagiravecelles@hotmail.fr
	▶ Femmes Solidaires: see website . contact: femmes.solidaires@wanadoo.fr
	▶ Mouvement du Nid: see website . contact: paca-13@mouvementdunid.org
	▶ S.O.S Viol: see website . contact: sos.viol@wanadoo.fr
	▶ Collectif féministe contre le viol: see website . contact: collectiffeministe.contreleviol@wanadoo.fr
	▶ GAMS: Groupe pour l'abolition des mutilations sexuelles féminines, des mariages forcés et autres pratiques traditionnelles néfastes à la santé des

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	▶ Union nationale retravailler. see website . contact: region.provence@retravailler.org
	▶ Femmes d’ici et d’ailleurs. see website . contact: femmes.ici.ailleurs@wanadoo.fr
	▶ A.D.I.E.F: Association pour le développement des initiatives économiques par les femmes. see the webpage . contact: adief75@yahoo.fr
	▶ AMSED Association Migrations Solidarité et Echanges pour le Développement. see website . contact: amsed3@gmail.com.
	▶ RAFJIRE: Réseau pour l’autonomie des femmes immigrées et réfugiées. see website . contact: rajfire@wanadoo.fr
	▶ CICADE: Centre pour l’initiative citoyenne et l’accès au droit des exclus. see website
	▶ Femmes contre les intégrismes: see webpage . contact: fcilyon@yahoo.fr.
	▶ CIMADE: see website . contact: marseille@cimade.org.
	▶ ELELE: Migrations et cultures de Turquie: see website . contact: elele_info@yahoo.fr
	▶ APARDAP: Association de Rarrainage Républicain des Demandeurs d’Asile et de Protection: see website . contact: apardap@gmail.com
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	▶ GRAIF: Groupement Régional pour l’Action et l’Information des Femmes: see website . contact: info@graif.fr
	▶ LIDF: Ligue du Droit International des Femmes: see website . contact: w113111@club-internet.fr
	▶ MIR: Maison Internationale de Rennes: see website . contact: contact-mir@wanadoo.fr
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	▶ African Diaspora Women’s Group
	▶ Family Therapy Couselling Centre
	▶ Maisha e.V
	▶ International Women Meeting Centre, Sosenh eim
	▶ Korean Women’s Group

	▶ African Women’s Group
	▶ African Women in the European Union
	▶ Eritrean Women’s Group
	▶ Nigerian Women’s Group
	▶ Russian Couselling Centre
	▶ Cameroon Women’s Group
	▶ Tanzania Women’s Group
	▶ Sudan Women’s Group
	▶ Ethiopia Women’s Group
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	▶ Uganda Women’s Group
	▶ Ghana Women’s Group
GREECE	
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	▶ Bulgarian Community of Athens – contact: Vania Nedeltcheva
	▶ Philipine Association, Kasapi – contact: Debbie Valencia, see website
	▶ Greeek-Romanian cultural association “FILIA”, contact: Aura Galanopoulou
	▶ Albanian Community of Kerkyra (Corfu) – contact: Alma Boci
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	▶ Akidwa : see website
	▶ Immigrant Council of Ireland : see website
	▶ Women of Multiculture Balbriggan (WOMB), see website
	▶ Women Integrate Athy (WIN), see website
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	▶ Women support group Islamic Cultural Centre Ireland – see website
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LITHUANIA	
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	▶ Lithuanian Estonians society: see website - contact: Liia Urman
	▶ Lithuanian Moldavians Society- contact: Lucia Bartkiene
	▶ Lithuanian Ukrainian Women Confederation - contact: Natalija Šertvytienė
	▶ Baltic Chechnyan Confederation - contact: Eminat Saijeva
	▶ School of Byelorussians in Lithuania - contact: Galina Sivolova - House of national Minorities in Lithuania - contact: Alvida Gedaminskiene

	▶ Lithuanian Latvians Society - contact: Gunta Rone
POLAND	
Contact person: Ksenia Naranovich, ksenia@frog.org.pl	
	▶ Foundation of Development Beyond Borders: see website - contact: Ksenia Naranovich
	▶ Foundation Diversity Forum: see website - contact: Katarzyna Kubin
PORTUGAL	
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	▶ Graal: see website
	▶ Associação Lusofonia Cultura e Cidadania- ALCC: see website
	▶ AMRT - Associação de Melhoramentos e Recreativo do Talude: see website , AMRT facebook page
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Romanian Network of Migrant Women Organizations	
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UNITED KINGDOM	
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	▶ FATIMA women's network: see website

ENoMW REPRESENTATIVES AT THE LAUNCH

Nusha YONKOVA

IRELAND



Spoken languages:

- English
- Bulgarian

Contact information

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Nusha Yonkova is from Bulgaria and has been living in Ireland for 13 years. She holds a Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies from Dublin City University and a Masters in Engineering from the Technical University in Varna, Bulgaria. Nusha is one of the elected Directors of the National Women's Council of Ireland. Nusha Yonkova coordinates the Anti-Trafficking work at the Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI).

The Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI) is a human rights organisation for migrants and an Independent Law Centre that offers legal advice and representation to immigrants at particular risk. The ICI has a well-recognised expertise in the area of domestic and sexual violence, as well as human trafficking, and has been invited to train national and international bodies on issues pertaining to legal representation of victims of trafficking.

Ruth FRANCO

FINLAND



Spoken languages:

- Spanish
- English

Contact information

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Ruth Franco has worked as a clinical psychologist both in Spain and in Finland. Since she moved her permanent residence to Helsinki in 2004, she has specialised in helping migrants to develop the coping skills needed to successfully go through the challenging process of adapting to a new culture and language. Currently, Ruth works for the Multicultural Women's Association (Monika) in Finland as a supervisor in the organisation's safe shelter for battered migrant women.

The Multicultural Women's Association (Monika) operates as an umbrella organisation for several women's associations for ethnic minorities, supporting efforts to enhance cultural tolerance and promoting a safe everyday life for all.

Monica CRISTEA

SWEDEN



Spoken languages:

- Romanian
- English
- Swedish
- French

Contact information

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Monica Cristea represents the Swedish Federation of Immigrant Women's Associations (RIFFI).

At the local branch in Stockholm, Monica combines teaching with the task of facilitating the integration of immigrant and refugee women in Swedish society. As a member of the Board of RIFFI, Monica is busy at both the local and national levels, providing information and knowledge, conducting projects on different items and promoting RIFFI's main course of action at various international meetings.

The Swedish Federation of Immigrant Women's Associations (RIFFI) was

established in 1974 and has 31 branches in different parts of Sweden. RIFFI is not affiliated to any religion or political party and addresses itself to all women irrespective of their nationality.

In 1998 RIFFI was granted consultative status on women issues in the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Lilia URMAN

LITHUANIA



Spoken languages:

- Estonian,
- Lithuanian
- English
- Russian
- Finnish

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Lilia Urman is originally from Estonia. As part of the European Network of Migrant Women, Lilia represents the Businesswomen Organisation of Lithuanian Ethnic Groups.

The Businesswomen Organisation of Lithuanian Ethnic Groups was set up to

encourage migrant women to more actively seek a professional career or to establish their own business, and to develop women's language skills to break the language barrier. The organisation is also active in providing consulting and mutual assistance services.

Alwiye XUSEYN

IRELAND



Spoken languages:

- Swahili
- English

Contact information

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Alwiye Xuseyn is originally from Tanzania and has been living in Ireland for the past 11 years. Alwiye has a background in health work and finance, and is currently the Migrant Women's Health Officer for AkiDwA, the Migrant Women Network in Ireland. As a consultant, Alwiye has delivered training to medical practitioners and midwifery students on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Alwiye is a strong advocate for the prohibition of FGM in Ireland and worldwide.

AkiDwA, the Migrant Women Network in Ireland, was established in 2001 by seven African women living in Ireland, with an aim of responding to and addressing the existing and changing needs of African women living in Ireland. AkiDwA is a minority ethnic -led, non-governmental organisation with charitable status and is a representative body for all migrant women living in Ireland irrespective of their national or ethnic background, tradition, religious beliefs, socio-economic or legal status. AkiDwA works on gender-based violence and gender discrimination and employment. AkiDwA supports migrant women through information provision and training; outreach and networking; policy work; and research and publication.

Eda GEMI

GREECE



Spoken languages:

- Greek
- English
- Italian
- Albanian

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Eda Gemi graduated from the Faculty of Psychology and Pedagogy of the University "Luigj Gurakuqi", Albania, in 1991. In early 1992 Eda migrated to Greece. In 2003, she received a Masters degree in Southeast European Studies from the Department of Political Sciences and Public Administration of the Faculty of Law of the University of Athens. Currently, Eda is a PhD candidate at the Institute for Migration and Diaspora Studies (EMMEDIA) of the University of Athens. Her research investigates the level of social integration or exclusion of migrants from the Balkans in Greek society, taking a cross-sectional comparative perspective.

Eda is a research assistant at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies of the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, and European Project Officer at the Vocational Training Center – EYKLIDIS, in Athens. Since 2004, Eda is the spokesperson of the **Cultural House of Albanian Immigrants in Greece**.

Ksenia NARANOVICH

POLAND



Spoken languages:

- Polish
- English
- Russian

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Ksenia Naranovich is one of cofounders of the **Foundation of Development 'Beyond Borders'**, based in Warsaw, Poland. 'Beyond Borders' works in partnership with the Foundation Diversity Forum on the Warsaw Welcome Centre, which provides a broad range of individual and group services to those coming to Poland.

Ksenia is also a PhD student based at the Institute of Applied Social Sciences of Warsaw University. Ksenia is engaged with scientific and practical issues relating social policy towards foreign citizens staying in Poland (specifically from CIS member states).

Hakima Lasham Lakhrissi

DENMARK



Spoken languages:

- Arabic
- Danish
- French
- English

Contact information

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Hakima Lasham Lakhrissi is Danish of Moroccan background, married and mother of four children. Hakima is the first woman with an immigrant background to be a top candidate in Danish elections and the first woman of Moroccan background in Danish politics.

Hakima is chairwoman of the Association of Danish International Women and she is also Vice-Chairwoman of the **Ethnic Minority Women's Council**. This organisation aims to strengthen diversity in Danish society.

Parvin ALI

UK



Spoken languages:

- English

Contact information

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Parvin Ali, OBE, is the Malaysian-born Founder & CEO of FATIMA Women's Network, and a Business Board member of the East Midlands Regional Development Agency with the lead for Business Support & Enterprise. Previously a member of the Regional Assembly and of the National Ethnic Minority Business Task Force, she has made presentations on gender issues relating to migration, faith, intercultural dialogue, enterprise and economic integration in more than twenty countries and represented the UK on Foreign & Commonwealth delegations to Syria and Indonesia.

FATIMA Women's Network is an independent, strategic and diverse organisation, using dynamic interventions to support women and their families, particularly from diverse communities, to achieve gender equity, social, economic and environmental justice.

Filomenita Høgsholm

DENMARK



Spoken languages:

- English
- Danish
- Tagalog

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Filomenita Høgsholm is a journalist-editor, ethnic minority rights activist, publicist, documentary filmmaker, passionate about working and lobbying for ethnic minority women's rights in Europe and internationally .

Since late 1997, Filomenita has focused her advocacy on Filipino women, thus representing them at the newly established Danish Ethnic Minority Women's Council (elected Sept.2009).

In late 2007, she published 'In de olde worlde: Views of Filipino Migrants in Europe', a cooperation between UNESCO and 2 Phil. migration research institutions (can be downloaded off www.unesco.org).

Filomenita continues to edit the quarterly tri-lingual publication **ABAKADA** which covers issues on women as they tangent migration, integration, development, etc.

Babaylan is the Filipino word for *priestess, sage, medicine woman* and even *sorceress*; in short: *empowered Filipino women* in pre-Hispanic times or before colonisation. More than 60 empowered ethnic Filipinas from many European countries, several women organisations as well as women desks, met in Barcelona in September 1992 to bond together to improve their situation, address specific issues affecting them, and basically develop an effective and liberating support system for all Filipinas in the continent. In 1997, the Danish platform was established.

Virginia WANGARE GREINER

GERMANY



Spoken languages:

- English
- German
- Swahili

Contact information

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Virginia Wangare-Greiner is the founder of Maisha, a grass-roots African women organisation based in Frankfurt, Germany. Virginia has been an expert in several consultative structures on integration and migration issues in Germany, including being a member of the National Integration Plan, a committee set up by Chancellor Merkel to recommend measures to promote the integration of foreigners in the country. On an international level, Virginia expertise on gender, migration and integration issues is widely recognised, and she is currently the chair of the European Network of Migrant Women.

Maisha was founded in 1996 and aims to improve the situation of African women and girls. It is a grass-roots, self-help organisation which provides professional health and social counseling and, at times, mediation when African families encounter difficulties with German institutions. Maisha's areas of expertise include gender issues like child education, health education, financial and career management and psychological counseling. Maisha's members work to empower each other in these areas to become proud and active members of German society but at the same time remain firmly rooted in their African cultural heritage that provides them with a special kind of strength. Maisha encourages each woman to become active in her own community and manage her own life.

Karima BEN AHMED

FRANCE



Spoken languages:

- French

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Karima BEN AHMED Est diplômée d'une Licence « Administration économique et sociale », spécialité Ressources humaines et d'un Master « Economie sociale, Management des projets et compétences ». Karima est Chargée de projets de coopération internationale à l'association « Forum femmes méditerranée » et Coordinatrice du Réseau des associations françaises de promotion des droits des femmes migrantes.

Le Réseau des associations françaises de promotion des droits des femmes migrantes s'est constitué à la suite du séminaire « Mêmes Droits, Même Voix » organisé par le Lobby européen des femmes en janvier 2007. Le Forum femmes méditerranée à Marseille est le porteur du projet. Le réseau est composé d'associations de migrantes et d'associations plus diverses. Il s'est doté d'une Déclaration finale adoptée lors de la première Réunion nationale des Associations de promotion des droits des femmes migrantes, en septembre 2007. Depuis, le réseau organise une Réunion nationale annuelle qui permet de présenter le bilan du travail de l'année passée, de présenter les actions pour l'année suivante et de donner la parole aux femmes migrantes.

Miryam L. FUENTES

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Spoken languages:

- Spanish
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Miryam L. Fuentes has a degree in Economics. She worked for CSIL Trade Union in Rome, Italy, in the study and research unit of the department of Political Social Welfare. She was the coordinator of the provincial activities of the 'Associazione Nazionale Oltre le Frontiere' (ANOLF) from 1997 to 2003. She is a founding member of the association No.Di ('Our rights') defending and working for the awareness of immigrant women's rights concerning housing, family, minors, separations and violence, through seminars, conferences and meetings at the local and national level.

No.Di is also an active member of 'Punto di partenza'.

Punto de Partenza is a national level organisation, working on human rights and citizenship rights. Activities are developed for the creation of ethical intercultural spaces of communication between women, and to investigate immigration and the north – south disequilibrium. One of the purposes of the organisation is to promote and support the creation of an international network of women that supports of all the policies of resistance against all forms of social, political or other forms of discriminations.

Sabe AMTHOR SOE

CZECH REPUBLIC



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Sabe Amthor Soe is a Burmese activist who has lived for over 20 years in the Czech Republic.

Co-founder and present Director of the Burma Center Prague, a non-profit NGO whose activities consist of raising public awareness with regards to Burma and promoting human rights and transition to democracy in Burma.

Sabe is also a coordinator of the migrant women initiative in the NGO European Contact Group in the Czech Republic, and represents the Czech Republic at the European Network of Migrant Women. She works for the organisation Burman Center, in Prague.

Burma Center Prague The *Burma Center Prague, o.p.s.* is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation run by Burmese living in the Czech Republic and by other supporters of Burma. The organisation was founded in June 2006 and registered under Czech law on 9 June 2006 at the Municipal Court of Prague.

EKS: The European Contact Group in the Czech Republic (ECG) is a non-profit organisation that promotes equal opportunities for men and women, fights against racism and discrimination of foreigners and changes ingrained stereotypes and prejudices in the Czech Republic and in Europe.

Anca Cristina ILIE

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Anca Cristina Ilie holds a degree in Contemporary History, an MA in Communication and Public Relations from the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, an MA in Classical Studies and a BA in Classical Studies, Foreign Languages and Literatures. She works as a translator, editor, reporter, copywriter and copyeditor in various Publishing Houses, for books (some of them bilingual, Greek or Latin and Romanian; translations into Romanian of literature works etc); content for business courses; magazines (especially in the IT&C field); daily newspapers (economic and business fields), etc. She is also a PR consultant and Events organiser – from press conferences to Business events. She is a founding member of Peace Culture Association and member of the Board of Directors.

The Culture of Peace

Association is a non-governmental organisation, established in 2002. Its main goals are the promotion of values, attitudes and behaviours reflecting respect for life, for human dignity and human rights. The Peace Culture Association adheres to the principles of justice, solidarity, tolerance and understanding amongst people, groups and individuals. Since its inception, the association focuses its efforts on giving voice to migrants rather than restricting them to being subjects of projects of other organisations. Some of the members, volunteers and project managers come from migrant communities.

Suzanne MONKASA

BELGIUM



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Suzanne Monkasa est consultante en Management interculturel, Présidente du Conseil des communautés africaines en Europe/Belgique (CCA/E/B)-RVDAGE et du Réseau belge des femmes immigrées et d'origine étrangère (REFI). Licenciée en Philologie romane, s'étant spécialisée sur les problématiques liées aux genres, Suzanne a notamment participé à la création du Conseil des communautés africaines en Europe/Belgique (1995). Elle a également été oratrice dans différentes conférences et tables rondes. Elle a participé à la réalisation de « Wit over Zwart » (1984).

Le Réseau des femmes immigrées et d'origines étrangères en Belgique (REFI)

a pour mission de faire avancer et faire progresser la concrétisation du respect des droits des femmes au quotidien et notamment des femmes immigrées et d'origine étrangère. Le REFI regroupe en son sein des associations de femmes immigrées et d'origines étrangères en Belgique, d'origine et d'horizons divers (asbl, ONG, Fondation, association de fait, etc.), œuvrant aux niveaux fédéral, régional et local.

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The European Network of Migrant Women is grateful for the support of the European Programme of Integration and Migration (EPIM) of the Network of European Foundations

