

“Integration of Female Migrant Domestic Workers:
Strategies for Employment and Civic Participation”

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Funded under the INTI Preparatory Actions 2005

Draft Agenda

Cyprus, 28 February, 2008

UNESCO AMPHITHEATRE
University of Nicosia

Project partners:



UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑΣ

CONFERENCE AGENDA

09:00 Registration & Coffee Break

09:30 – 09:40 Opening Session

- Eleni Skarpari, Project Administrator M.I.G.S
- Vincent Catot, EC Representative -
INTI/Community Actions-Integration Fund Coordinator

09:40 – 11:25 First Plenary Session – Presentations

09:40 – 10:00 “Integration policies and integration strategies: Migrant women in domestic work in European societies”

- Dr. Maria Kontos, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Social Research at the J.W. Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main, Coordinator of the EU project “Integration of Female Immigrants in Labour market and Society; Policy Assessment and Policy Recommendations” (FeMiPol), 6th Framework Program, (2006-2008), and Lecturer at the J.W. Goethe University, Frankfurt/Main

10:00 – 11:15 Research Results: “Mapping of the Situation of Female Migrant Domestic Workers in the Five Partner Countries”

Presentations:

- Mone Spindler, Researcher, ISIS-Germany
- Tatiana Di Federico, Researcher, Lai Momo-Italy
- Dimitris Parsanoglou, Researcher, ANTIGONE-Greece
- Maria Padrós, Researcher, CREA-Spain
- Margarita Zervidou, Researcher, M.I.G.S-Cyprus

11:15 – 11:25 Discussion

11:25 – 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 13:00

Second Plenary Session – Presentations

11:45 – 12:05

"Filipino migrant women in Italy organizing for change"

- *Charito Basa- Chairperson of the Filipino Women's Council, Migrant Organization in Rome*

12:05 – 12:20

"Domestic work in the private household: Unrecognised in the European economy- Migrant Domestic Workers' perspectives"

- *Fe Jusay, Coordinator of the Women's Programme of the Commission for Filipino Migrant Workers (CFMW). CFMW coordinates the initiative and activities of RESPECT Europe (a network of migrant domestic workers in Europe and supporting organisations) which campaigns for the rights of Migrant Domestic Workers (MDWs)*

12:20 – 12:35

"Collective actions of migrant domestic workers in Greece: the example of KASAPI-HELLAS"

-*Mercedita Canillas-KASAPI- HELLAS Organization of Filipino Migrants in GREECE*

12:35 – 12:50

"Integration of Female Migrant Domestic Workers in Cyprus: a contradiction in terms"

-*Anthoulla Papadopoulou
KISA-Action for Equality, Support, Antiracism*

12:50 – 13:00

Discussion

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:50**Third Plenary Session****14:00 – 15:00****Workshops**

[Please select the workshop you wish to attend using the conference registration form attached]

1. Civic Participation: What does it mean?

[Will include a discussion of voting rights, free language courses, trade unions etc.]

2. Employment Issues [Will include a discussion of remittances, changes in the welfare system, issue of trade unions and FMDWs participation in trade unions etc.]**3. Feminization of Migration** [Will include a discussion of issues of reconciliation etc.]**4. Issues of Representation; 'Revealing or Distorting the Face'**. How can female migrant domestic workers be represented without replicating stereotypes? Can victimization be a strategy? How to give the actors a subject position and an own voice?**15:00 – 15:20****"Non-existent integration policy for domestic workers in Cyprus: A critique"**

-Dr. Nikos Trimikliniotis- PhD in Sociology, Assistant Professor, Director of Centre of the Study of Migration, Inter-ethnic and Labour Relations Scientific Director of Cyprus National Focal Point (RAXEN) and FEMIPOL, University of Nicosia

15:20 -15:35**Integration of Female Migrant Domestic Workers: Strategies for Employment and Civic Participation Policy Recommendations on an EU level**

*-Josie Christodoulou- Project Coordinator - M.I.G.S
[speaking on behalf of policy expert: Dr. Zelia Gregoriou]*

15:35 – 15:45**Coffee Break****15:45 - 16:15****Workshop Reporting****16:15 – 16:45****DOCUMENTARY: "DOMESTIC WORKERS – In Foreign Daily Life"**
*-Director: Petra Valentin¹***16:45 – 17:00****Discussion**

17:00 – 17:30

Closing Session

Josie Christodoulou- Project Coordinator - M.I.G.S

ⁱ *More on the Documentary*

DOMESTIC WORKERS – In Foreign Daily Life

They look after children, do the cleaning, the ironing and the gardening. As domestic staff and au pair girls, they work unseen in private homes and often receive little credit for their efforts. While they relieve working families of many domestic burdens, their work often separates them from their own families, for whom they are often the only wage earners.

Against this global background of migrant workers, the film addresses the experiences and feelings of German, Filipino, Polish and Peruvian women, and looks at their personal development, the decisions they have made, their self-confidence, vulnerability, sense of humour and the pain of leaving a family.

The film describes the themes of illegality, transnational motherhood and intercultural relations illustrated via a multifaceted portrait of the microcosm that is the private home.

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