

# INOMUN 2018:

## RESEARCH REPORT

COMMITTEE : UN WOMEN

CHAIRS : Mia and Eloise

*This committee aims for gender equality and women empowerment, by :*

*- Formulating policies, global standards and norms.*

*- Helping the different governments implement these policies/standards and norms through technical and financial support.*

UN WOMEN places great hopes in the reconsideration of the women's status in:

– **Politics** : only 20% of lawmakers are on average women.

Indeed, they are often underrepresented in leadership positions, left without a voice in decision-making and ignored as an electorate. They constantly face discriminatory laws and institutions.

→UN Women encourages women to participate in public life, and calls for removing barriers to equal participation. It also provides training and formations to women, who would like to become political candidates.

- **Economy** : women earn on average up to 30% less than men for the same work.

Data from 135 countries shows that those with greater gender equality have stronger economies.

→UN Women supports women's economic empowerment, and is thereby working with multiple partners to assure to women, access to decent jobs, accumulate assets, and equal-gender salaries.

● **Everyday life** : at least 35% of women have experienced either physical and/or sexual violence.

Violence against women is a major public health problem and a violation of women's human rights. It evolved across ages, through socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries, and is today a major obstacle to ending gender inequality and discrimination.

→UN Women aims to free them from violence, and works with several countries in order to adopt legal reforms to protect, as to increase awareness of the causes and consequences of violence.

## ● Introduction:

### Migrants are a vulnerable group, and the most vulnerable among them are women.

Women migrating represent half of the 244 million international migrants. They need help, and better living conditions : therefore, UN Women aims to find solutions, and to consider applying their rights.

Nowadays, 3,3% of the population is living outside their country of birth. We live in a world where people are constantly on the move, fleeing poverty, conflicts, devastation of their own country, hoping to improve their livelihood opportunities.

Migrants have always been considered as a homogenous group, without considering the different needs due to gender.

Thereby, migration policies expose women to an heightened risk of human rights violation and forced labour.

*UN Women already helped millions of women migrants around the world.*

*Here are a few examples :*

### **Philippines :**

helped promoting workers rights

### **Ethiopia :**

created « Community Conversations » : it encourages women migrants to share experiences, their knowledge, in order to prevent exploitative and illegal migration

+ organized a program which has trained more than 6000 women in marketing and business management : 8000 women have used expanded credits to start and build their own business.

### **Mexico :**

attended training workshops to strengthen women's migrants involvement in their new community, to help them finding their own voice and understand their rights.

### **Nepal :**

offered longstanding support to women's safe migration, including by advocating for the passage of the 2007 Foreign Employment Act. It bans discrimination based on gender, removing restrictions on women working aboard, and provides measures guaranteeing women's security and rights.

### **Pakistan :**

worked with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to open women's access to finance and markets.

### **Moldova :**

created the first migrant workers' organization which already support around 60 women migrants workers.

### **Congo:**

created The Lusenda Refugee camp for women and children, when they had to fled political conflict in Burundi. Here, UN Women offered them skills training and psycho-social counselling : they were able to integrate their new lives, and so to regain dignity and confidence.

**Knowing that 1 out of 3 women has experienced either physical or sexual violence, and that 70 % of human trafficking's victims are women, policies should be migration right-based, and be formulating gender-responsive resolutions.**

Women migrants are exposed to higher risks of...  
> sexual violences >rape >health complications  
>forced marriage >sexual harassment, >physical harm  
>transactional sex >physical assaults >injury  
>domestic violence >psychological stress and trauma >exploitation.

The list is long. It is needed, that laws which govern migration respond to these inequalities. Indeed, violence towards women is one of the main obstacles to gender equality as well as the fulfilment of women and girls' human rights. But it is also frequent, that women have been prevented from leadership positions because of nursing or pregnancy. This leads to irregularity of women migrating, and increases even more the risks of traffic, domestic servitude, sexual exploitation and physical violence.

These women, seeking for a better life, often have to sacrifice their dignity, safety and even their lives, to just benefit of their fundamental rights : because of the lack of reasonable mechanisms for regular migration. Forced to leave their countries in massive migration, women and girls rarely have access to clean and secure private access to washing facilities or to sleeping quarters.

Other flows of migration than massive migration exist, for example in the recent years, there has been an increase of women autonomous migrants for the purposes of work:

#### **« Feminisation of migration ».**

Some women decided to leave their countries, in order to have access to respectable jobs which, nowadays, are like a dream to millions of women. Only a small number of women manage to reach upper level positions in leadership and management because of labour markets that channel women disproportionately into work considered traditionally acceptable for women. But this migration still carries dangerous risks such as exploitation in domestic jobs and sexual violence. Drastic measures should be taken to advocate employment policies that will improve labour market conditions and to promote decent work for women.

Women have the right of professional development and equal treatment with men at work, and UN Women advocates safe migration for women globally, and in most affected countries.

Unfortunately, working conditions for women migrants is not their only challenge. Women face dangerous hazards on the medical side too which are multiplied during the stages in migration.

On the worldwide scale, about 17,8 million women live with HIV, constituting 51 of all adults living with the deadly disease. New HIV infections occur everyday affecting adolescent girls and young women and not much has been put in place to decrease the rate of spreading. Not only are there significant regional differences, but there is also a notable gender discrepancy, opposing the proportion of young men and women suffering from it. The factor fuelling HIV is mostly sexual violence against women and girls. Indeed 45% of adolescent girls report that their first experience was forced. Moreover, in migrants' refugee camps the risk of a girl being raped is multiplied. Women's safety is almost non-existent. They deserve birth control less than European woman who lives in good conditions, for example. According to UN reports, 60% of preventable maternal deaths happen in humanitarian settings. Access to birth control and medical aids is extremely restrained for these women.

Nevertheless, it is at border controls that women are the most attacked. They fear rape due to their vulnerable condition and thereby need to take birth control to protect them not only from HIVs, but also from pregnancy they won't be able to assume.

However, there is an important lack of information on HIV prevention, leading to powerless women not able to negotiate condom use and engage in safer sex practice, even in the context of marriage. In many countries, legal norms directly affect women's risk of acquiring HIV.

**Laws meant to protect them are insanely weak, and subordinate status of women is reinforced by the lack of legal rights. Women migrants' vulnerabilities and needs are rarely at the forefront of humanitarian response even though their execrable living conditions (in refugee camps or in less developed countries) worth serious consideration.**

## • **What should resolutions be about?**

- Preserve women's rights.
- Make sure women migrants can be safe, not only in origin and destination countries but also during transit.
- Strengthen the specific areas where migrants are obliged to go through.
- Encourage discussion between world leaders, in order to find equitable way of responding to large movements of population/share responsibilities and ideas.
- Empower women and gender equality.
- Eliminate all forms of violence against women.
- Make labour migration safe and fair.
- Improve data and knowledge on the rights and contribution of women migrants workers.
- Insist on awareness campaigns targeting safety, well-being and fair treatment of women.
- Provide essential services.
- Identify and support vulnerable groups, considering the specific needs of both women and men and their respective rights.

## **Bloc positions Major area 2000:**

<b>World</b>	<b>48.8</b>
<b>More developed regions</b>	<b>50.9</b>
<b>Less developed regions</b>	<b>45.7</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>52.4</b>
<b>Northern America</b>	<b>51.0</b>
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>50.5</b>
<b>Northern Africa</b>	<b>42.8</b>
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	<b>47.2</b>
<b>Southern Asia</b>	<b>44.4</b>
<b>Eastern and South-eastern Asia</b>	<b>50.1</b>
<b>Western Asia</b>	<b>48.3</b>
<b>Caribbean</b>	<b>48.9</b>
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>50.5</b>