

WE-EMPOWER project is a transnational collaboration of seven migrant women-led and women-led organisations in Europe. The project aims to encourage and empower migrant women to participate in political and democratic life, with the overarching goal of protecting migrant women's rights. The conducted research aims to shed light on the state of migrant women's participation in political and democratic life in Denmark.

NUMBER OF MIGRANT WOMEN IN DENMARK

- In 2021, **there were 300,000 migrant women**, of whom 80,000 had Danish citizenship. During this time, Denmark's population is 5.8 million.
- In the last five years, **most migrant women have migrated from Romania, Poland, and Germany.**
- In addition, statistics show that many migrants came from the USA, India, Philippines, and China.

MIGRANT WOMEN IN POLITICAL AND DEMOCRATIC LIFE

In the Parliamentary elections, **Samira Nawa from social-liberal political party, Radikale Venstre**, daughter of Afghan refugees, was elected. **Monika Rubin**, who is part Polish and part Persian was also elected in the 2022.

Additionally, **Christina Sade Olumeko**, who is Nigerian-French, was elected from the Alternativet, and **Victoria Velásquez**, whose mother is from Nicaragua, was elected from the Red-Green Alliance.

Babaylan-Denmark is a network of Filipino women in Denmark and was established in 1997. Babaylan-Denmark works on several fronts: political, cultural-educational, and social to improve the situation of Filipinas in Danish society and in the Philippines.

Wo-Mi Women Migrants is a platform created by a group of Latin American women that seek to advance the rights of all women and girls, focus on their needs and conditions, and promote an enabling non-discriminatory environment.

BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION FOR MIGRANT WOMEN

- **Rhetoric from the Danish Parliament stigmatises, alienates, and disenfranchises migrant women:** This results in the lack of participation of migrant women at the grassroots level, or in local councils and boards.
- **A growing group of migrant women lack full electoral rights** as only Danish citizens can vote in Parliamentary elections and it is a difficult (process) to obtain Danish citizenship. Many do not know that they can vote in communal and regional elections.
- **Discrimination against migrant women:** Migrant women from Asian and Arab origins tend to experience racial discrimination and xenophobic attitudes at the workplace. These experiences lead to them withdrawing from integrating with their work peers and avoiding partaking in social activities, especially with ethnic Danes.
- **The lack of media representation:** This acts as a barrier to participation for three primary reasons: there is a lack of migrant voices which renders them invisible, a lack of migrant representation in topics of concern to them, and when they do feature, the portrayals of migrants tend to be negative.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROMOTE AND IMPROVE THE PARTICIPATION OF MIGRANT WOMEN

- **An easier access to Danish citizenship.**
- **Migrant women in leading positions on the local level and women in decision-making positions** are needed to advocate for better representation of migrant women.
- **Self-organisation and financial support of migrant women** in political issues is needed; survival of migrant women's organisations requires political and financial support from stakeholders.
- **Affirmative actions and quotas** are necessary because members of boards/committees in different domains (whether it is boards of big companies, or parent committees in day-care institutions) tend to elect people from their own education background and/or gender. Quotas will create new role models.

