Migration in the Context of Globalisation: Women’s Human Rights at Risk?

Acknowledgements

WIDE is grateful to all the panellists, interpreters and volunteers who had worked hard to make the conference a success. Special thanks go to the media team and to the photographers. WIDE and AUR are thankful to the donors, partners and all who had supported in organising the conference.

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This paper has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union and HIVOS. The contents of the paper are the sole responsibility of WIDE and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

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Migration and globalisation are key issues for the women’s movement as they are having serious impacts on women’s lives and rights.

Women from all corners of the globe including many representatives from European migrant women associations came together at the WIDE conference to share and reflect on this open question of migrant women’s human rights at risk, compelling us to rethink, expose and denounce the architecture of policy-making in Europe (and globally), and to explore the links between decisions taken at a global level and the impact they have on the ground.

The conference offered a space for shared thinking, theoretical analysis, empirical knowledge, and to define a roadmap for political action. Participants were asked to think hard, to look into the future and get ready for action. The conference offered some stepping stones and ideas on how to transform policy frameworks, to change mindsets and on how to make the global trade architecture work for the enforcement and protection of the human rights of migrant women.

Throughout the conference participants contributed to building a strategy and vision for WIDE’s future work on the issue of migrant women’s rights and in strengthening the women’s movement in order to improve our collective initiatives for gender equality, development and the women’s human rights agenda as a whole.

WIDE’s 2010 Annual Conference took place in Bucharest on 4 and 5 June and was preceded by an international capacity building day bringing together migrant women and other women from Europe, CIS countries, Latin America, Asia and Africa. It marked the 25th anniversary of the WIDE Network which was celebrated in Romanian style with good food, music, dancing and generous hospitality.

In this report we present the outcomes of this dynamic event. The first chapter includes presentations and discussions on theoretical issues and analysis of how migration is a consequence of international economic development and how these macro policies impact on women’s lives.

In the second chapter we present practical case studies and theoretical insights which illustrate how migrant women’s rights are threatened and violated. For example, many migrant women work in the unregulated sector as domestic workers and in the care economy. During the conference we heard the concerns of migrant workers about working exploitative conditions. But we also
learned that they have been involved in successful lobbying for a Domestic Workers Convention, which has recently been approved by the ILO and is an important step to get support for the rights of domestic workers at an international level. We also heard how women are trafficked to other countries where they are exploited and violated and how women’s organisations are making the issues of trafficking, sexual exploitation and labour violations more visible and changing government policies to gain protection for women through campaigns and activities.

In the third chapter of this report we present actions by women’s organisations to defend migrant women’s rights and to develop alternatives to the current economic system. In the workshops participants shared research findings, information about their organisations’ work and developed new ideas for policy proposals and strategies to support the rights of migrant women.

In the fourth chapter, we present policy and practical recommendations that were made to strengthen the advocacy work of WIDE in synergy and close partnership with European migrant women networks and associations. Participants called for tolerance of difference within the women’s movement in the concepts and language that we use, to ensure that there is diversity in our voices and that different views are acknowledged. Participants stressed the importance of finding common platforms and agreements which will help to strengthen the feminist movement and to make alliances with other social movements to build common agendas respecting different views.

In the final chapter, the roadmap developed during the conference highlights different strategies to strengthen women’s rights.

The Conference was jointly organised by WIDE, the KARAT Coalition and AUR. The KARAT coalition represented the concerns and needs of women from Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS) while AUR brought to the Conference their 10 years of experience as a NGO working to promote human rights in Romania, a country greatly affected by globalisation and migratory movements.
CHAPTER 1

Migration in the global economic context of crises: threatening Women’s Rights!

Moderator: Patricia Muñoz Cabrera

In the current global economic crisis migration continues to be a survival strategy for many poor families in the South who depend on the remittances sent home to pay for health care or children’s schooling. The trend for the increasing feminisation of migration continues but with increasing barriers and restrictions in place in Europe to restrict migration, new patterns are emerging in some regions, with increasing trafficking of women for sexual exploitation, the role of recruitment agencies in Europe and migrants forced into unregulated and unprotected work in the informal sector. And what is the impact on family life for those left behind when fathers or mothers or daughters migrate? In this global care chain we need to develop new concepts and understanding of the meaning of citizenship and migrant workers’ rights through research. We need to increase our understanding and analysis of the impact of the changing economic context and of new restrictive policies that impact on movement and rights, in order to develop alternative strategies and advocacy initiatives that support women’s rights.
There are many different stories of migrations, of movements globally and within countries, it is a story we all share, whatever the push-pull factors of migration, whether it’s for political, environmental or economic reasons, refugees and asylum seekers or just travelling, the story of migration belongs to all of us.

A number of dilemmas arise when analysing migration, labour movements and globalisation. One of these is that of the entitlements of migrants, which is usually linked to their legitimacy in a country and questions such as: Who is and is not documented? Who is and is not an ‘other’? Who is and is not recognised as a citizen? But legal residency on its own does not bring the entitlements of citizenship. It is therefore imperative to expand our understanding, perception and definition of citizenship and for this a gender analysis of discrimination against migrants is necessary. Gender and race, ethnicity and class are all used as criteria to exclude people and there are biases in policy making, in regulations, and in legal practices that add risks and hazards to the already difficult lives of migrants in terms of human security and human rights.

There are also a number of concerns in the feminisation of international labour migration. The immense social pressures that cause migration: the obligation to look after relatives, to put siblings or children through school, which are met differently by women and men. Admission into the host country impacts differently on women and men; and gender selective migration policies and regulation for entry often reproduce and intensify existing social, economic and cultural inequalities between male and female immigrants. The right of entry does not necessarily mean the right to work, or the right to equal work and fair work. In destination countries undocumented, international migrants, mostly women, who have less information on jobs and recruitment channels, are mainly employed in the informal economy.

Free trade and women’s migration

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is a complex machinery of rules to regulate international trade in the name of so-called free trade. It is highly regulated, extremely exploitative and onerous and one-sided in terms of the power relations between nations and among citizens and workers. The cost of this is far from free it comes at a price emotionally, socially and developmentally, politically, and its impact is pernicious both on the individuals and the states involved,
particularly for the so-called ‘developing countries’.

Neo-liberal trade polices fuel the need for unregulated labour while at the same time purporting to explore and promote movement and access of goods and of capital, as quickly and inexpensively as possible. These policies began in the 1980’s with structural adjustment programmes, particularly in the African and Latin American contexts. It was the beginning of the loss of state power, of the nation, that placed neo-liberalism and global capitalism at the forefront, a policy that says the role of the state is to be a facilitator: let the markets rule.

**Borders as barriers**

There is a correlation between physical border controls and controls put in place by international trade policies and protocols. Trade and finance have become increasingly de-regulated and integrated across regions and globally, while at the same time, the movement of people has become more regulated, more difficult, more onerous, and for those of us coming from the global South, VISA is just a four-letter word.

Migration policy is not just about deciding whether, how many and what kind of migrants to admit, it also includes regulations that affect migrants’ employment status. Immigration polices are a part of social development policy and a wider social rights framework linked to human dignity and to social inclusion. This is where the neo classical concept of citizenship fails us as women and as migrants. How migration changes citizenship depends on a large extent on how states and their citizens perceive migrants and how they construct the meaning of citizenship. Migration is seen through the lens of a particular national conception of citizenship which may sometimes be very narrow and create very little space for being “other”, for speaking a different language, for eating different food, for listening to different music.

**Citizenship and globalisation**

The nature of capitalism and the role of the state are rapidly changing¹ and neoliberal economic policies have had a disastrous effect as we saw with the USA’s economic meltdown. The state is the institution that has been mandated to ensure that all its citizens are present politically, numerically and qualitatively in crucial processes. But state power is withering and giving rise to a different kind of state: one which has lost its sovereignty, which has scaled back on welfare programmes and industrial policy. This has implications for how we define statehood and a nation – what is a nation that cannot protect, provide, cannot enable all of its citizens? In this framework women’s economic citizenship becomes even more complex.

The liberal articulation of human rights and universal rights suggest that individuals are entitled to the same rights and treatment irrespective of race, class, cast, gender and disability or ethnicity. This has enormous emancipatory potential because it says that identity and entitlements are not prescribed by social relations or location and this has fuelled the struggles for equal rights and curtailed rights to formal guarantees. In our analysis it is essential to discuss the exclusionary dynamics of citizenship and to examine the construction of the economic agency of women and gender citizenship as critical and different. We must re-create the

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¹ Reference to WIDE Annual Conference report 2006: ‘What state are we in?’
classical construct of what citizenship means today, in this globalised world, so that it places the most vulnerable people, the most dispossessed, at the centre of solutions and consideration. The role of the state has never been more critical and social inclusion is the catalyst to bring rights to life universally, regardless of social and geographic location.

“Social inclusion is the critical catalyst to bring rights to life universally regardless of social and geographic location, rights that we land with, rights that we leave with, rights that migrate with us”.
Natalia introduced some of the main features and approaches of the genderised parameters of analysis and research on women in global mobilities. She highlighted the complexity of these in the study of migration, such as in the feminisation of international mobilities; the place of women in global migration, global care chains and distance maternity that are leading to new migration flows and different categories of migrants; marriage strategies in migration and circularities in migration; the intensification of irregularities and clandestine migration, as well as to the redefinition of the status of refugee taking into account gender based violence and discrimination.

Looking for sites
Border cities, such as in the Mediterranean and on the Mexico-US border, are a strategic site for the analysis of these changes in migration patterns and to develop theoretical and empirical frameworks. These support the analysis of global economic circuits and industrial zones; the feminisation of survival; clandestine mobility and transit; and the restriction of borders and how these processes are connected to global chains.

Looking for approaches
Nowadays we receive a whole body of literature regarding how globalisation is shaping new forms of thinking gender relations from different fields: socio-economic (especially seen from the counter-geographies of globalisation perspective), cultural, or from global art and feminism. They are all issues that match with our interests: development, trade and gender nexus when considering the gender division of labour, in the global context, which open up main concerns about the situation of the most vulnerable groups. Besides, globalisation is also shaping new forms of thinking about mobilities today.

With these two angles in mind (socio-economic and cultural) I focus on the most hidden side of such worlds, by seeing how women who stay at home farming in the fields receive the impact of such global

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2 Extracted themes from the different case-studies presented at the conference on “Mobilités au féminin”, Tanger, November 2005.
migration forces. I have looked at two specific empirical cases: the women who are left behind in the Filipino fields while their families work in Rome, Italy and the women who are left behind in the mountains of Djebala, Morocco. Research on the counter geographies of globalisation reveal the connections between the mostly poor, rural women (often represented as a burden rather than a resource) and productive migrants abroad.

There have been different phases of research on gender and globalisation and when the literature on migration studies began to emerge, gender was often invisible or an added variable but it was not seen as a power system with an analysis of gender relations. A second phase, typical of feminism and the political economy analysed the global assembly line and how development stimulated migration. A third phase of scholarship on women and migration aimed to insert gender into mainstream studies with case studies on domestic work and sex trafficking. The latest phase of analysis is on global mobilities, which is focusing on gender and economic development and gender and migration. However, all these different phases of research need a framework of analysis to show the inter relationships.

**Gender and Migration**

The issue of gender and remittances is a relatively new issue on the political and research agenda in many parts of the world. One of the main features of the research methodology developed is the focus on the dynamics at the household level and there are three main components: a) the relationship between household food security, community development and remittances; b) the monetary transfer systems and mechanisms operating between origin and destination countries; c) the impact of remittances on intra-household relations and gender dynamics.

In particular, some literature on migration and remittances looks at the links between transnational migration, remittances and the processes of change and development in places of origin and of transit. Some aspects have been largely overlooked in the research, such as the value and potential of remittances, as well as non-material remittances, or social remittance. Research on remittances traces how they impact on rural development and provides a gender analysis of this process, focusing on personal or family matters, and reveals the high social and human price of adult migration for the reproduction of generations. This research has revealed the importance of understanding migration within the family dynamic and as a community strategy. Research undertaken over the last few decades has shown that women play an essential role in this whole process and the feminisation of migration strategies show the systematic links between the growth of alternative survival circuits and the conditions of developing countries that contribute to economic globalisation.

Gender-oriented research focused on personal or family matters – instead of exclusively on the extra-domestic labour market – reveals the high social and human price of adult migration for the reproduction of generations that are separated in spatial terms. Therefore, my approach selects ways of uncovering gender through an analysis on chains and mobilities by addressing all macro and micro-economic chains which are involved in the configuration of global capitalism.
Looking for rights

Natalia ended her presentation with a story written by a Spanish writer Helena Maleno, which illustrates how women’s rights are violated today when women are bought and sold as merchandise on the corners of every city.

PRINCESSES FOR 300 Euros\(^3\) by Helena Maleno

Once upon a time, in the not too distant country called Algeria, there was a castle full of princesses; they were of all ages and sizes. One day, when walking through the desert, we came upon a castle, a huge fortress where over a hundred princesses lived. All the princesses were owned by Prince Patron who "protected" them. Every day several “knights” approached the castle to buy princesses.

"Princesses cost 300 Euros for six months. I buy one and she lives with me like a wife: cooking, cleaning, keeping me company and, of course, giving me sex. After a time I give her back. If I have money I buy another," - Amine, who came from the faraway country of Mali and bought princesses so as not to be alone.

"If you want a girl it will cost 300 Euros for six months. After a while you can give her back to me. If you have money you can buy her again, if not I will sell her to another man," - John, who came from the faraway country of Nigeria and sold princesses to do business.

"If you want me my patron sells me for 300 Euros for six months. I live with you as if I was your wife, I cook, I clean, give you company, I allow you to rape me, to hit me. Then you give me back to the Patron. If you have money you can buy me again if not someone else will do it, - Beauty who came from the faraway country of Nigeria and was a beautiful princess for sale.

An old legend said that for centuries in the world princesses were bought and sold. The trading system was maintained by a few old sorcerers called SOCIAL INEQUALITY, POVERTY AND BORDERS. The three of them worked very well together and they were proud to have designed an almost perfect world where everyone occupies its rightful place.

\(^3\) http://pandoras.periodismohumano.com/2010/04/14/princesas-a-300-euros/
But one day a princess was returned to her owner; she was pregnant. The knight had used up the time he had paid for." They let me come and sleep with her sometimes. I can’t buy her again but I want to take my son when she gives birth," - Lamine came from the faraway country of Mali and planned to cross the wide sea to get to paradise.

"We let him come and sleep with her sometimes. Now that she is pregnant, she is very difficult to sell. She should have aborted but she was already in her fourth month of pregnancy and she could die as happened to another girl last year. The child will belong to me at birth, had he been born when purchased that would be different, but now he is mine, like her," - William came from the faraway country of Nigeria and planned to sell the son of our princess.

"He comes to bed with me sometimes. He bought me and left me pregnant. I did not want an abortion because they give us twenty pills and we can die in pain, as there are no doctors here. We put the foetus in a plastic bag and throw it away, sometimes the dogs play with it. Sometimes Prince Patron tells us we are pregnant by the devil and we should expel it from our body. I did not want an abortion because I am scared. I do not know if I have a child or a demon, it is not mine. I do not know if it belongs to Lamine or William," - Esther, a young princess, fifteen years old and six month’s pregnant.

The princesses in the castle dream of travelling to countries over the seas where, it is said, a princess has an incredible value.

"Someday I’ll be in another place, I will pay my debts and I will be free. Then I will be my own boss," - Tina, a princess who cannot be sold anymore because she is ill with disease.

After leaving the castle princesses remember this: I’ve seen princesses in other places, in Almería, Villaverde, the Ramblas of Barcelona ...where they sell Princess at 10 Euros for 15 minutes. So ... the story is not over.

They say that stories are used to think about and transmit values. I think that sometimes, when reality is extremely terrible, stories allow us to express things that we would not have the courage to say otherwise. Forgive my cowardice.
Human Trafficking and Migrant Women’s Rights
Liliya Khamzayeva, Future Generation, Uzbekistan

Trafficking is a terrible crime, resulting in horrible consequences for the victims themselves, their relatives and the whole country.

Human trafficking is a critical issue for Uzbekistan as criminal groups are active, targeting women and minors for sexual exploitation and forced labour, arranging their transportation to major destination countries, such as the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Israel, India, South Korea, Greece, Thailand, Malaysia, Kazakhstan and Russia. Recently there has also been an increase in internal trafficking.

In spite of efforts by both non-government organisations (NGOs) and the government to combat human trafficking and toughen punishment, it is a growing and profitable business for criminal organisations. The crime begins with preparatory activities in Uzbekistan: searching for potential victims, getting documents and visas. One of the main methods used to recruit women is fraud but some ruthless groups also use violence and kidnapping. When trafficking victims arrive at the destination country they are forced into prostitution, their freedom of movement is strictly controlled, sometimes forbidden, and they have to pay back huge debts (to pay for their passports, visa, travel, accommodation, clothes and board). They are under constant threats and psychological pressure, they are often physically punished, and any disobedience results in an increase of their debt.

Rescuing Trafficked Women

Future Generation assists trafficked women who have been repatriated and they interviewed many women who had escaped from their traffickers or were being held by the police in Uzbekistan. They found that many of these women believed that if they applied for legal protection they would be treated as criminals and prostitutes and their cases would not be investigated seriously. This mistrust was also a result of the threats received from their traffickers who told them it would be pointless to ask for police protection. Although most of the women had secondary school education they were seldom aware that their human rights had been violated, which made it easier for traffickers to manipulate them. According to different organisations in the region and the repatriated victims themselves, the traffickers are nationals of Uzbekistan, often women, who subject the women to very harsh treatment. However, a significant obstacle in prosecuting people involved in trafficking—the recruiters, transporters, pimps and exploiters—is that they are not afraid of committing these crimes.

The Way Forward

In Uzbekistan there are negative public attitudes toward women victims of trafficking who are blamed for getting into this situation. Even government officials consider that trafficked women are putting a stigma on the country rather than blaming the criminals organising the transportation of women, re-selling them, taking their passports away and abusing them. In order to change these views it is necessary to
strengthen the role of the mass media, with more newspaper articles, TV and radio programmes and public service announcements, as there has been little coverage on the issue of trafficking of women. According to Future Generation the most effective strategy would be to prevent trafficking and ensure safe labour migration to benefit migrant workers and the government. Some steps have been taken. For example, the newly adopted Uzbek law on combating trafficking is based on the principles of legitimacy, the punishment of traffickers, preventing discrimination of victims and social partnership. Because of active lobbying and the positive response of the Uzbek government more victims are now contacting the police.

It is a terrible crime, resulting in horrible consequences for the victims themselves, their relatives and the whole country. Men’s rights are also violated but women migrants are more vulnerable because of existing stereotypes on the role of women and their limited access to resources. Therefore there is a need for methods and strategies to stop trafficking, to prevent the violation of women’s human rights and to lobby for well-organised, decent migration.

A Case Study: Thai Migrant Workers and Labour Trafficking

Lek Yimprasert, Thai Labour Campaign and president Migrant Workers’ Union

For the past forty years Thailand has exported workers overseas and filled the employment gap in the agricultural and food sectors in many countries. Thailand relies heavily on labour recruiting agencies to find work for migrant workers. They mainly target Thai farmers who don’t speak English and have little schooling so it is difficult for them to travel around the world without the support of a recruitment agency to organise the work and travel.

The Migrant Worker’s Union has been working with the Thai government to address this situation. The Union argued that the process of workers going overseas should be controlled government to government, which is not currently the case. The Thai Ministry of Labour has a migrant promotion policy with minimum government intervention, leaving workers in the hands of labour recruiting businesses and giving them permission to export labour overseas.

In the 1970’s Thai workers started going to work in the Middle East, with everything paid for by the company, but now workers have to pay the company to find them work. Later they went further afield to Singapore and then to Taiwan, Korea and Japan, mostly
working in the construction sector and domestic service. Destinations now are further away: in Europe and the USA, where jobs for migrant workers are filling gaps in the agricultural sector, in food factories and in temporary and casual work such as picking berries in Scandinavia. Most of the contracts negotiated through the recruitment agencies are for 5 years and after that they have to return home. The workers themselves have to pay escalating costs – 14,000 Euros to go to Spain and 20,000 Euros to go to the USA. The workers do not have the money to pay these costs and agencies have stepped in mobilising resources and loans for the workers and putting them into debt.

Even though the Thai government has a memorandum of understanding with the governments of Japan, Korea and Taiwan, only 5 per cent of workers are going under government auspices, 95 per cent go through recruitment agencies and have paid up thousands of Euros. There are an estimated half a million Thais working abroad with these contracts and there is increasing competition between agencies in Thailand, China and the Philippines to secure these jobs. Workers going to Poland have a number of legal contracts: with the bank, the Thai Ministry of Labour, the Polish Embassy and with the agency. These labour recruitment agencies mobilise about 8 million Euros each year and the remittances of the workers to Thailand are worth about 1 billion Euros each year and the remittances of the workers to Thailand are worth about 1 billion Euros, around half of this going to pay for under-the-table deals with agencies. The human trafficking business is successful because they are clever in the marketing of false dreams – they tell the workers that after 3 years they will earn 20,000 Euros but this is not the case. The reality is that many workers return with debts and with health problems as many of these jobs are hazardous, some are so ill they have to return before they finish the contract.

Thailand itself is a receiving country as it has about 2 million migrant workers from Burma, Lao and Cambodia living there. Labour protection policies in Thailand are very weak. The Migrant Worker’s Union attempted to talk to the Thai Ministry of Labour about Burmese migrant workers’ rights but the response was to ask why they are concerned with foreign workers when there are thousands of Thai workers overseas. The Migrant Workers Union has several recommendations and proposals. First, that working contracts should be made on a government to government basis without agency contracts. They suggest that the Thai government’s outward migration policy is not sustainable and they have to address the real development problems of the country. Second, they propose a strategy to build triangular solidarity: prevention, protection and sustainable solutions. When they started organising to fight trafficking as a trade union their power of negotiation increased dramatically. The Migrant Workers Union does not look at the issue of migrant workers with a charity/victim approach, they have more power with the state because they are organised and have a collective bargaining approach. Together with other unions they want to address the real issues with the government: the long term development problems of the farming community who are the target population for migration.

Lek Yimprasert ended her presentation saying that through WIDE she had received economic literacy training and that this had been very important in helping her to examine the issue of migration with a feminist lens. During their 10 years of engagement with WIDE her organisation had developed popular education programmes and integrated economic literacy into their work, so she was very grateful to all at WIDE for this support.
CHAPTER 2

Policies and Their Impacts

Moderator: Carolina Gottardo, One World Action

A large number of migrant women in the EU are employed in domestic service and the care sector. However, migration policies and international regulations do not recognise domestic work in the private sphere as employment and, consequently, migrant workers’ rights are often violated. EU policies need to be strengthened to protect migrant women’s rights in Europe, particularly domestic workers and au pairs. Migrant organisations are very active and have been successful in getting migrant worker’s issues, particularly relating to domestic workers, onto the policy agenda. For example, the ILO has recently recognised the need for an international convention to protect domestic workers which will strengthen the advocacy initiatives of migrant organisations supporting migrants working in this sector.

The panel of speakers were all migrant women living in Europe who had lived the experiences themselves and who went into greater depth on the impact of state policies on women migrants, putting forward strategies and recommendations for actions to protect their rights and to support migrant workers.
European Policy and the Rights of Women Migrant Workers
Fe Jusay, RESPECT, the Netherlands

Migration is a consequence of economic, trade and investment policies which have left countries in the global South with deep, unsustainable debt, with livelihoods destroyed and communities deeply impoverished. The main sources of employment open to migrant women are to work in the private households, other forms of care work or sex work.

RESPECT is a transnational European network of migrant domestic workers’ organisations and supporters. They began campaigning in 1998 for the rights of all migrant domestic workers in private households. European immigration legislation does not recognise domestic work as a category for immigration and migrant women employed in private households, many who have entered the EU legally are forced, because of the prevailing legislation to become undocumented, for example, if they change their employer, which means they do not have any labour rights.

**Fortress Europe**

The EU ‘Return’ Directive[^4] and the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum (2008) have led to a sustained and deeper criminalisation of migrants with an increase in security measures also due to new policies on terrorism. The domestic workers sector is outside the provision of work permits and other types of documented immigration status which force many migrant domestic workers to work undocumented. The rights of migrant domestic workers’ are violated because it is not recognised as “proper” work and, therefore, is not covered by enforceable labour protection legislation.

**Migrant empowerment through self-organisation**

In the RESPECT Network, migrant domestic workers have developed a variety of effective empowerment and campaigning strategies. They have an education programme that includes capacity building through a Forum Theatre and which has supported migrant women to become key actors of their own campaign. RESPECT works with all migrants and they include gender aspects and specific strategies to work with migrant women workers. For example, they have a micro Credit Cooperative (KOOP NATIN) and a drop-in centre in the Netherlands which permits self-organisation and where migrant women can discuss their issues, share experiences and find shelter. They also have a re-integration program which they are implementing with reliable partners in the migrants’ country of origin such as UNLAD KABAYAN, Migrant Savings Alternatives and

Investment (MSAI) to support social entrepreneurship in the Philippines.

RESPECT runs campaigns on migrant workers rights and has identified the following specific demands: the recognition of domestic workers in the private household as proper work; the protection of their rights as workers; and to have an immigration status related to their employment as domestic workers. They have developed strategies for organising and putting forward their demands such as capacity building for self-organisation, training, networking and alliance-building.

**Transnational advocacy and lobbying**

They also carry out lobbying at an international level, such as at the International Labour Organisation conference (ILO) a tripartite structure (bring together state, employers, trade unions). Some migrant workers are operating within the ILO through the trade unions but they are more active on the outside, demonstrating and campaigning.

There have been some major achievements in their advocacy network in Europe. The new government in Greece has agreed to the demand by the Migrant Alliance that children of undocumented parents, the majority domestic workers, will be given citizenship. The successful “Bridging Visa” campaign in Ireland allows migrant domestic workers from outside the EU to re-apply to the work permit system if they become undocumented as a result of workplace exploitation, deception or redundancy.

RESPECT is calling for joint actions to support the rights of migrant domestic workers. These include lobbying the EU, parliamentarians and policy makers on trade and development policies, to be more favorable to the development potential of the South to prevent out-migration. RESPECT is also campaigning to stop the EU “Return” Directive which is criminalising migrants and will lead to even minors being deported. They also have ongoing campaigns to challenge racism and Islamaphobia. Finally, Fe Jusay called on WIDE and member organisation to join with RESPECT in the current campaign for a strong human rights base in the proposed new ILO Convention on Domestic Work.
Domestic work is a socially constructed female sector, which, in Europe, is increasingly being carried out by migrant women. Work in private homes, such as caring for children, the elderly and disabled people is often invisible and not valued in any country, even in Sweden which is generally considered a gender equality champion. As domestic work in private homes is mainly carried out in the informal sector it is poorly protected by laws and polices.

The “new gender order” in many countries in Europe in the past decades had led to an increasing number of women participating in the labour market but this was not matched with a more equal distribution of household tasks between women and men. The lack of childcare services and family polices, such as parental leave and flexible working arrangements increase the need for migrant domestic workers to help families reconcile work and family life. Paradoxically, these migrant domestic workers are completely excluded from all polices and debates in the EU and members states on gender equality and there is no information about their contribution to the gender equality project we have in the EU today.

Research shows there is widespread exploitation of domestic workers including low wages, long working hours, exclusion from different social benefits and social security system such as pension rights, unemployment benefits and health care. The underlying reason for this situation is that domestic work is not recognised as “real” work. Consequently the economic value of domestic work and the extent to which it contributes to European economic growth is not emphasised by governments or political parties in any country, which leads to some crucial questions for debate on the human and economic rights of migrant workers in Europe.

Finding new strategies for action

Since the 1970’s and the debates on women’s unpaid work there has been a general assumption that increasing state involvement in family life, such as childcare provision, can break down gender inequalities between men and women and change the gender order regarding domestic work, reconciling work and family life. There is an assumption that one way to break structural inequalities is to give more power to the state to control family policies but we have to ask whether this
assumption is right. Does state involvement really improve women’s rights? There is no empirical evidence that state policies have changed the gender order, especially not for domestic work. The state can improve equality between citizens but we cannot assume that this will automatically change the rights of domestic workers and, in fact, it might reduce the need for migrant domestic workers. Therefore we need strategies to challenge the stigma and low economic value of domestic work in order to improve domestic workers’ rights.

Domestic work in the private and the public sphere

In Sweden, the state has been involved in family policies since the 1970’s with very comprehensive child care and elderly centres, parental leave and child allowances. But this did not succeed in changing gender roles. For example, in the case of parental leave, Sweden has the most comprehensive and generous polices in the world but only 20 per cent of Swedish fathers use it; in Denmark it is even worse, with only 5 percent of fathers take parental leave in spite of having these policies. Sweden has one of the most gender segregated labour markets as women work mainly in the public sector and men in the private sector, with women making up 95 per cent of the public childcare and elderly care sectors. So the duties usually performed by women in the private sphere have been moved into the public sphere but they are still performed by women – in Sweden they refer to this as “moving from private to public dependency”. This is important because in times of economic crisis women are losing jobs and their salaries are affected, but even on a general level, the salaries of women in the public sector are low. For example, a female nurse in a Swedish hospital with three years of specialist education earns 35-40 per cent less than a male technician working at the same hospital without university qualifications. This shows the low social value of care work even when it is carried out in the public sector.

Andrea suggested two strategies that might have more influence on policies. The first is to politicise the value of domestic work: feminists in different Member States need to put this topic on the political agenda. Even in Sweden, the gender equality champion, trade unions pretend that domestic workers in the informal sector do not exist, and they argue that as there is public child care, so why should people pay for this kind of help. The reality is that there are many migrant workers, especially from Eastern Europe, working in the informal sector without rights and without connection to the political system. So a central point must be to emphasise the value of domestic work, what it means’s for welfare, for the economy and for women.

The main emphasis of our strategy should be to fight at a national level where there is potential for making changes. Therefore, the priorities should be defined in the national context and issues, such as women’s labour rights and pensions, should be more prominent on the agenda. It was time to change national agendas, to work at different levels, to strengthen women’s machineries, to forge coalition between women’s organisations and labour unions in order to make improvements. Many international conventions are not implemented so it is also important that the state adapt its legislation to international norms and change labour market policies, enforcing legal measures to protect domestic workers.
Human history shows that people have moved incessantly in search for better conditions: water, food, shelter and other necessities for living, to avoid conflict and repression; more recently because of environmental and natural catastrophes and as a result of globalisation and the demands of the market.

In Europe we are seeing a demand for migrant workers due to the demographic deficit with an ageing population and fewer workers to take care of them and better access to communications, transport, IT technology is making it easier to cross borders.

**Women on the move**

Women migrate because they want to improve conditions for their families, they try to find work or study to learn new skills which can result in increased economic power within the family. Some flee from repressive regimes or abuse in their families. There are currently over 200 millions people outside their countries of origin, 104 million of these are women. Around 86 millions migrants are in the labour market of which approximately 50 per cent or more are women. In the 1980’s as economic liberalisation impacted on their role in agriculture and industry women from developing region began to seek jobs abroad because of poverty and unemployment. In Europe migrant women from Asia, Africa and Latin America work in domestic work, as agricultural workers and as health professionals. Some women in East and Central Europe are recruited for nonexistent jobs in the west and end up being trafficked for sexual exploitation and slavery. Migrant women’s rights are violated and they suffer violence and sanctions, such as having their legal documents taken from them, therefore there is an urgent need to secure their human as well as labour rights.

**Au Pairs in Denmark**

Filomenita presented the case of young women who come to Denmark to work as *au pairs*. This is meant to be a cultural exchange arrangement whereby young women are given time to study and a limited amount of housework, but they are often considered as a source of cheap labour by the families who host them. Au-pairs receive around 500 Euros per month and work 6 days per week, mostly living with families, which means they have little privacy. The lack of cultural knowledge and differences in background of the au pair and the host family, can lead to the isolation of the au pair, and different sexuality codes between cultures can result in unwanted pregnancies and abortions. Young women use the au pair system as a migration strategy in the hope that in the West their educational qualifications will be recognised and they will
be able to find work but this is rarely the case, their potential is misused and their human rights are at risk.

Although au-pairs enter the EU legally, their situation does not allow for legal redress and there is no adequate protection if they have to prosecute their employers. They face big challenges and by the time the legal procedures begin their work permit has ended. In the EU there is a lack of debate about the issues facing au pairs, women’s organisations have not taken on the debate, and trade unions do not have a position on their labour situation.

Babaylan is making links with women and development NGOs in Europe. They also work with labour unions as ideally, migrant workers should come under the protection of labour unions and they are creating a Task Force to work exclusively on the rights of the au pair. They have made alliances with the media for balanced reporting and true representation of facts and are lobbying legislators and are engaging the wider diasporas in projects that promote livelihoods.

Migration bag

In her migration bag, Filomenita carried a wish list: that migration is temporary and that governments would take more care of migrant workers by setting up a specific agency on migration and development. Governments should translate the contribution of remittances into real development so that migration is by choice not by coercion. To achieve this, the circular migration of women could be better utilised and job markets should be opened up for trained workers in Europe to meet labour shortage in some sectors.

It is important for global measures to be taken to secure women’s rights in their home country and in the host society and, in the context of the current economic crisis, to recognise their contribution to economic gains and human development. Women's access to mobility and protecting migrants during the crisis is important otherwise they will become scapegoats and more vulnerable to discrimination and exploitation.5

Governments should translate the contribution of remittances into real development so that migration is by choice not by coercion.

5 www.babaylan.dk
www.babaylan-europe.org
Discussion

A migrant living in Spain shared her experience of trying to influence the Spanish government on domestic work related issues. In her experience the view of governments was not to intervene in issues in the private sphere. One option for decent domestic work was to create co-operatives which would hire out women domestic workers with contracts with the ultimate goal of recognising domestic labour as “work” and ensuring domestic workers rights. A Romanian participant said that her country had experienced a “boom” in migration with many people leaving the country but there is concern that the economic crisis will lead to migrants losing their jobs and having to return home.

The speakers responded to questions from the audience on changes in the patterns of migration as a result of the economic crisis, the impact of the crisis on women migrants, whether there are any joint campaigns of migrant organisations at the EU level, and the implications of giving domestic workers migrant status.

Fe Jusay said that the economic crisis had led some women migrant workers to return to their home country. RESPECT cooperates with partners in the countries of origin to assist returnees, for example, with advice on money matters but returnees face many challenges. In some EU countries migrants can become members of trade unions in others this is not possible and migrant organisations have had disappointing answers from the Trade Unions to concerns they have raised. The ILO does not allow migrant domestic workers’ organisations to be members only those that are affiliated to trade unions, but RESPECT hopes for a change in the future as domestic workers are workers and should be recognised as such.

Filomenita Høgsholm commented that an impact of the economic crisis on Filipinos was that they are sending more money home than before. In the Philippines there are organisations supporting returning migrants and their families. In the EU they organise literacy courses to make the best of the money earned by migrants, such as job creating investments. In relation to the trade unions’ stand on unskilled labour, au pairs are not considered as labour, but in some countries they offer legal support and there is some opening to discuss Babylan’s concerns. Trade Unions have a different stance on migrant health care workers as there is fear of competition with nationals for jobs in the health sector and the downgrading of labour standards and workers rights when migrant workers take these jobs.
CHAPTER 3

Walking the Talk: Putting alternatives into practice and policy

Moderator: Liliya Khamzaeva

Human rights defenders and organisations working with migrant women are tackling a range of policy, legal and practical issues to address different forms of discrimination. There are similar trends in different countries as migration patterns are changing from permanent settlement of migrant families, to men working on a temporary basis, and more recently women moving independently and becoming the main breadwinners for their families. The feminisation of migration is often precarious and women are open to exploitation and abuse, subjected to gender discrimination and violations of their rights.

Women’s and migrant organisations have adopted a range of political and legal strategies to support migrant women: offering advice, raising awareness, networking and campaigning on the violations of rights. Women’s migration is an under researched area so an important strategy is to document patterns and violations and to use these findings and statistics as tools to push for policy and legal changes. There are many examples of successful actions in the struggles to defend migrant women’s rights but organisations also face continuing obstacles. This session offered an opportunity to discuss the practices organisations are fighting against, to put forward alternatives, to share examples of best practice and exchange ideas on how best to protect migrant women’s rights.
It is impossible to talk about migration without talking about gender-related violence and racism. These are inter-linked and part of wider issues on how we conceptualise and then address citizenship and human rights issues and how we tackle problems of inclusion and exclusion.

Making the connection between insecure immigration status and violence against women is critical in order to realise the rights of migrant women. Many studies show that although female migration can enhance equality and offer opportunities not available at home it can also lead to human rights violations. However, women’s experiences of gender related violence needs to be much better documented as it is a widespread problem that can drive women to migrate but it is also a consequence of migration.

An issue that is under represented in existing debates is gender related violence following migration on the basis of marriage. Although there are many temporary migrants, there are a significant number, about 3 million, settled migrants in the UK. Many have close ties with their country of origin, usually through marriage and this is where men, particularly in South Asian communities, will look to marry women. But the combined effect of UK Immigration and welfare laws traps women in life-threatening relationships and denies them exit out of abusive marriages.

**Legal strategies**

UK immigration laws and laws on violence against women contain many contradictions for migrant women as they can exacerbate gender related violence. When migrant women raise issues to do with gender equality, the state tries to link these to immigration controls as a way to deliver human rights for migrant women. As we know, controls are not always the solution to gender inequality. An example is **forced marriages**, which is a major issue among certain migrant communities in the UK. The demand from women’s organisations is for more protection and resources for migrant women so they can get out of a forced marriage situation. But the states’ response is to deal with forced marriage through immigration control, by raising the age of entry to the UK for migrants wishing to travel for marriage from 18 to 21 years. Immigration rules also stipulate that those entering the UK for the purposes of marriage have two years probation and then, if the marriage is still subsisting, they can apply for indefinite leave to remain. However, if the marriage breaks down within the two-year period they are liable for deportation and are not allowed to claim any form of public assistance – this is known as the “no recourse to public funds rule”, it means they cannot apply for social security or for social housing.
because of their insecure legal status. So, some women are faced with a stark choice – to stay in a relationship and risk their health and life or to leave the abusive relationship and face destitution and deportation. Legal strategies are essential for migrant women “the Law is not a luxury, it is a necessity and it is our last safety net”. In an environment where there is mass hostility to migration in the media and generally among the public, it is very difficult to bring about progressive laws in relation to migration. Furthermore, restrictions on public funds create economic dependence on the abusers and put pressure on women to remain in violent relationships. There are also cases of domestic slavery, where women are brought over officially to be in a permanent marriage but in reality used as domestic and sexual slaves. There are similar parallels for women domestic workers who face abuse from employers: their documents are taken away and there are constant intimidations and threats. Other common features include malnutrition, starvation and imprisonment in their own homes.

**Campaigning against discrimination**

Southall Black Sisters has campaigned for many years on the issue of spousal violence where women do not have secure immigration status by highlighting the failures of immigration legislation to take account of women’s experiences of violence. Following many years of campaigning in 2004 Southall Black Sisters succeeded in getting the Domestic Violence Rule introduced. This stipulates that women who have entered the UK through marriage and are subject to immigration controls are eligible to remain in the UK and apply for leave to remain if they can show they are a victim of domestic violence. This was a major victory as it meant that migrant women could get out of an abusive situation without fear of deportation. This is an important step forward because of the symbolic value of the rule and also because it recognises that migrant women have a right to be protected and to have international human rights standards applied to migrant women. However, it is discriminatory because in order to get access to services women have to show that they have been victims of violence and provide a high level of evidence, much higher than the evidence required from women in the wider community.

Immigration rules heighten gender inequality and perpetuate patriarchal relationships of power because the abusers use immigration rules as weapons of control with impunity. When migrant women try to get support from social services, for example, when there are children involved, their rights are often violated further by officials who threaten to separate them from their child, or to return their children to the abuser. Because of restrictions in accessing public services, migrant women increasingly rely on charity, strangers and religious institutions for help. This is another challenge as, although the UK is a secular society, religion is increasingly being driven into the public sphere to deliver services. This creates dependency on religious institutions and migrant women are often told to keep the family intact and return to the abusive relationship. As religions are being given more power to occupy public spaces and to shape civil society it leads to anti democratic and anti human rights agendas.

Southall Black Sisters still has many demands: they want all women who are subject to violence to be permitted to stay in the UK, for immigration tribunals to accept all types of evidence of domestic violence and for women subject to violence and immigration controls to be exempt from the ‘no-recourse to public funds’ rule. They also demand the recognition
of gender persecution as a ground for asylum and humanitarian protection and for violence against women to be redefined as torture. Challenging violence against women in relation to immigration rules is not enough. Different approaches are needed and Southall Black Sisters has achieved changes because they used the existing anti-discrimination discourse and human rights legislation to discuss the problem of violence and migration policy.  

Working with and for Roma People
Claudia Banica – CADO Advocacy and Human Rights Centre, Romania

Roma people originally migrated to Europe from India centuries ago but what caused this massive migration of people is unknown. Historically, Roma people have faced hostility and they continue to suffer from race discrimination in education, employment, health care and housing and there has been an increase in racist killings.

Romani women suffer discrimination because of their race and gender. Although there is very good legislation on gender equality the principle of gender equality is not widely implemented in Romania. Moreover, there is very low participation of women in public life. Only 15 per cent of the Romanian parliament is made up of women representatives and they do not occupy any of the top positions. In this context, Romani women face multiple forms of discrimination: they live in deep poverty and do not have access to employment and for all these reasons they decide to travel looking for a better life.

The freedom of movement for Roma people

As European citizens Romani people also have the right to free movement so the term migrant should not apply – because they do not migrate, their way of life is to be on the move. Western governments like to label ‘freedom of movement’ as migration and sometimes even as undocumented migration. When Romania became a member of the EU Roma families started to move to Western

6 www.southallblacksisters.org.uk
Europe, ironically believing they would not face discrimination, they would have access to employment and services that they were denied in Romania. But when they arrived in Western Europe, their situation was sometimes far worse: without education and adequate skills they could only get low paid jobs and often faced exploitation.

Romani women do not usually move independently but travel with their husbands or join them when the situation becomes more stable. As Romani women became more autonomous they also became stronger due to their financial independence; some have become the principal source of finance for the family and in recent years there have been increasing numbers of women travelling on their own. Romani women migrants get low paid jobs in agriculture such picking fruits and vegetables or animal breeding, they also work as caregivers, cleaners in restaurants and hotels, mainly in Spain, France and Italy. They usually obtain this type of work through informal networks and in many cases they are falling into the trap of traffickers for labour or sexual exploitation.

**Research on trafficking of Roma women**

CADO Advocacy and Human Rights Centre is the only NGO in Romania dealing with trafficking of Romani women. The movement of Romani women is often affiliated with sex trafficking but until this year there was no research on the trafficking of Romani women. CADO carried out research in four countries Romania, Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech Republic (2010 ERRC) and their findings reveal that the average age of women trafficked for sexual exploitation is between 15-35 years old, and more than 60 per cent of women trafficked from Romania are Romani women. The trafficking of Romani women is also taking place internally within Romania. They fall into the trap of trafficking due to poverty and usually because the traffickers are members of their own communities: boyfriends or even of their own family members. Some Romani girls use drugs and become sex workers to pay for their habit and are vulnerable to be trafficked abroad to Spain and Italy, the main destination countries.

The CADO research underlines a lack of legal aid for victims of trafficking, especially Romani women. According to the Romanian Constitution any citizen should have access to free legal aid but this does not mean it is good quality aid. This is not helped by the fact that Romania does not officially recognise cases of trafficking of Roma women; as sex trafficking is invisible to the enforcement bodies and is not being discussed, even unofficially. Trafficking is not specific to the Roma community, it is a crime, an offence against any vulnerable group, regardless of ethnicity, gender or nationality, and anyone could become a victim of trafficking. However, in all the countries in which they carried out their research, the findings showed that Romani women are more vulnerable to trafficking than other women.

Roma women victims of trafficking do not come forward because they do not trust the legal system or the police but also because they do not identify themselves as ‘victims’ of trafficking. They think that they are only unlucky or that they were fooled but they do not know the meaning of being trafficked – they say that they are bought and sold but they see themselves as part of the operation and were happy to get some money or at least a meal. Internal trafficking in Romania has similar characteristics but in the international context they need to have identity documents. The lack of documentation presents problems for Roma people to get access to education and welfare services in different countries, but the lack of
documentation also defends women from being trafficked abroad.

Taking actions to defend Roma rights

Romanian legislation on trafficking is good but it could be improved. A key issue of concern is that victims of trafficking need to provide evidence to prove that they are victims. CADO is trying to change this provision in the trafficking law as it is usually a long, complex, process and many victims give up during the penal proceedings and, therefore, this leads to the official view that there are few victims of trafficking. They also train officials and raise their awareness about Romani people in order to improve the services for them.

The CADO Advocacy and Human Rights Centre organised the first round table with Roma NGOs on trafficking within Roma communities and training in trafficking of Romani women. CADO is not a Romani organisation but several members of the staff are Romani people. It is important to involve Roma NGOs because the Roma community is very closed, which makes it difficult for outsiders to take information to them and to provide services. They will be more successful and have a greater impact with their projects if they involve Roma NGOs but they are reluctant to get involved in the issue of trafficking, denying there is trafficking within the Roma community. They are concerned about talking publically about it because it will reinforce stigmatisation against Roma people. CADO’s efforts to target Roma NGOs have not succeeded yet but they haven’t given up. They aim to create a European network of Roma NGOs working on trafficking as a larger network will help to get these issues raised more widely.

“As European citizens Romani people also have the right to free movement so the term migrant should not apply - because they do not migrate, their way of life is to be on the move”.

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7 CADO also works with the vulnerable groups such as disabled people, people vulnerable to HIV and AIDS.
Strategies to Protect Women Victims of Trafficking

Adila Mammadova Aydin, lawyer for the Migration Centre Public Union, Azerbaijan

The Centre was established in 1999 to provide free legal aid for migrant workers and citizens who have problems with their documentation and it also supports victims of human trafficking. There are many migrants living in Azerbaijan, for example, from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran and Mauritania, many without valid documents and some under the protection of UNHCR. These migrants have legal problems, for example in registering marriages and getting birth certificates for their children. There are also cases of women from Georgia, Russia or Tajikistan married to Azerbaijani citizens who face problems because of changes in the legislation. Previously when they married a citizen they immediately got immigrant status. It has become more difficult because now they have to give evidence that their minimum needs will be provided for, which is a very great problem, and many are unable to get the necessary documentation requested by the state migration service.

In 2009 the Centre ran a campaign to inform migrants about the services they offer through posters, adverts on local television and by holding meetings and trainings. As a result, an increasing number of applicants came forward seeking advice from the organisation. In the past year they have had approximately 690 persons applying for different services, of these: 57 persons were exposed to labour exploitation; 98 were in need of official identification documents and there were 200 children whose parents were undocumented migrants. They were able to help applicants by offering them advice or directing them to the appropriate authorities, NGOs or international organisations.

Victims of human trafficking

The Centre recently started a campaign to inform people about the dangers of human trafficking and to raise awareness on the need for candidates seeking to travel abroad for education, marriage or work, to seek advice so they are not deceived and become victims of trafficking. As a result of the campaign a number of people applied for advice. For example, they made enquiries on behalf of some women who intended to go to Russia to work and found out that the recruitment company that had made the work offer did not exist and they would have been placed in a vulnerable position if they had travelled.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has not given sufficient attention to the issue of trafficking and labour exploitation. This can be seen in a recent case involving Chinese migrant women who were working in massage parlours in Azerbaijan. Following a police raid on bars, clubs and massage parlours in Baku, they took all the Chinese women into custody charging them with prostitution. The women were tested for venereal diseases but the men who were in the clubs and saunas with them were exempt from punishment and the resident owners were not charged for any criminal acts. The Migration Centre contacted the Ministry of Internal Affairs and was told that the police would arrange for them to meet with the women held in custody, but two days later they called to say that the women had been deported without being provided with any legal support. The Centre is working with
international organisations and NGOs to inform people about human trafficking and what they should do when they get work offers form abroad, giving them a helpline number they can call if they are worried and in need of support and in this way filling an important role in protecting migrant workers’ rights.

**DISCUSSION**

**Intersecting inequalities:**

In the discussion that followed a number of key issues were raised. The anti-discriminatory and anti-racist perspective highlighted in the presentations was considered very important. Multiple forms of discrimination affect women, not only race and gender discrimination, but also because of religion, sexual orientation and other criteria. Migrant women, especially those who are victims of trafficking, face discrimination on different levels so different strategies are needed to address the intersection of multiple forms of discrimination.

Southall Black Sister consider it important to focus on fighting immigration controls because these are a result of institutionalised racism that determines who is included and who is excluded, who is allowed in and who is left at the borders. But discussions on institutionalised racism very often leave out the gender dimension. So there are struggles that organisations have to wage simultaneously, there is not a hierarchy or priority of struggles. To keep quiet on one form of discrimination is to collude with other forms of oppression.

**Representation and empowerment:**

We need to reflect on how we might be reproducing inequalities within our own groups and communities. The question of representation of migrant communities is important, for example, whether groups are reproducing power relations and on whose behalf the migrant organisations are speaking. The issue of the empowerment of women was raised in relation to supporting Roma women to become leaders of their communities.

One participant said that her organisations works with survivors of violence in Honduras where the women in self-help groups are empowered to be leaders in their communities as they represent other
women because they speak the same language and share the same experiences of violence and poverty. They are the ones who speak to governments, who are influencing civil society and speaking on behalf of their own group. This is especially challenging in highly patriarchal structures. Another point made is that when working with communities to promote women’s representation it is important to respect democratic processes of selecting a leader, rather than imposing someone to take on this role.

Changing Attitudes:

Another participant said that an aspect of the struggle is to tackle the mentality and change stereotypes that people in the host community have of migrants and of Roma people. Keeping quiet when we see injustice is another form of discrimination and she raised the issue of the lack of solidarity among nurses towards migrant women in Sweden when they attend hospitals, denouncing them to the authorities if they do not have documentation. While another commented that in our fight against discrimination, information and education is crucial. For example, among Roma women, there is a huge abandon of schooling due to poverty, discrimination and early marriages. However, it is important to question stereotypes as there are also Roma women who have a good education, hold down job and have language skills and who are not recognised but remain invisible in society.
In this final panel WIDE opened up a space to learn about new alternatives and different strategies to enforce the rights of migrant women struggling to make real changes in a system that creates inequalities, racism and poverty. Women are looking for new societies and challenging patriarchal structures in their fight for justice and the speakers presented experiences of alternatives from Austria, Kurdistan and Ecuador. There are many innovative approaches and initiatives aimed at building bridges and finding common agendas and it is important to share these experiences. Women’s organisations are developing strategies to advocate for new laws and political participation to support migrant workers rights. Social action is a key element as a political project has to be a collective process to win support from the general population for migrant workers’ rights. It is clear that the struggle of women’s organisations and civil society on migration issues must go further to shape policies to advance migrant women’s rights and in taking this forward it is essential to work together to influence and change policies.
Case Study of the Feminist Centre MAIZ, Austria
Luzenir Caixeta - the MAIZ centre, Austria

“Lo único que nos hemos propuesto es cambiar el mundo, lo demás lo iremos improvisando”.
“The only thing we have proposed to ourselves is changing the world; we will be improvising the rest”,- Subcomandante Marcos, Chiapas, Mexico

MAIZ is an autonomous, feminist organisation based in Linz, Austria. They have been active as a self-organisation by and for migrant women for more than 15 years. A key issue they are concerned with is the importance of autonomy and for organisations of migrant women to set their own agenda. MAIZ is working to improve the living and working conditions of migrant women and to promote their political and cultural participation. Through anti-racist, political and professional work in various fields MAIZ attempts to provide answers to the challenges surrounding the labour migration of women. However, they face challenges as it is not easy to organise collective action between women from different countries and to identify common grounds.

The principles of MAIZ

- Autonomy: no partisanship
- Self-Organisation
- Collective Self-Empowerment
- Feminist and Critical Action
- Ethical Outrage: a basis for outreach
- Participation and Self-Representation
- Work
- Sex work is Work: legal recognition of sex work
- No One is “tabula rasa”: acknowledgment of skills, diplomas and qualifications

The organisation works on both the theoretical and the practical level. While seeking to strengthen the self-representation of migrant women they also follow a strategy to build alliances and engage in critical reflection of gender, ethnic and other power relationships – including in internal conflicts. They have also shifted the paradigm from migrant women as “victims” to being the protagonists. Migrant women who seek support from MAIZ work in the so-called continuum of sex-aid-care work, such as cleaning staff for personnel leasing businesses; workers performing cleaning, caring and nursing jobs in private households; as well as nursing staff in the health sector and/or working in the sex industry. While their concrete situation is defined by legal regulations, political and economic factors are also decisive for their current living conditions.

Disturbing the harmony

In addition to counselling and educational work, their activities include political cultural work and art projects. As a self-organisation of migrant women MAIZ also stands out by intervening in all areas of the social debate. They want to provide a space for migrant
women to share their experiences, and to move beyond the limitations of acting individually to develop a collective process to confront the Austrian majority with their experiences. In this way, migrant women have the opportunity to emerge from their status as an object, over whom political negotiations are made, to develop their own forms of articulation in order to influence and shift the hegemonic discourse. In terms of visibility MAIZ wants to provoke, to break with traditional structures of representation and to cause a “disturbance of harmony”. For example, their slogan: “Austria we love you! We will NEVER leave” aims to provoke and to make the point that as migrants “we are here to stay”.

Organising collectively

Migrant women generally come to Austria to earn as much money as fast as possible - regardless of what kind of activity it entails. Consequently, they initially have no interest in getting organised collectively. They see no benefit in fighting for collective improvements because they do not identify with their jobs as private housekeepers or as sex workers and see it as a transitional situation. So in the process of becoming a collective organisation for the improvement of the economic situation of migrant women contradictions emerged between the interests of the individual migrant woman and the general aim to establish better labour conditions.

One essential field of their activities is the discourse with and among migrant women themselves, for instance, why migrants living in Austria are against the immigration of other women, as they fear this will make it more difficult to find work. The idea is to highlight the similarities, not the differences, between the precarious working and living conditions of all migrant workers and to speak out publicly to demand their interests. MAIZ aims to create room for the collective organisation of different groups of migrant women and to support them and to overcome areas of conflict and contradictions.

Development of Alternatives: Kurdish Women in Europe

Dilber Aydin – International Free Women’s Foundation

Violence and migration are related to the patriarchal structures in which we live. We need a global democracy with peace and justice.

Dilber Aydin from the International Free Women’s Foundation highlighted the fact that the Kurdish population is not visible or recognised. There are more that 1 million Kurdish people living in Europe who are registered as Turkish. Kurdish women are looking for alternatives for women and solutions to patriarchal structures of power and dominance. They are developing their own agenda and have an outline for a new society, a new social contract which they wanted to share with
other women, this includes working at different levels: providing services such as education for migrant women but also influencing EU policies to address the connections between violence and migration. The International Free Women’s Foundation provides education for immigrant women so they become aware of their rights and their own individual strengths. Their long term objective is to encourage large numbers of migrant women into education which will arm them with the best weapon to fight for their rights. In order to carry out their strategic plans in 2006 they founded the UTAMARA Women Meeting Center with the support of thousands Kurdish immigrant women from all around the EU. In the Center they aim to cross the borders that divide and narrow down women's lives by creating free spaces for women from different background to share their experiences. They also support migrant women in finding solutions to their problems and give them new perspectives in their lives. Their main goal has been to create a situation where migrant women are not a passive object in the discussion but an active subject gaining the strength and ability to protect and develop herself.

In establishing UTAMARA their goals were, among other, to support women to discover women's creative power and energy, women’s empowerment to overcome discrimination and violence, promoting women’s economic independence and encouraging multicultural exchange and cooperation. To achieve this they have education programmes to develop the knowledge and skills of Kurdish women (such as language courses and seminars on health care, social science, women's history, psychology, theatre, music, arts and communication). They also provide legal support for migrant women and children and support the self-help organisation of women and other civil society initiatives to strengthen interdisciplinary and international networks and co-operation.

**Research is essential**

In the past year UTAMARA has carried out a research programme on the psychological effects of trauma experienced by migrant Kurdish women in the European Union. The results of this research will give them a better understanding of the needs of Kurdish women and increase their knowledge of ways in which to deal with these problems. The outcomes of this study will be used to provide Kurdish women with more appropriate treatment and care when they have social or health related problems.

Kurdish women living in Germany, France, Sweden, the UK, the Netherland and Turkey participated in the survey and in the evaluation of its results. The findings therefore show the impact at a European level and contribute to the debate on EU policy and practice. From a psychiatric point of view, the study found post-traumatic stress, depression and other anxiety disorders, thus confirming that forced internal displacement has a negative effect on the individual’s psychological situation, as do war and gender related violence.

**A new Social Contract for women**

They have found that community-based approaches are very effective but UTAMARA’s experience has shown that solutions should be multidimensional: political, legal and economic assistance and relief programmes are urgently needed but health, and especially mental health, should also be included. The Foundation has drawn up a list of recommendations for women’s organisations, health care professionals and EU officials to support migrant women’s needs. Some of these are:
- Affirmative action is needed in order to effectively protect women migrants; displacement needs to be taken into account.

- Take into account the multidimensional forms of discrimination that women are facing.

- Implementation of measures of protection of women’s rights contained in International agreement – such as CEDAW.

- Create the mechanism for institutional support: support the establishment and funding of NGOs.

In their discussions to find better solutions they identified international solidarity as being very important in order to learn from other struggles and share experiences to help in other struggles.

In the Middle East, as in many other parts of the world, there is a silent genocide or feminicide of women and there is an urgency to find alternatives. Women need to be able to exit from poverty and violence but it is also important to say to the world that women are not just victims – they are developing alternatives and creating new ways of living. Kurdish women have drawn up a new Social Contract written from women’s perspectives. It doesn’t present a ready solution but it is a call to all women to take part in creating and becoming part of the solution in opposition to the patriarchal system, which threatens humanity’s very existence. They have started to discuss this new social contract in the Middle East, but they want to share it and discuss it with women more widely. By analysing the roots and reasons for violence, war and migration, women from all over the world can play an important part in finding solutions.
Migrants’ Rights and the National Assembly of Ecuador

Dora Aguirre, member of the National Assembly of Ecuador representing migrants in Europe, Asia and Oceania.

A new political culture in Ecuador is coming to life that enshrines the rights of women and of migrants living abroad in its new political constitution.

When she arrived in Spain many years ago, Dora Aguirre was involved in creating a women’s organisation for migrant workers to have a meeting place for reflection, analysis and debate and to develop new proposals on migration policies. A fundamental need was to improve the quality of life of migrants and their families in Ecuador, so they channelled support for co-development projects between Ecuador and Spain to promote their social integration. The first eleven years were difficult because they had no institutional support; however, having an organisation was important to support the participation of migrants and to gain political influence both in Ecuador and in Spain.

They carried out different advocacy initiatives, for example when a number of undocumented migrants were killed in Spain in a labour accident, they mobilised hundreds of migrant to march and make demands on politicians to regularise the situation of undocumented workers. Undocumented migrant workers had no rights so they looked for support from the Spanish people. They used tactics such as lock-ins in churches to explain and present their demands directly to the Spanish community so they would join their initiatives and also to get publicity and support from the media. Dora suggested that all these efforts contributed to a very positive outcome as in 2001 all undocumented migrant workers in Spain were made legal.

Creating a new society

They had many issues on their agenda. A key one was the right of migrant workers to have the right to vote in Ecuador and in Spain. This door was opened for them in Ecuador in 2006 following a change of government which is leading to profound social changes in Ecuador where they are promoting a new society. Now, for the first time migrants living abroad are allowed to vote and to elect their president, vice president and government representatives. In Ecuador they are drawing up a new Constitution with new laws in all the areas of concern to the population and they talk about 'la convivencia ciudadana', citizens living together, respecting diversity and sharing a new harmony with nature. It is a different way to build a society; they are striving for a multi-cultural society in which people live well which they call 'sumak kawsay' (meaning good living in Quechua).

In Ecuador nobody used to talk about migrants despite there being millions of Ecuadorians living abroad. They are now developing public policy in Ecuador on migration and they consider it fundamental to have the participation of Ecuadorians who are living abroad involved in discussions and to
have a diversity of voices in decision-making spaces. A big step has been taken to support migrants’ demands and for the first time ever there will be a new ministry in charge of migration policy that will provide assistance to migrants and their families in their country of origin and destination. Ecuador is the only country in the world that has specifically stated that they will not classify anyone as illegal or discriminate against them because of their migration status.

In the new Ecuadorian Constitution, Article 65 says that the State will promote gender parity for women in all political posts and parties, all over the country. While Article 61 calls for the participation of all citizens, especially women; it also says that any citizen can be elected as a political representative whether they live abroad or in Ecuador. In the new electoral system migrants abroad are divided into three regional constituencies and migrants in these regions can elect two parliamentary representatives to the National Assembly in Ecuador. Dora was elected as the representative of the European, Asia and Oceania constituency and there are now six elected representatives of migrants involved in developing migration policy and other laws in the government in Ecuador.

“A key issue on the agenda was the right of migrant workers to have the right to vote in Ecuador and in Spain. In 2006, for the first time, migrants living abroad were allowed to vote and to elect their president, vice president and government representatives”.
Discussion

In the questions put to the panellists and in the discussion that followed the issues raised focussed on the positive new alternatives that are emerging for migrant women.

The new social contract being developed with Kurdish women

Dilber Aydin said that the starting point for their new Social Contract was to address violence, injustice, and poverty which are a consequence of a male dominated system. They propose to develop and put into practice a new perspective that includes the renewal of the relationship between men and women and between women and children. They have started a discussion on the Social Contract in the Middle East, in Kurdistan, Turkey and Iran, but they want to extend it globally as it is a global problem and they want to see global solutions.

Developing new social alternatives for migrant women in Austria

Luzenir Caixeta stressed that MAIZ makes the link between theory and practise in different areas of work. They make connections between EU policies in their advocacy work but they also analyse the consequences of their actions for women migrants and do not put anyone at risk. Their advocacy is backed up by research which is carried out by migrant women themselves, as many are highly qualified. MAIZ wants to ensure that migrant women are not objects of research but part of the process. Through their activities they want to change stereotypes about women migrants and the vision that society has of them, as they are frequently seen as victims, poor and illiterate; or even as evil, prostitutes, liars who are the cause of social problems. To do this they use different strategies to make migrant women more visible, such us showing exhibitions in the windows of their building, so that passers-by cannot avoid them.

New strategic directions for Latin American Migrants

Dora Aguirre stressed that in many countries in Latin America they are witnessing a new strategic political direction that aims to change the rules of the game in international politics and economic governance. The work she is doing on EU migration policies is closely related to the work on trade and neoliberal policies and different Latin America countries have put pressure to include a clause on Migration in Bilateral Agreements and Trade Agreements. One of the projects being discussed is the possibility of having a regional Latin American citizenship.
In Ecuador they are working to change the contemporary migration law and establish a new Human Mobility Law, which will include all migrants, including those entering Ecuador from neighbouring countries such as Colombia, as well as Ecuadorians living abroad and to give them the same rights and responsibilities as citizens. This new legislation on migration will improve Ecuador as both a receiving and sending country.
In the concluding session Christa Wichterich summarised the main points arising from the discussions and highlighted recommendations for actions made during the two days of the conference. She pulled together different strands from the presentations and in the workshops and called for participants to develop a roadmap for action: “exposing, resisting, and developing alternatives, a roadmap that moves from practical needs to strategic interests, to envisioning alternatives”.
Exposing, Resisting and Developing Alternatives: a Roadmap for Action

Our vision: another world is possible

Christa presented a vision currently in the international feminist debate of a transnational, global citizenship: where global social rights and entitlements travel with the person who is migrating. For this to be possible it would be necessary to harmonise rights at a local, national and international level and we have to deconstruct our neo-classical concept of citizenship, rights and entitlements, which are linked to nationality and location. We need to have in place international regulations to ensure universal rights and transnational citizenship for everyone everywhere on the planet.

“If we have the courage to build this other world a framework of peace, is a precondition for us to build our feminist world”.

The right or freedom to decide whether to migrate or to stay is an essential element of transnational citizenship and global social rights. There should be sustainable livelihoods, living with dignity, a good life for everybody, everywhere – *el buen vivir* - so there should be no need to migrate, there would be no trafficking and no forced migration, people should have the freedom to decide to stay or to migrate. This is a completely new precondition for migration than what we experience today and would be an essential element to transnational citizenship and global social rights.

Strategies for migrant women’s rights

During the conference a range of strategies were discussed with multi-dimensional, short, medium and long-term perspectives including:

Twin-track strategies: Front line service provision for migrants, intervention to develop and improve policies. Supporting individual claims for rights and gender equality and campaigning for structural transformation.

Triangles for solidarity actions: Prevention, protection and sustainable policy solutions.

Inside–outside strategy: In the political arena advocacy to influence political institutions and maintaining an autonomous position outside these institutions.

The local and global: Ensuring rights and livelihoods are safeguarded in the countries of origin and in the countries of destination.

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Integration not assimilation: Integration, participation and representation of migrants to overcome exclusion and segregation

Empowerment of migrant women

Another theme that ran throughout the conference was that migrants want the right to organise and a right to leadership, they want to speak for themselves, not to be represented by others and have others speak for them. Political participation was also raised and in some countries there are proposals to allow migrants the right to vote in municipal elections after they have lived there for five years. Migrant women want the right to participate in EU policy making and in the EU project of gender equality which migrants are excluded from.

It is important to change the mindsets of people by reconstructing public images and discourses, to counter stereotypes of migrants as unskilled, service providers. Migrant women are seen as an object, a victim, and we need to shift this view to that of a skilled, empowered decision maker, an actor in the market and in the community and to do this we need to support the empowerment of migrant women and their agency.

The economic role of migrants

The contribution of migrant labour to the economy, and to social reproduction for the daily functioning of society should be acknowledged in countries of origin and destination.

Recognition of care, domestic and sex work as work, was one of the demands we heard with regard to the economy. Other demands are for the recognition of the qualifications that migrants bring from their countries of origin, the regulation of care and domestic work and sex work with the enforcement of labour rights, and entitlements to social security, including the right to organise and to form their own unions for collective bargaining. However, this is not the solution to the gender division of labour and the global crisis of care and social reproduction and so we have to look for other more long term, sustainable and structural solutions.
International policies and rights

The neoliberal trade and investment regime and the exploitation of resources in the South and in the East are root causes of forced migration and trafficking.

A number of recommendations for advocacy and action at the policy level are therefore:

- To resist international policies that subordinate human rights and gender justice the neoliberal economy and its respective trade, investment and migration regimes, which destroy people’s livelihoods and prolong poverty in the South and East.
- To expose colonialist, exploitative migration policies and practices by naming and shaming transnational corporations, trafficking agencies and the role of governments in the chain of trafficking and violations of rights.
- To work for a change in EU policies for the decriminalisation of migration, the right to stay, the legalisation of undocumented workers and recognition of domestic workers as workers.
- To expose the intersection of racism, sexism and human rights violations in migration policy and lobby governments to ratify the UN convention on migrants and enforce other international commitments to human rights and gender justice.
- To put pressure on the state to protect its citizens from trafficking, slavery and gender related violence and demand policies to eliminate inequality, redistribute resources and promote solidarity. We have to start with our own governments but also address international institutions like the UN.

Networking and building the women’s movement

The importance of networking and movement building was emphasised throughout the conference. It is important to break the South – East - North divide we live in. WIDE wants to strengthen transnational alliances between women’s organisations, to identify commonalities, build common ground and start joint campaigns, building bridges between migrants and local people, feminists and other organisations, trade unions and to link different social struggles.

Christa encourage everyone to leave the conference with a lot of inspiration and food for thought, with the belief that “yes, we can”, together we can create our own agenda for change.
FINAL REFLECTIONS

In the final discussion members of the audience contributed reflections, comments and issues for WIDE to focus on. One participant considered that it was not necessary to “create spaces” for migrants but to facilitate migrant women to create their own spaces. Another point made was to clarify and expand the concept of “good living” – *el buen vivir*– and how this differs from the concept of “living with dignity”. Another participant stressed that we should be careful with the concepts we use. For example, in relation to sex trafficking for the purposes of prostitution not everyone agrees that sex work is “work”, some see it as violence against women, because women are forced into it and have no other choices, and sex trafficking is perpetuating this crime. It is important to ensure that there is diversity in our voices acknowledging different views.

Another participant stressed the importance of making alliances with other social movements to build a common agenda and to respect different views, which will help to strengthen the feminist movement. It is important to establish pacts among women such as the experience of developing a Women’s Economic Agenda in Nicaragua a common platform which women’s organisations developed together and which they will use to negotiate with the government and the UN on women’s economic rights. The agreement to have a Domestic Workers Convention has recently been approved by the ILO with over 9,000 votes in favour. This is the first step to get support for domestic workers at an international level.

A concrete proposal was made that in its advocacy WIDE should engage more and with a stronger commitment to the issue of migration, which is interlinked with other aspects of WIDE’s work and touches on a number of concerns in relation to the EU economic and development policies. WIDE should take forward the issue of migration by creating a working group on migration, that would continue the discussion on strategies and actions to integrate migration into other aspects of WIDE’s work.

At the end of the conference participants were invited to view the blog on the conference and to share their experiences. In her closing speech Patricia Munoz said she felt satisfied that we came with less, we were leaving with more and leaving enriched with the information and networking and she thanked everyone for their contributions.

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9 The International Labour Organisation (ILO) agreed on the recommendation in reports on Decent Work for Domestic Workers IV(1) and IV(2) and, following discussion at the 99th session (2010) of the ILO, adopted the Proposed Conclusions from the Domestic Workers Committee for a comprehensive standard (a Convention supplemented by a Recommendation). The Report IV(1) was published in August 2010 and provided the first draft text of a proposed Convention on Domestic Work.
ANNEX 1: Reports of the Workshops

1. CEDAW and Migrant Women’s Rights
Facilitated by Plamenka Markova from BGRF and Aleksandra Solik, KARAT Coalition

In this workshop participants shared experiences, information and knowledge on how CEDAW and its various provisions and instruments can be used to protect the rights of women migrants. Special attention was drawn to the General Recommendations, particularly number 26 on “Women migrant workers”. Addressing issues of relevance to female migrants by using Shadow reports to the CEDAW Committee, as well as the complaint procedures under the CEDAW Optional Protocol were also stressed.

On the basis of three different case studies, workshop participants explored how CEDAW, and its various instruments, could be applied to address discrimination and abuse of migrant women and to strengthen the current weak rule of law in order to better protect the rights of women migrants. Chinara Kartanbayeva from the “Forum of Women’s NGOs“ of Kyrgyzstan presented the example of internal migration of women within the country and their limited access to social services and civil rights. Kamila Dadashova of the Azerbaijan Gender Association “Symmetry” highlighted the problems faced by women who entered cross-border marriages and the difficulties they face because they lack independent legal status. Liliya Khamzaeva gave an overview of the pre-requisites, trends and enormous challenges related to human trafficking (including forced marriages, labour trafficking, and sex exploitation) in Uzbekistan.

The workshop concluded by calling on women’s rights advocates to use the full potential of the CEDAW Convention - a “living document” that is constantly being adapted to improve understanding of women’s human rights - in order to safeguard migrant women’s rights.

2. Migration and Violence against Women
Co-facilitated by: Katherine Ronderos from CAWN and Myriam Bell from LAWRS, (both based in the UK).

Katherine began by presenting different scenarios for migration: forced and voluntary and how violence is present during the process of migration for example, sexual exploitation and rape crossing borders. Migrant women workers in Central America, for example those moving from Nicaragua to Costa Rica do not have the legal right to work. She also stressed how migration leads to different forms of violence against women and reinforces existing oppressive practices against migrant women in different spheres.

Myriam Bell talked about the work of the Latin American Women’s Right Service which offers support services to migrant women in London. She is responsible for a project on domestic violence.

In the discussion, participants said that the EU action plan with Latin America has a chapter on migration. It was important to use EU policies, such as bilateral trade agreements and the human
rights agreement to protect the rights of migrant women. The workshop also discussed the role of women’s organisations supporting migrant women and participants stressed the importance of putting forward positive synergies between development and migration and the message that Latin American migrants bring lessons and skills to Europe.

3. Migration in the global economic context of crises: threatening Women’s Rights
Facilitated by Conchita Garcia, WIDE member and active with MIND, the Netherlands.

This workshop was a continuation of the discussions in the first plenary session and part of the discussion centred on the issues of transnationalism, transnational citizenship and global rights. Mainstream discourses often reduce migrants to commodities, economic factors and remittances and the movement of workers is equated with the movement of capital or goods. Rights and entitlements of migrants, their personhood, aspirations and expectations do not form part of the discussions. However, rights and entitlements travel with the migrant and should not be linked to localities, nationalities, race, ethnicity class, caste or gender.

Participants also reflected on the role of the state and international community in protecting and enforcing migrant women’s rights. There are a number of international conventions such as CEDAW or ILO conventions that need to be enforced at national level. This is a particular challenge as under the neo-liberal paradigm the strength of the nation state is weakened. Finally, participants pointed to the need to expose and resist the categorisation of migrants as an additional factor provoking discrimination against them.

4. Urban/rural migration and South-South migration - Case studies from Lebanon and Nicaragua
Facilitated by Lina Abou-Habib, director of CRTD.A, Lebanon and Sandra Ramos, director of MEC the Movement for Employed and Unemployed Women, Nicaragua.

Lina Abou Habib presented a case study on Sri Lankan women ‘freelancing’ in Lebanon as a specific example of South-South migration - migrant women moving from one developing country to another developing country. The migration process is characterised by a lack of protection and violation of human rights, aggravated by the fact that migrants are moving into a high conflict zone. The majority of the Sri Lankan women find work as live-in domestic workers, mainly through an agency that has been involved in and profited from facilitating the employment. These women are often the main breadwinners and care takers of their (extended) families at home, who find themselves in vulnerable positions in Lebanon due to their insecure legal status and bad working conditions. The social movement, trade unions and women’s movements lack an understanding and awareness of the concerns and problems migrant women are facing. So it is important to put the struggles for human rights and entitlements of migrant women and domestic workers on the agenda of these movements and groups fighting for social progress.
Sandra Ramos reported similar problems in Nicaragua. Her organisation is involved in projects trying to strengthen the rights of Nicaraguan women that have moved to Costa Rica attracted by the increasing demands for flexible, cheap labour there. Next to supporting the struggle for labour rights, decent work and dignity of particularly migrant domestic worker, their projects focus on improving the situation of the families ‘left-behind’ in Nicaragua.

In the discussion of both case studies it became obvious that the situation of migrant children specifically needs to be brought to the attention in discourses and policies, as they face multiple discriminations, including the denial of basic rights and entitlements such as the right to education. The issue of citizenship also plays an important role as many rights are residence-based; in many cases access to crucial public services such as health, nutrition and education require some paper proof of local residence.

5. Refugee women as victims of violence

Facilitated by Carolina Gottardo, One World Action, UK.

This workshop discussed a case study from Tanzania looking at involuntary migration and violence against women in refugee camps and formulated several concrete recommendations on how to improve the situation of female asylum seekers.

It was stressed that comprehensive measures have to be taken to facilitate the integration of refugees and asylum seekers into the local context in the destination country (including travelling, language, counselling). Participants highlighted the need to set up a system that provides for a sufficient level of material and legal support to ensure that asylum seekers are not forced to take up irregular, informal employment. Moreover, it is important to strengthen women’s rights, their education and empowerment and enable access to legal redress systems for women facing sexual and gender-based violence.

6. A case study of the Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC) in Asia and Europe

Facilitated by Jackie Pollock from MAP Foundation, Thailand and Regina Barendt from CCC Europe.

The establishment of global production chains facilitated by trade liberalisation is a key component of today's globalised economy; alongside this, we can observe a global trend whereby irregular, flexible, seasonal jobs are on the increase and regular employment is on a decline. Already in the 1970s global supply chains for garments were set up. The high involvement of migrant workers in supply chains is a distinctive feature in this context. In many cases they are undocumented workers, often migrants, who are working in slave-like conditions.

Jackie Pollock exemplified this with a case study from Thailand. Many migrant workers from Burma, Laos or Cambodia find work in production plants at the borders of Thailand. In these factories employers have set up their own rules and disregard existing labour rights and laws, such as a minimum wage. The migration and labour market policies as well as the non-intervention of the Thai government in the violation of labour laws contribute to the discrimination, exploitation and
abuse of migrant workers in these border areas. The MAP Foundation supports migrant workers, and especially women workers, in their struggles for workers and human rights.

In the discussion several key point and recommendations were made. In order to build up joint international advocacy around the exploitation in global supply chains a two-way flow of information needs to be ensured. This includes enabling the workers to make a conscious decision about a boycott of a certain brand/label/product. The consequences of such a boycott need to be carefully evaluated as workers might lose badly needed jobs. Improved synergies between research and activism will also help as activism should be backed up by research. Also the role and responsibilities of the state need to be put back on the table, including the urgent need for more regulation of labour markets.

7. Migration and global care chains
Facilitated by Wendy Harcourt, editor of SID magazine and WIDE member, Italy

Migrating to take up care work is a feature of globalisation but too often this is invisible in discussions on policy related to women’s work, women’s rights and gender equality. The term “global care chain” is still somewhat abstract though rhetorically powerful. More research and case studies on the topic could contribute to make it more visible and help with formulating appropriate policy responses.

Within Europe there are major differences as to how care workers are treated, their conditions of employment, as well as their own sense of their rights. It also depends very much on the legal status of care workers. In this sense there are many different kinds of chains that needed documentation and understanding.

Migrant workers issues should be part and parcel of the overall concerns of the feminist movement, including how women who need to employ migrant workers in order to work can best understand their own position as employers. There is a need to move away both from the idea of care workers as victims, and from a sense of shame in employing care workers.
Recommendations deriving from the discussions propose to ensure that the role of paid and unpaid care work is considered within the larger discussion of shifts in the economy due to the current financial crisis; more detailed case studies need to be undertaken on the global care chain within Europe (East West) and trans-nationally (South-West-East). To involve media in documenting the realities of care work in different parts of Europe would help make it more visible.

8. Migrant domestic workers rights
Facilitated by Georgina Christou of Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, Cyprus, and Sarah Schilliger, researcher and member of WIDE Switzerland.

Based on case studies on the situation of female migrant domestic workers (FMDW) in Cyprus presented by Georgina Christou and on the situation of au-pairs in Switzerland presented by Sarah Schillinger, participants of this workshops formulated several recommendations aimed at safeguarding migrant domestic workers rights. Domestic work and work as an au-pair needs to be
recognised as proper work; both of these categories need to be defined as work categories. Next to clear regulations on the salaries, working hours and social protection related to these jobs, there is a need for recognition of skills in the care sector. Work visas should not be linked to a specific employer so that there is possibility to change employers without any repercussions, such as being forced to leave the country. Also, funding and further of capacity building programmes are needed to support migrant workers in establishing their own organisations.

9. Migrant women groups, diaspora networks and their linkages to women in the South
Facilitated by Charito Basa, researcher and part of Filipino Women’s Council of Italy, Italy and Christina Reyna of Diaspora Solidaria, The Netherlands, with Doris Alfarfa from WO=MEN, the Netherlands as resource person.

Participants in this workshop reflected on how migrant women and women of diaspora networks work together with women in the South. The discussion covered the contributions of migrant women to the communities they migrated from. Remittances are a central topic in this debate. Questions were raised as to whether states and policymakers are putting too much emphasis on remittances and hereby instrumentalising these for their development policies. It was stated that even so remittances are three times bigger than the development aid but this should not be seen as substitute for development aid.

Remittances are complex; we can distinguish between individual remittances - money sent by migrants to their families for basic needs, and collective remittances - money sent by a group or an organisation to support a common project in the countries of origin, aiming at social change. Social remittances are goods, materials or even skills and the transfer of knowledge sent to or applied in the land of origin.

Participants called for more research and increased dissemination of information on gender and remittances. Financial (literacy) education trainings for migrants sending remittances and those receiving them (migrants’ families) would help to leverage the use of remittances from a sustainable development perspective.

10. Women, migration and religion
Facilitated by Samia Allalou from Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUMI), France.

Samia Allalou introduced the work of Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUMI), a network that aims to protect women that are threatened by Muslim Laws. WLUMI mobilizes, for example by e-mail alerts, support for women who are threatened in a specific country or context. The organisation’s web-site (http://www.wluml.org/) contains many resources, including on Muslim laws and its impacts on women.

The importance of being informed on Muslim laws and their origin should not be underestimated; many practices like wearing the veil are not stemming from the Koran but are cultural practices oppressing women. Though many women in WLUMI are secularists or not religious, it is possible to reform the Islam from the ‘inside out’ and empower Muslim women. To be critical of oppressing
cultural practices towards women is totally different to instrumentalizing religion and the Islam in racist and xenophobic arguments as right wing movements in Europe do. The basic premise is that women are entitled to their full rights, including the right to identity, respect for her choices, and equality. When approaching Muslim women, the first step for WLUM is building trust and dialogue on what equality means in the different contexts. From such an initial point empowerment can start.

11. Migrant women and the media
Facilitated by Helga Neumayer, media specialist and part of FrauenSolidaritaet, Austria, and Natalie Giorgadze, of WIDE, Belgium.

Workshop participants came up with a long list of proposals how to make voices of migrant women heard in the media and how, in the context of media work, synergies for working together on safeguarding migrant women’s rights can be build.

Inclusiveness was highlighted as a key concept in this context. Trying to get more faces of migrants on the screen appeared to be an important strategy. Creating (migrant) women figures as storytellers in the media, soap-operas and educational programmes can support this.

While we have to be careful with ‘ghettoisation’ of the media, a two-prong strategy is needed: We must counter mass media hysteria by promoting and exploring alternative media sources; at the same time we need to influence mass media. Hereby continuous and personal contacts with journalists are central. Capacity building workshops about our topics for journalists can support the course while capacity building workshops about media/communications tools for the women’s and migrants groups is equally essential.

12. Vision lab, envisioning alternatives
Facilitated by Bénédicte Allaert, executive director of WIDE, Belgium, and Edme Dominguez, researcher at School of Global Studies, Göteborg University and part of GADIP Sweden.

WIDE as a network is currently engaged in a process of re-visiting its values and principles and packing its messages in a way that it easily gets picked up. This workshop offered an opportunity to share efforts, ideas and proposals for moving ahead with building alternatives.

Sandra Ramos, MEC Nicaragua, shared the experience of her organisation to build a women’s economic agenda together with other women’s organisations and movements and to negotiate this collective agenda with local and national government and international development institutions. Marcela de la Pena shared the experience of Le Monde Selon les Femmes, WIDE Belgium Platform, in building a common agenda through the platform of the World March of Women. This experience allowed making linkage at different levels, for example between the national and international level or between regions. The main points of this common agenda which puts women’s interests above political interests are economic autonomy, fight against poverty and exclusion and fight against gender violence.
Among the key points highlighted when working around feminist alternatives was the need for legal frameworks to advance women’s rights. Furthermore, flexible strategies and approaches adapted to the current situation and power relations need to be developed and put into practice. We also need to fight against gender stereotypes and continue promoting the image of women as crucial agents for change and not as victims; we need to change mentalities. Last but not least, we need to increase and reinforce relations with women’s organisations and movements all around the world.

13. Romanian migration policies
Facilitated by Popa Raluca Georgiana, External Funds Unit from the Schengen Directorate, Government of Romania.

The authorities responsible for migration policies in Romania and civil society preoccupied with answering the needs of migrants are engaged in a dialogue. The authorities encouraged direct communication with civil society so that best practices and effective solutions could be identified. Migrants’ issues are similar all over the world, whether they come from Romania, Belgium or the Philippines, and we should not consider the ‘border’ factor as an obstacle in the dialogue to find best practices and effective solutions for migrants’ issues. It is therefore important to strengthen networking between community based organisations within the EU. Effective social, educational and health care measures to improve the quality of migrants’ lives and to integrate them can only be taken with the collaboration between all stakeholders involved: public authorities and civil society organisations. We need to empower more migrants’ organisations to set–up feasible projects for their own communities and to ensure capacity building. Funding plays an important role. Information on funding opportunities was provided ‘the General Programme the Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows by the Romanian government supports the setting up of projects dedicated to migrants and refugees. It was stressed that migrants and refugees should increasingly become the direct recipients of the grants, so that they are not just used as ‘resource persons’ within a project by other NGOs and foundations.
CONFERENCE Day 1
The conference program is divided into 4 plenary panels and 3 workshop rounds.

9-9:30  Introduction and welcome
*Includes explanation on process Conference Recommendations-WIDE & AUR

9:30 –11:00   Panel 1: Migration in the global economic context of crises: threatening Women’s Rights!

The economic and financial crisis is a symptom of failed neoliberal policies and its impact need to be analysed in this context. This session focuses on the current global economic model and how it shapes women’s migration. It introduces some key trends of women’s migration, globally and in Europe. It will highlight and explore how EU trade policies create a feminisation of poverty and migration and how EU policies impact women’s migration in the CEE/CIS region. How are migrant women’s economic, social, cultural rights violated?

Speakers:
*Natalia Ribas Mateos, researcher at the University of Coruña, Spain, and member, author or many books and articles on gender and migration.

*Liepollo Pheko, senior policy analyst at GENTA, South Africa, on the relations between global economy, multilateral and bilateral trade agreements, migration and women’s rights and livelihoods.

* Liliya Khamzayeva , Future Generation, Uzbekistan.

* Lek Yimprasert, Thai Labour Campaign and president Migrant Workers’ Union

11- 11:30   Break
11:30-12:30   Workshops

1) CEDAW and Migrant Women’s Rights, facilitated by Plamenka Markova from BGRF and Alexandra Solik from KARAT Coalition.

2) Migration and Violence against Women, Co-facilitated by: Katherine Ronderos from CAWN, and Myriam Bell from LAWRS, both based in UK.

3) Further discussion plenary session ‘Migration in the global economic context of crises: threatening Women’s Rights!’, Facilitated by: Conchita Garcia, WIDE member and active with MIND, the Netherlands.

4) Urban/rural migration or South-South migration with case study from Lebanon and Nicaragua, Lina Abou-Habib, director of CRTD.A, Lebanon and Sandra Ramoz, director of MEC.
12:30 – 14 Lunch

14:00- 15:30 Panel 2: Policies and their impacts

This session will discuss more deeply policy making of states, how they impact women migrants currently and how can the rights of the weakest actors (migrant women) be (better) protected. It will reflect on EU migration and economic policies, for migrant women coming and living in Europe, in particular for migrant domestic workers and the interests that shape these policies. It will reflect on EU development policies and how this intersects with female migration. Also it will touch on what are the responsibilities and role of ‘sending’ states.

Speakers:

*Fe Jusay, RESPECT, the NEtherlands

*Andrea Spehar, co-author of WIDE publication ‘Women’s labor migration in the context of globalisation on female domestic work in Europe, how it contributes to societies and how this work is poorly protected by laws and polices.

*Filomenita Høgsholm writer and board and SG member of KULU, WIDE and Babaylan Europe, Denmark on the relationships between development, the role of states and female migration.

15:30-16 Break

16:00-17:30 Workshops

1) Refugee Women as Victims of Violence, facilitated by Carolina Gottardo, One World Action, UK.

2) A case study of Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC) in Asia and Europe, facilitated by Jackie Pollock from MAP Foundation, Thailand and Regina Barendt from CCC in Europe.

3) Migration and Global Care Chains, facilitated by Wendy Harcourt, editor of SID magazine and WIDE member, Italy.

4) Migrant Domestic Workers Rights, facilitated by Georgina Christou of Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, Cyprus, and Sarah Schillinger, researcher and member of WIDE Switzerland.

5) Migrant Women Groups, Diaspora Networks and their Linkages to Women in the South, facilitated by Charito Basa, researcher and part of Filipino Women’s Council of Italy, Italy and Christina Reyna of Diaspora Solidaria, The Netherlands, with Doris Alfafara WO=MEN, the Netherlands as resource person.

17:00 Evening Programme, including party

*First hour Celebrating 25 years of WIDE
*Dinner
*Evening Celebration
CONFERENCE Day 2

9-9:15  Introduction to the day
9:15 –11:00  Panel 3: Walking the Talk: Putting alternatives into Practice and policy

This session identifies the issues women human rights defenders are tackling concerning migration and equality, the political strategies they employ to address problems highlighting their successes and obstacles. It shows examples of successful struggles for women’s migrant rights and ask the ‘how’: how can we put alternatives into practice and policy?

Speakers:
* Claudia Banica, from the Advocacy and Human Right Centre, Romania, on the situation of Roma women linked to migration.

* Patel Pragna from Southall Black Sisters, on their successful struggle to protect migrant woman from VAW through policies in the UK.

* Adila Mammadova Aydin, lawyer for the Migration Centre, Azerbaijan, on strategies to protect women that are victim of trafficking.

11-11:30  Break
11:30-12:30  Workshops

1) Women, Migration and Religion, facilitated by Samia Allalou from Women Living Under Muslim Law (WLUML), UK.

2) Migrant Women and the Media, facilitated by Helga Neumayer, media specialist and part of FrauenSolidaritaet, Austria, and Natalie Giorgadze, communications officer at WIDE Network, Belgium.

3) Romanian Migration Policies, facilitated by Popa Raluca Georgiana, External Funds Unit from the Schengen Directorate, Government of Romania

4) Vision lab, envisioning alternatives, facilitated by Bénédicte Allaert, executive director of WIDE, Belgium, and Edme Dominguez, researcher at School of Global Studies, Göteborg University and part of GADIP Sweden.

12:30 – 14  Lunch
14:00-15:50  Panel 4: Exposing, Resisting and Developing Alternatives

This session will go deeper into envisioning alternatives; what kind of utopia do we envision and what is our common agenda? How can we build bridges between several migrant women’s groups and the women’s movement as well as towards other movements, thus be inclusive in diversity?
Speakers:

* Dilber Aydin from the International Free Women's Foundation on the alternatives Kurdish women in Europe and elsewhere have developed.

* Luzenir Caixeta from the autonomous feminist centre MAIZ, Austria, which is run by and for migrant women in Austria; what are the challenges they face and how do they bring change?

* Dora Aguirre, member of the Equadorian parliament representing migrant women.

15:30-16:00 Break
16:00-16:30 Exposing, Resisting and Developing Alternatives: A Roadmap for Action, presented by Christa Wichterich;
Reflections of audience to conference

16:30-17:00 Closing by conference organisers
ANNEX 3: Speakers and Facilitators Biographies

LINA ABOU-HABIB - Collective for Research and Training-Action (CRTD.A), Lebanon

Lina Abou-Habib is the director of the Collective for Research and Training-Action based in Beirut and working in the Arab region. She has collaborated in designing and managing programmes in the Middle East and North Africa region on issues related to gender and citizenship, economy, trade and gender and leadership. She is a co-founder and coordinator of the Machreq/Maghreb Gender Linking and Information Project. Lina has collaborated with a number of regional and international agencies, including UNIFEM, ILO, ESCWA, UNDP, UNRWA, EMHRN, as well as public institutions, in mainstreaming gender in development policies and practices and in building capacities for gender mainstreaming. She has also trained with the Royal Tropical Institute. Prior to that, Lina was the Programme Coordinator for Oxfam GB in Lebanon. Lina is a programme advisor for the Women’s Learning Partnership and the Global Fund for Women and is on the editorial board of Oxfam’s journal, Gender and Development. Currently, she is involved in CRTD.A’s Arab Women’s Right to Nationality Campaign.

IRIS ALEXE – SOROS Foundation, Romania

Iris coordinates the Migration and Development Programme at SOROS Foundation in Romania. Her professional background and expertise covers areas such as: migration and development, integration of migrants, research and policy analysis, project managements and consultancy to assess European funding. For more than 7 years, Ms. Alexe has served as a consultation on programmes of return and reintegration of trafficked persons within the International Organisation for Migration, Mission in Romania. She holds a bachelor degree in Economics – Marketing Research (Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest) and a master degree in Gender and Public Policies (National School of Political and Administrative Studies in Bucharest).

SAMIA ALLALOU - WLULM, France

Samia Allalou is a French-Algerian journalist and women’s rights activist. She is active for WLULM: Women living under Muslim Laws.

DORA ANADELA AGUIRRE HIDALGO - National Assembly of Ecuador

Dora Aguirre Hidalgo is a member of Ecuador’s National Assembly and representative to the European, Asian, Australian and Oceanian parliamentary bodies. Furthermore, she’s the vice-president of the Commission for Worker’s Rights and Social Security and has made a considerable work in defending and protecting migrants’ rights in Ecuador.

DILBER AYDIN - International Free Women’s Foundation, Germany

Dilber Aydin works for the International Free Women’s Foundation which gives support to social and humanitarian projects designed for women and children in the Middle East and in other parts of the world. Furthermore, IFWF cooperates with women’s organizations and individuals worldwide. She has worked in particular with Kurdish women in Europe.
MYRIAM C. BELL – LAWRS, UK

Myriam is a Chilean refugee of the military coup of 1973 who fled to the UK. Myriam received a BA in Politics from the University of Essex. Myriam protested against impunity in Chile, particularly during the campaign for the extradition of Pinochet to Spain and the establishment of international jurisdiction in cases of crimes against humanity. Myriam is also an active member of the International Human Rights Project. Myriam worked for 10 years in a women’s cooperative as a consultant on sexual and reproductive health, fighting for women’s reproductive rights and the right to abortion. She has also worked as a Community Interpreter for 7 years with Latin American refugees in the areas of health, immigration, housing and education. Myriam has worked for the past 10 years in Latin American community organisations, promoting the rights of immigrants from the region. Currently she is the Violence Against Women Support & Prevention Worker of the Latin American Women’s Rights Services (LAWRS).

LUZENIR CAIXETA – MAIZ, Austria

Luzenir Caixeta is one of the founders of the association MAIZ – a self-organization of migrant women established in Linz/Austria in 1994. She comes from Brazil and has studied Philosophy and Theology of Liberation. Her professorial dissertation in 2000 was on “Migrant Women in the sextrade. Experiences of the association MAIZ with Dominican women living in Upper Austria form an ethical feminist stance.” She is the coordinator of the Counseling Centre, the street work and the research department of MAIZ. She has extensive experience in academic research work and as a coordinator of the research project „Enforcement of Empowerment-Strategies of Migrant Women in the sextrade against violence“ and as the coordinator of the research project „Domestic Work and Caretaking: Strategies of compatibility in different households under the consideration of Gender, Class and Ethnicity“, published by MAIZ.

CLAUDIA CERASELA BANICA-BOSE – Advocacy and Human Rights Center, Romania

Claudia Cerasela Banica is a Roma Expert in Advocacy and Lobby. She graduated in Public Administration in 2000, from Law School in 2004 and acquired LLM in Human Rights at Central European University, Budapest in 2006. She has over 7 years experience at European and national level in Advocacy and Lobby for Roma people and in developing researches on several Roma issues, such as education, trafficking, gender equality and child institutionalization. Furthermore, Claudia Cerasela has worked with several European and national Human Rights NGOs and also in European Commission and the Romanian Government on Roma rights. She has published several articles on Roma people. Currently, she acts as a President of Advocacy and Human Rights Centre, based in Bucharest.

CESARIA CHARITO BASA – Filipino Women’s Council, Italy

Charito Basa is a freelance development and research consultant based in Rome, Italy, who specializes in gender, migration and development issues. She is the founder and moving spirit of the Filipino Women’s Council (FWC), an organization of Filipino women migrant workers in Rome. She
has become a major spokesperson on migrant issues in Italy, and has worked for many Italian and international organizations helping them to manage development projects, to conduct research and to foster networking.

GEORGINA CHRISTOU - Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, Cyprus

Georgina Christou is a graduate of Law from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece and has completed postgraduate studies in Human Rights and European Studies with a focus on ethnic conflict, nationalism and education. Currently she is Project Coordinator and Researcher at the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies [MIGS]. She has carried out research in relation to gender-based violence in adolescent relationships in Cyprus and conducted experiential training with young people on issues relating to gender socialization and human rights through non-formal education methods. She has received training on the above issues by the Directorate of Youth and Sports of the Council of Europe. At this stage she is assistant researcher to the project ‘Young Migrant Women in Secondary Education: Promoting Integration and Mutual Understanding through Dialogue and Exchange’ and coordinator of projects focusing on gender equality and youth.

CONCHITA GARCIA – MIND, the Netherlands

Conchita Garcia holds a BSc in Sustainable Tourism Development and an MSc in Rural Development Sociology, from Wageningen University in the Netherlands, where she graduated with honours. For her thesis she worked with Somali refugees in Yemen. She conducted research on gender issues in different areas, including diaspora, transnational migration and marriages, gender and water rights, and female genital mutilation (FGM). She currently works with migrant women on issues such as integration and women’s empowerment. She has been active in women’s rights for a number of years and is involved in human rights issues in the Netherlands through a Dutch platform of NGOs for human rights. She has her own foundation, through which she supports local NGOs in setting up small scale projects in developing countries. She was the Network Facilitator at WO=MEN, the Dutch Gender Platform (member of WIDE) up to March 2010.

NATALIE GIORGADZE - WIDE Secretariat, Belgium

Natalie Giorgadze is a Media and Communications Officer in the WIDE Secretariat. She is responsible for developing internal and external communication strategy, information sharing, ensuring good working relations with journalists; organizing press conferences and other media-related events, drafting and editing press releases and editing online content. Natalie studied Journalism and Social Psychology in Georgia, Tbilisi, where she is coming from. After working for different TV companies for three years she decided to move to the NGO sector. Natalie was an active human rights defender in her own country organizing different actions, campaigns and movie festivals in Georgia. Following her move to Belgium, she obtained her Master’s degree in Cultures and Development Studies from Catholic University of Leuven. Before joining WIDE, she was engaged in developing and organizing cultural events in a Brussels art gallery.

CAROLINA GOTTARDO, One World Action, UK

Carolina Gottardo is a head of policy with the One World Action, UK.
WENDY HARcourt- Society for International Development, Italy

Wendy Harcourt is an Editor of Development at the Society for International Development, based in Rome, Italy. She has worked since 1988 in the field of gender and development writing widely for academic, research, advocacy, NGO and UN organizations. She has edited four books and her latest book published in 2009 by Zed Books is called “Body Politics in Development”. Based on one of the chapters in the book she has just completed an article on global care chains with Vinca Bigo for the journal of Feminist Economics. She is also currently editing a series of books for Zed Books on gender and environment. Wendy has been an active member of WIDE since 1990 and is immediate past Chair of WIDE.

FILOMENTIALA MONGAYA HØGSHOLM - Babaylan Europe and Babaylan Denmark / Danish Gender Platform, Denmark

Filomenita Mongaya Høgsholm, M.Sc., Dipl.Pæd., B.A. is a migrant women rights activist, freelance journalist-editor-documentary film maker and publicist. She is co-founder of Babaylan Europe (1992) and founding chair of Babaylan Denmark (1997) she served briefly as President of now defunct BWEN, Black Women and Europe Network. As Founding member of PBME, Public Broadcasting for a Multi cultural Europe she worked for inclusion of migrants in the media. She won the Grassroots Foundation Prize for the Danish migrant woman magazine Soldue. Presently, she edits Abakada, magazine on gender, migration and development. And she is Steering Group member in WIDE for the Danish platform KULU> On behalf of Babaylan DK, has set up the Au Pair Network. She is ditor and Compiler of “In de olde worlde: Views of Filipino migrants in Europe,” the first comprehensive publication (412 pp) on Philippine migration to Europe (downloadable on Unesco.org). She has been Global Delegate to the annual GFMD Global Forum on Migration and Development so far hosted by Belgium, the Philippines and Greece and this year in November by Mexico.

FE JUSAY - R.E.S.P.E.C.T (Rights Equality Solidarity Power Europe Cooperation Today), The Netherlands

Fe is a co-founder of the Commission for Filipino Migration Workers (CFMW) and currently works as a coordinator of RESPECT which is a European network of migrant domestic workers with its headquarters in Amsterdam. The network campaigns for the rights of migrant women working in private households in EU countries. One of it’s main objectives is to work together with international partners to put pressure on the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to adopt a specific convention on domestic workers. Jusay herself was born in the Philippines. She came to the Netherlands in 1984 as an asylum seekers and has been actively involved in CFMW’s work ever since.

LILIA KHAMZAYEVA, from Istiqbolli Avlod, Uzbekistan

Liliya works at Istiqboli Avlod as a human rights activist, providing assistance to survivors of trafficking and conducting nation wide campaigns to prevent trafficking. She also is involved with the hotline for safe migration and for survivors of trafficking. Liliya is a women’s rights activist as well and active member of KARAT.
AMANDA KHOZI MUKWASHI -Skillshare International, UK

Amanda Khozi Mukwashi is a development professional with over 15 years experience of leading international development programs in both inter-governmental and voluntary sectors in Africa and the UK. Her areas of expertise include policy development, transformational leadership, gender justice and building a broader constituency base for development in Europe and Africa through civil society. She is currently Head of External Relations at Skillshare International, an international volunteering and development organization. She is a member of the senior leadership team responsible for ensuring the implementation of Skillshare corporate objectives on social change. Her duties focus, in particular, on the organization’s objective to ‘widen understanding and awareness of the importance of international development work through the building of a broader constituency’ across all the countries of operation.

HELGA NEUMAYER -Solidarity among Women, Austria

Helga Neumayer is a social anthropologist and works as an editor of the print magazine ‘Solidarity among Women’ published by Frauensolidarität. And as editor of radio programmes in the area of international development. She works with migrant women’s organizations and activists across Europe and is based in Vienna.

MBELA NZUZI –Refugee Women’s organisation, Romania

Mbela, a refugee woman from the Democratic Republic of Congo, leads the refugee Women’s Organisation in Romania, a refugee NGO founded by a group of refugee women under the aim of ensuring a smooth integration of refugees and migrants through capacity building and competence development related activities. She is also a journalist and presents a TV show on political, social and lifestyle issues. She is one of the success stories among refugees’ and migrants communities that settled in Romania and the living proof of the fact that empowerment is the key for a successful integration in the society.

PRAGNA PATEL- Southall Black Sisters, UK

Pragna Patel is a founding member of the Southall Black Sisters (SBS) and Women Against Fundamentalism. She worked as a coordinator and senior caseworker for SBS from 1982 and is currently the chair of SBS. She has written extensively on race, gender and religion.

LIEPOLLO LEOBHANG PHEKO -Trade Collective, South Africa

Liepollo Lebohang Pheko is the policy and advocacy director of The Trade Collective. The Collective works on issues around social accounting, institutional transformation, social and development policy. She’s also a widely-known gender activist and a social entrepreneur.

ADILA MAMMADOVA AYDIN -Migration Center, Azerbaijan

Adila Mammadova is a lawyer based in Azerbaijan. She received her LL.B. in 2006 from the Baku State University and has been working in the Azerbaijan Migration Center since October 2009 giving
legal advocacy to persons undergone exploitation in Azerbaijan. Her work includes, among other things, rendering free legal services to human trafficking victims and defending their rights and legal interest before the law and other state power institutions. Despite of her young age (born 1985), Adila has also worked as a lawyer in the Legal Advocacy Center, ABA CEELI, and Varidat Consulting Company, LCC, before starting her job at the Migration Center.

MARCELA DE LA PEÑA - Le Monde Selon Les Femmes, Belgium

Marcela de la Peña is Peruvian and sociologist with a master degree in women and sustainable development from the Free University of Brussels. She has been working in gender issues since 1992, especially in Latin America and Africa. She works in the Belgian NGO "The word according to women" as international gender trainer, network's manager of the North-South Women network RAAC -Palabras and evaluator of project of development. The main themes she has been working are: gender and migration, economic literacy and gender and development. She is the representative of the WIDE Platform Belgium.’

RALUCA GEORGIANA POPA – Schengen Directorate – Romanian Ministry of Administration and Interior

Popa is the representative of the External Funds Unit from the Schengen Directorate, responsible for the implementation of the funds dedicated to migrants in Romania through the General Programme ‘the Solidarity and Management of Migratory Flows.

SANDRA RAMOS LOPEZ - Maria Elena Cuadra Movement of Working and Unemployed Women, Nicaragua

Sandra Ramos Lopez is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Maria Elena Cuadra Movement of Working and Unemployed Women (MEC) located in Nicaragua. Since 1994, MEC has been defending the human rights of women in vulnerable situations and developing their ability to confront the problems they face. Besides capacity building, MEC’s work consists of advocacy work and lobbying for public policies which promote women’s economic independence.

CRISTINA REYNA - IFOR, the Netherlands

Cristina was born in Colombia. Since her arrival in Belgium she has been involved in migrant women issues, form different organizations such as Le monde Selon les femmes, Le Collectif de Femmes de Louvain La Neuve. She participated in a European project for migrant ‘women creating spaces for communication‘ of radio Freiburg, Germany. She was also part of `Aqui Nosotras` Latin-American Migrant network in Europe and representative for the migrant women community in the World Women March 2000. She works in the field of development, migration and peace. After working two years in the border between Dominican Republic and Haiti, with the Jesuit refugee and Migrant Service, she came back to Europe, were she is now the Dutch coordinator of the Fundacion Diaspora Solidaria, fund for women empowerment.
NATALIA RIBAS-MATEOS -Universidad de A Coruña, Spain

Natalia Ribas-Mateos is a Ramón y Cajal Researcher at the Universidad de A Coruña (ESOMI, Equipo de Sociología de las migraciones internacionales). During 2009 her main research was centred on; remittances, gender and border spaces (in particularly the Moroccan Jebala and the twin cities of El Paso-Juárez). Her latest individual published work is *The Mediterranean in the Age of Globalization. Migration, welfare and borders* (Transaction Publishers, 2005).

KATHERINE RONDEROS -CAWN, UK

Katherine is the Programmes & Advocacy Co-ordinator of the Central America Women’s Network (CAWN). She coordinates the project ‘Challenging violence against women in Honduras, identifying the links between reducing poverty and promoting women’s rights’. She holds an MSc in Development Studies from the London South Bank University in the UK and a BSc in Economics from the St Thomas University in Colombia. Katherine has focused her work in supporting local organisations in capacity building, women’s political participation and income generation projects for women, minority and ethnic groups in Colombia and the UK. As a Colombian based in the UK, Katherine has been campaigning to address the rights of Latin American women in areas of gender equality, women’s empowerment and participation in peace-building processes. Katherine has advocated for the development and implementation of policies for women to exercise their right to live a life free of violence at international fora, such as the UN and the EU.

SARAH SCHILLIGER –WIDE Switzerland

Sarah holds a M.A. in Political Sciences and Sociology from the University of Zurich and teaches and researches since 2006 as a scientific assistant at the Institute of Sociology, University of Basel. She is particularly interested in precarious labour and migration. Her current research focuses on migrant care workers from Eastern Europe to private households in Switzerland, especially in the private elderly care. She works closely with migrants’ organisations, women’s movements and trade unions at the local and national level. Sarah is in the board of WIDE Switzerland and is an active member of ATTAC.

ANDREA SPEHAR -University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Andrea Spehar has a PhD in Political Science. She did her doctoral thesis in 2007 with the title: “How Women’s Movements Matter. Women’s Movements’ Strategies and Influence on Gender Policy Formation in Post-communist Croatia and Slovenia”. Currently, she is working as an acting director in the Center for European Research (CERGU) established in 1992 within the University of Gothenburg. Its aim it to promote multidisciplinary research focusing on European issues. Andrea Spehar is a senior lecturer at Gothenburg University, the department of political science. Her fields of interest comprise the political, social and gender equality developments in Central and Eastern Europe, gender approaches to public policies and theories of Europeanization.

CHRISTA WICHTERICH -Germany
Christa Wichterich is a sociologist and patchwork-economist in the informal sector: she earns her living as a freelance journalist, author of books, and consultant in projects of development cooperation in Asia and Africa. Presently, she teaches international politics and international development at the University of Vienna. As researcher and author, her main topics are globalization and gender, economy and women’s work, ecology, women’s movements and international women’s policies. She is also a member of the academic council of Attac.

JUNIA LEK YIMPRASERT - Thai Labour Campaign, Finland/Thailand

Junya is a founder and coordinator of the Thai Labour Campaign, a non-governmental organisation established in 2000 with the objective of helping workers not only in Thailand, but around the world to stand up for their rights. Furthermore, it aims to cooperate with national, regional and global labour and human rights campaigns and organisation. Junya is currently based in Finland, and is an active labour and gender activist dedicated to fighting injustice.
ANNEX 4: About WIDE

The WIDE Network is a European feminist network of women’s organisations, development NGOs, gender specialists and women’s rights advocates.

WIDE’s work is grounded on women’s rights as the basis for the development of a more just and democratic world order and the search for alternative approaches to the economic mainstream. We strive for women’s human rights to be safeguarded globally and endeavour to shape a world that ensures equal rights for all as well as equal access to resources and opportunities in all spheres of political, social and economic life. WIDE struggles to halt persistently increasing trends of feminisation of poverty worldwide.

WIDE as a Network

For 25 years, the WIDE Network has dedicated itself to monitoring and influencing international economic and development policies and practices from a gender equality perspective. Together with our 12 national and regional platforms from Western, Central and Eastern Europe and countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), more than 60 members from around the world and our international office, based in Brussels, WIDE lobbies and advocates for women’s human rights principles to be incorporated into European trade and development policies and practices.

The WIDE Network also enables our members and partners to articulate alternatives to the negative impacts of globalisation and makes those alternatives visible.

Main Activities

WIDE has a well-established approach to women’s empowerment and gender equality through our three main areas of intervention:

- Lobbying/awareness-raising and advocacy
- Networking
- Capacity-building

Synergies

Cooperation with other women’s organisations and movements worldwide is of great significance for WIDE. We work together with various NGOs and civil society organisations in Europe and in the global South. WIDE is an active member of a number of international networks, including the Gender and Trade Network (IGTN), the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID), the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD) and the Seattle to Brussels Network (S2B), and is a partner of Development Alternative with Women for a New Era (DAWN).
WIDE National Platforms

WIDE-Netzwerk Women in Development Europe

The WIDE-Netzwerk (network) in Austria consists of 18 member organisations (Austrian non-governmental development organisations – NGDOs) and some individuals (women’s experts). The member organisations delegate one or two women to participate actively in WIDE’s work in Austria for a specified period of time. The main objective of the network is to promote gender justice and women’s empowerment in the context of Austrian and EU development policy, including awareness-raising (development education) and gender trainings in Austria at a political and societal level from a feminist perspective.

Le Monde Selon les Femmes

The Belgian platform was originally made up of two organisations, representing the French- and Flemish-speaking regions of Belgium: Le Monde selon les femmes (LMSF) and 11.11.11. However, in June 2007, 11.11.11 went through internal restructuring and decided to cut the position of Gender Officer. This has left LMSF as the only member of the WIDE Belgium platform at the present time.

LMSF is a feminist organisation and network of 30 NGOs and individual members who are committed to development and to women’s movements. It proclaims women’s citizenship as the ‘fundamental right to have rights’ in the global North and South. LMSF holds the Presidency of the Belgium Commission ‘Women and Development’. LMSF’s work includes training, capacity-building, research and policy development linking women’s and gender issues. LMSF developed activities and tools to influence policy and promote solidarity between women in Belgium and those from the global South. At policy level, LMSF works for the inclusion of a gender perspective and the application of the Beijing Platform for Action in the work of development policymakers and NGOs.

Website: www.mondefemmes.org

Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation

The Bulgarian platform was formed in 2007 and led by the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation (BGRF). BGRF is an NGO of public utility that promotes social equality and women’s human rights in Bulgaria through research, education and advocacy programmes.

The BGRF was founded in June 1998 in Sofia. It consists of lawyers, academics, experts in advocacy, education, monitoring violations of human rights, lobbying for legislative changes, preparing publications, and networking. The BGRF has branches in Plovdiv, Haskovo, Gorna Oryahovitza. Since 2001, the BGRF has also had a youth department.

Website: www.bgrf.org
KULU – Women and Development

KULU – Women and Development is a Danish network of organisations working on gender equality, development and migration. KULU’s main areas of intervention are gender and social equality, movement of people, and monitoring and influencing national and international development policies as well as climate change.

Website: www.kulu.dk

FinnWID – Finnish Women in Development

FinnWID is a non-profit non-governmental organisation registered in Finland that concentrates on gender and equality in development. Its activities include advocacy work to influence Finnish and EU development policies. In 2007–2009 FinnWID supported a development project in Ghana which aims to improve the income-generation and educational possibilities for women in the Hohoe area. FinnWID is a member organisation of WIDE and the Service Centre for Development Cooperation – KEPA.

Website: www.finnwid.fi

Banúlacht – Women in Ireland in Global Solidarity

Banúlacht is a feminist organisation which is part of a global women’s movement. Banúlacht’s vision is of a world where transformed relations of power continually challenge norms and structures of injustice and create new ways of relating based on respect, solidarity and justice for all at personal, local and global levels.

Based in Dublin, the organisation has two staff and an Executive Board of women activists, academics and community development workers. Banúlacht is a membership organisation. Full membership is open to women and women’s organisations in Ireland, and associate membership is open to women and to organisations that are not women’s organisations but are supportive of Banúlacht’s aims (as expressed in Banúlacht’s ‘Feminist Principles’ document). There are currently 23 individual and 24 organisational members. Banúlacht’s work includes training, capacity-building, research and policy development linking women’s issues locally and globally.

Website: www.banulacht.ie

KARAT Coalition

KARAT is a regional coalition of organisations and individuals that works to ensure gender equality and economic and social justice in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

KARAT has member organisations in the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine. KARAT Coalition is a WIDE regional platform. Website: www.karat.org
WO=Men – Dutch Gender Platform

WO=Men (pronounced women equals men), the Dutch gender platform, is a network association of almost 70 organisations and individuals who have committed themselves to equal participation of women and men worldwide. The = sign in WO=Men, stands for global gender justice! WO=men joined WIDE as its Dutch national platform in 2007.

Website: www.wo-men.nl

Coordinadora ONG para el Desarrollo España

The WIDE Spanish platform (Coordinadora ONGD – Spain) consists of 107 NGOs and other regional platforms that work on international cooperation for development, from development projects in the South to education and awareness-raising campaigns in Spain.

The Gender and Development Working Group is composed of NGOs that are members of the platform and are committed to the promotion of gender equality in cooperation and development. Established in 1989, its main objective is to make visible the important role that women play in all different development processes and to promote actions to integrate a gender perspective in all national and international development cooperation policies and programmes.

Website: www.coordinadoraongd.org

Swedish Gender and Development Network – GADNET

GADNET – Gender and Development Network – is a national network open for researchers based in Sweden with a gender perspective on global development issues. The network was funded by Sida/SAREC between 2004 and 2009. The overarching goal of GADNET is to create and maintain a national research community of researchers in Sweden with research interests in gender and development issues, connected to each other through the network.

Website: http://www.globalstudies.gu.se/english/genderstudies/cooperation/gadnet/

WIDE Switzerland

WIDE Switzerland is an association of NGO representatives and scientists working in the fields of gender and development.

The objectives of WIDE Switzerland are to examine Swiss development politics as well as economic policy and foreign affairs with a focus on gender relations, to engage in the public debate, and to convey knowledge in these subject areas.

Website: www.wide-network.ch
The UK national platform for WIDE, the UK Gender & Development Network (GADN), is a diverse membership network of leading practitioners, academics and consultants working on gender and development issues in the UK. The network enables its members to: share information and expertise; discuss concerns; effectively lobby government and international bodies on their development programmes; and provide expert advice and comment on policies and projects.

Website: www.gadnetwork.org.uk