



# MIGS NEWS

A publication by the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS)  
*MIGS is a non-profit NGO affiliated to the University of Nicosia*

## Editorial

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the MIGS team, I would like to wish all our readers a very happy and healthy 2010! In this issue you will find details of all MIGS activities up to the end of 2009. This was an extremely busy period for the MIGS team and we are delighted to share with you the results of our activities which included training workshops, seminars, and lobbying and advocacy initiatives.

During this period, MIGS organized a number of events including a symposium on gender equality and anti-discrimination policy with the participation of distinguished academics and activists, including Mieke Verloo, Scientific Director of the [Quing Project](#), and Myria Vassiliadou, Secretary General of the [European Women's Lobby \(EWL\)](#). Also in partnership with the EWL, MIGS organized an empowerment workshop for migrant women followed by a policy seminar on the integration of migrant women, within the framework of the project "Equal Rights, Equal Voices: Migrant Women in the EU". In relation to violence against women (VAW), MIGS partnered with the [WAVE Network](#) to implement an intensive training workshop for over 25 professionals working in the area of VAW, using a gender equality perspective. We also issued a number of press releases on VAW and attended meetings at the House Committee on Equal Opportunities to discuss progress in, as well as continuing challenges to, the elimination of all forms of violence against women.

It was a particular honor for MIGS to host over 45 representatives of women's groups, academics, and activists from across the Middle East and North Africa in a regional consultation on the implementation of the CEDAW Convention in the MENA region, organised by [IWRAP-Asia Pacific](#) in collaboration with MIGS. We hope to continue to work closely with women's groups in the region for the realization of women's rights on all levels.

Finally, we are delighted to announce that MIGS has been awarded a grant from the European Commission European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals to implement a project on the integration of young migrant women in secondary school. This is a particularly challenging and complex issue and we expect to produce exciting results that will be of interest to relevant stakeholders both on a national and European level.

Please continue reading for more details on all of the above and more!

Happy reading!

MIGS Team

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## New Projects

### Young Migrant Women in Secondary Education - Promoting integration and mutual understanding through dialogue and exchange



The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) has received a grant from the [European Commission European Fund for the Integration of Third-country Nationals](#) to implement a transnational project entitled “Young Migrant Women in Secondary Education - Promoting integration and mutual understanding through dialogue and exchange”.

The main aim of the project is to identify how the intersection of gender and ethnic stereotyping produces forms of exclusion and marginalization as experienced by young migrant women in the context of secondary education and to identify the gaps between mainstream integration measures and young migrant women’s needs using a critical gender perspective. It also aims to develop recommendations for policies and measures aimed at improving the quality of services and structures in the educational context and to recognize and respond to the different needs of young migrant women in the secondary education.

For more information please visit our website [here](#).

## Project Updates

### Youth Alert - Theatre in the Promotion of Gender Equality Awareness for Young People

The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies [MIGS] received funding from the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism to implement a project entitled: ‘YOUTH ALERT: Theatre in the Promotion of Gender Equality Awareness for Young People’. The main aim of the project is to raise awareness and critical thinking on gender [in]equality and gender socialization among young people while providing them with a forum to become actively involved in addressing these issues using creative and innovative methods including theatre.



The first stage of the project has been successfully completed with a series of four training workshops involving 25 young Cypriot women and men who engaged in discussion and experiential activities on a variety of issues relating to gender inequality ranging from gender and identity, gender stereotypes and roles, sexual and reproductive rights, and gender-based violence.

For more information including a full report on the workshops please visit our website [here](#).

The second phase of the project will involve the production and performance of a theatrical play, inspired by the Vagina Monologues by Eve Ensler, addressing the issue of gender [in]equality and gender-based violence, with the involvement of young women and men that participated in the training workshops.



## Daphne III - Perspective Project

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The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies is a partner to a project coordinated by the City of Modena, Italy entitled Perspective: Peer Education Roots for School Pupils to Enhance Consciousness of Tackling and Impeding Women Violence in Europe funded by the European Commission Daphne III Programme. The specific objective of the project is to raise young people's awareness on gender violence and to propose emotional and relationship models based on mutual respect between genders, thus preventing the perpetration of violence in the future.

Within this context, MIGS is organizing training workshops in three secondary schools in Nicosia on the issue of gender-based violence involving more than 50 teenagers in active discussion and experiential activities on this issue. The schools participating in the program include the GC School of Careers, the Latsia High School, and the Grammar School. Teenagers are also trained in peer education skills so that, following their training, they will be able to train their peers on issues such as bullying, violence within adolescent romantic relationships, and gender stereotypes. Moreover, through the workshops teenagers have the opportunity to contribute to an awareness raising campaign by creating posters which include their own key messages addressing the issue of gender-based violence in adolescent relationships.

For more information please visit our website [here](#).

## End FGM European Campaign

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In 2009, MIGS partnered with Amnesty International Ireland for a campaign that aims to echo the voices of women who have undergone mutilation and those at risk. Along with our partner organizations in numerous EU member states, the [END FGM-European Campaign](#) seeks to ensure that the European Union protects the rights of women and girls who have been subjected to, or are at risk of female genital mutilation through a supportive legal framework, a trained health sector and developed community services. Already, numerous organizations from almost all EU member states have declared their support to this campaign.

On October 2-3, 2009 the project partners met in Portugal at a meeting hosted by the Family Planning Association in Portugal (APF) to formulate the priorities for the END FGM campaign strategy. The meeting brought together 13 institutes in the field of Women's and Gender Studies, and FGM. Asylum, healthcare, EU development cooperation and child protection were some of the areas that were considered during the meeting. The meeting was followed by one-day media training for all partners and the newly appointed strong voices of the campaign.

This strategy will be launched across the European Union by the partners in the in February - March 2010.

MIGS will be hosting one of the FIVE STOPS TO END FGM in Nicosia on the 24 February 2010!

Please support the campaign by signing the declaration of intent here!  
<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/declarationofsupport/index.html>

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## Equal Rights, Equal Voices: Migrant Women in the EU



MIGS, in partnership with the European Women's Lobby ([www.womenlobby.org](http://www.womenlobby.org)), and with the support of the European Programme on Integration and Migration (EPIM) of the Network of European Foundations for Innovative Cooperation (NEF), implemented a project within the framework of the project "Equal Rights, Equal Voices: Migrant Women in the EU". The activities took place on the 20-21 December 2009 within the framework of International Migrant's Day on the 18 December.

Within this framework, MIGS in cooperation with KISA - Action for Support, Equality and Anti-Racism (KISA) organized a capacity building workshop, with the participation of 20 migrant women from various communities, which aimed at empowering migrant women and initiating the development of a migrant woman organization that could, in future, act as the Cyprus national platform for the European Network of Migrant Women.

The workshop was followed by a policy seminar that took place the following day at the University of Nicosia. The aim of the seminar that was attended by over 30 participants was to expose and explore issues affecting migrant women in the EU and in Cyprus and discuss the need to integrate gender mainstreaming in migration and integration policies in Cyprus. The event received extensive coverage from the print and television media.

For more information please visit our website [here](#).

## MIGS Events & Activities

### Reclaiming Gender: Understanding Equality Policies in EU and Cyprus



MIGS organized a Symposium entitled *Reclaiming Gender: Understanding Equality Policies in the EU and Cyprus* on the 9 October 2009 at the University of Nicosia.

The aim of the symposium was the presentation and discussion of current developments in relation to gender equality policies and anti-discrimination in Europe, with particular emphasis on the cases of Cyprus and Greece.

The symposium comprised of a policy seminar, which aimed to provide a comparative analysis of the content and scope of gender equality policies in the EU followed by a workshop focusing on theoretical and methodological frameworks in relation to gender equality. The symposium was supported by the UNESCO Participation Programme and the National Machinery for Women's Rights.

Over 50 participants attended the seminar and 30 participated in the afternoon workshop. The seminar provided a forum for much needed dialogue, analysis, and understanding among all relevant stakeholders on gender equality policy in Cyprus. The afternoon workshop was mainly addressed to students, researchers, and scholars interested in equality policy providing an analysis of theoretical and methodological frameworks in relation to gender equality.

For more information please click [here](#).

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## WAVE Training on Violence against Women and Children



MIGS, in cooperation with WAVE Network & European Info Centre against Violence ([www.wave-network.org](http://www.wave-network.org)), and the Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family, organised a three-day closed training workshop for professionals working in the area of violence against women (VAW) and children. The workshop took place at the Classic Hotel on the 9-11 November 2009. The aims of the workshop were to raise awareness on the dynamics of violence against women and children, to exchange best practice examples between the participants, and to build the capacity of the participants to transfer the knowledge gained to their colleagues within their departments and services through the organization of further trainings.

Conducting the workshop was Ute Rösemann, VAW expert with years of experience in women's shelters, and women's counseling and advocacy programmes. Over thirty participants attended the training workshop from all relevant authorities including the Social Welfare Services, the Public Health Services, the Police, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education, and the women's shelter in Nicosia.

To read the full workshop report click [here](#).

## Gender Media Training Workshop



MIGS, in collaboration with the Cyprus Journalists Union, organized a Gender and Media Training Workshop that took place at the Journalist House on 13 November 2009. Conducting the workshop was Ms Garjan Sterk, researcher and consultant on media and diversity, Ms Marga Miltenburg, former journalist and Director of ZijSpreekt (SheSpeaks) in Holland, and Ms Maria Aggeli, Associate Researcher at MIGS.

The main aim of the workshop was to discuss how the media can contribute towards the realization of gender equality and promote the equal participation of women in public life. The workshop, that was attended by ten journalists from both the print and radio media, also aimed to explore ways in which journalists can incorporate a gender perspective in their work and promote non-biased and gender-balanced reporting through constructive dialogue.

Read the full workshop report in [English](#) and in [Greek](#).

## Regional Consultation on the Implementation of CEDAW in the MENA Region



Women's groups, academics, and activists from across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region came together this past December in Cyprus to examine the challenges women's rights advocates face in promoting women's equality and non-discrimination, and to consider how the United Nations Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and other human rights instruments can be utilized to support their work.

*The Regional Consultation on the Implementation of CEDAW in the MENA Region that took place in Nicosia from 2-5 December was*

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organized by [IWRAP Asia Pacific](#) in collaboration with MIGS. The Consultation, which was a closed door session, brought together over 40 participants from across the MENA region engaged with the CEDAW review process and working to promote women's human rights in the region.

During the consultation Susana Pavlou, Shireen Huq (IWRAP-AP), and Shanthi Diariam (Founder of IWRAP-AP and former CEDAW Committee Member) visited the Cyprus Parliament at the invitation of the House Committee on Equal Opportunities between Men and Women.

A full report of the workshop will be available on our website soon.

For more information please click [here](#).

## MIGS Press Releases

*Within the framework of our lobbying and advocacy activities, MIGS regularly issues press statements and press interventions on key policy areas.*

### [MIGS Press Release on Violence against Women](#)

MIGS press release in view of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, calling on calling for a strong Ccouncil of Europe Convention on Combatting Violence against Women. Available [here](#).

### [Press Release on Female Genital Mutilation \(FGM\)](#)

Press release by MIGS on the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, with key messages from the the END FGM European Campaign. Available [here](#).

### [Article in Politis Newspaper on Sexual and Reproductive Rights](#)

MIGS article published in Politis Newspaper on sexual and reproductive rights, written in collaboration with the Cyprus Family Planning Association. Available [here](#).

**DID YOU KNOW THAT...?** As part of its objectives and advocacy work, MIGS often works with media professionals and disseminates information through all types of media. You can view all the media articles which mention MIGS and its work on our website at [MIGS in the Media](#)

## MIGS Representation

### [Seminar entitled "BREAK GENDER STEREOTYPES, GIVE TALENT A CHANCE"](#)

Christina Kaili, Project Administrator, participated in the workshop entitled "Break Gender Stereotypes: Give Talent a Chance", which took place on 13 October 2009, in Nicosia. The workshop was organized by the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry in cooperation with the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the International Labour Organization and the European Commission. The aim of the workshop was to highlight the benefits that can be accrued by the business community by breaking down stereotypes and by providing equal opportunities for men and women.

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### Implementation of the Framework Convention on National Minorities in Cyprus

Christina Kaili, Project Administrator, attended a meeting organised by the directorate of monitoring secretariat of the Framework Convention for the protection of National Minorities, on the 14 October 2009, in Nicosia. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the implementation of the Framework Convention by Cyprus, in the light of the Advisory Committee's second Opinion, alongside with the State Report.

### The Changing Facets of Trafficking in Human Beings: Challenges and Policy Developments

Josie Christodoulou, Policy Officer, participated as a speaker to the seminar organized by the European Commission Representation in Cyprus, the Embassy of Sweden in Cyprus, the Center for Migration, Identity and Rights Studies and MIGS entitled "The Changing Facets of Trafficking in Human Beings: Challenges and Policy Developments" on October 16th, 2009. The seminar took place within the framework of the European Day against Trafficking in Human Beings. The aim of the seminar was to inform and promote open dialogue among all relevant stakeholders on all forms of Human Trafficking in Cyprus and in Europe, identify the challenges in combating the phenomenon and policy developments in the area.

### EWL Board Meeting

Susana Pavlou, Director, attended the EWL Board Meeting that took place on the 23-24 October 2010, in her capacity as representative of the Cyprus Women' Lobby.

### Gender Working Group Meeting of the EMHRN

MIGS, represented by Christina Kaili, Project Administrator, recently attended the 2nd Annual Gender Working Group meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN), which took place in Istanbul, 24-25 October 2009, back to back with the Conference on Gender Equality in the Euro-Med Region: From Plan of Action to Action?. The conference was organised by the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN), the Human Rights Association (IHD) and the Euro-Med NGO Platform. The aim of the conference was to prepare recommendations for the Euro-Med Ministerial Conference on "Strengthening the Role of Women in Society", which took place in Morocco, 11-12 November 2009. For more information please visit our website here.

### European Integration Forum Meeting

Georgina Christou, Project Coordinator, attended the European Integration Forum meeting, organized by the DG Justice Freedom and Security European Commission, and the European Economic and Social Committee, in Brussels on the 12-13 November 2009. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the common EU priorities for a cross cutting policy on integration of third country nationals and the development and implementation of the European Fund for Integration.

### Gender Issues in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Conflict, Migration and Trafficking

The MIGS team attended the seminar *Gender Issues in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Conflict, Migration and Human Trafficking* during which, Josie Christodoulou, Policy Coordinator, gave a presentation on "Trafficking in Women in Cyprus: Characteristics, Developments and Policies". The seminar was organized by the Department of Social and Political Sciences, Department of English Studies, University of Cyprus, on 18 November 2009 in the context of the launch of the program in Minor Studies in 2009 and the UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Other key note speakers included, Dr. Simona Sharoni, Dr. Floya Anthias, Dr. Maria Kontos, and Dr. Yiannis Papadakis.

### Sin/Plin CYBC Programme on Violence against Women

Susana Pavlou, Director, was invited to the CYBC programme entitled Sin/Plin on occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on the 25 November 2009. The aim of the programme was to discuss current challenges on combating violence against



women and the situation in Cyprus. Other guests included Dina Akkelidou President of the House Committee on Gender Equality, Anita Koni, of the Cyprus Social Welfare Services, and Aliko Hadjigeorgiou, Director of the Association for the Prevention and Handling the Violence in the Family.

#### Seminar on Violence against Women

Josie Christodoulou, Policy Coordinator, presented a paper on trafficking in women for sexual exploitation in Cyprus at an event organised within the framework of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, organised by the Women's Association of the Cyprus Greens Party. The seminar took place on the 27 November 2009.

#### EMHRN Working Group meeting on Asylum and Migration

Christina Kaili, Project Administrator, attended the EMHRN Working Group meeting on Asylum and Migration, which took place in Cyprus from 30 October - November 1 2009, and was organized by the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) and Cyprus Action for Equality, Support, and Antiracism (KISA). This meeting took place in the framework of a project supported and financed by the European Commission under the Thematic Programme for Cooperation with Third Countries on Migration and Asylum. The purpose of this project is to enhance the capacities of civil society organisations to promote and protect the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the Southern Mediterranean region. During the meeting, Christina Kaili, Project Administrator, gave a presentation on "Trafficking in Women in Cyprus: Characteristics, Developments and Policies".

#### Cyprus Parliament Event on Combating Violence against Women

The MIGS Team attended the event organized by the President of the Cyprus Parliament on the occasion of International Day to for the Elimination of Violence against Women entitled "Commit, Act, Demand: We can stop Violence against Women". Among the speakers were Dina Akkelidou, Member of the Parliament and President of the House Committee for Gender Equality and Sotiroula Charalambous, Minister of Labour and Social Insurance. The event took place on the 7 December 2009 in Nicosia.

## Announcements

#### EMHRN Shadow Report

To read the EMHRN 'Shadow Report on the Implementation of the Istanbul Plan of Action: Gender Equality in the Euro-Mediterranean Region: From Plan of Action to Action?' please click [here](#).

#### EWL Press Release on Prostitution

The European Women's Lobby and the European Policy Action Centre on Violence against Women have issued a press release on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the United Nations (UN) Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. Read the full press release [here](#).

#### EWL - 12 Priorities for the Spanish Presidency of the European Union

On 01 January 2010, the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) will pass from Sweden to Spain. The European Women's Lobby (EWL), calls on the Spanish Presidency to continue to be a driving force for women's rights in Europe and in particular, to ensure the consistent and effective implementation of European Union legislation guaranteeing equality between women and men, including as regards the new provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon, which came into force on 01 December 2009. Read the statement [here](#).



### WIDE CEDAW Newsletter

In the framework of WIDE CEDAW +30 Campaign, WIDE has published a Special Issue of its Newsletter dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Convention of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. We invite you to download the CEDAW Newsletter from [here](#).

**Call for Submissions - Interim Conference 2010: Gender and Education. Diversity of Voices**  
The Interim Conference 2010: Gender and Education. Diversity of Voices is organized by SAFO CREA Women's group (CREA-UB is the Centre of research in Theories and Practices that overcome Inequalities at the University of Barcelona) with the support of the Gender and Education Association. The conference will take place on 8-9 April 2010 and encourages submissions that move beyond an individual perspective of gender and education while seeking a multidisciplinary work examining feminist research and disseminating knowledge for policy makers, researchers and citizens. For more information please see [Call for Proposals](#).

### International Conference on Marginalised Women

To celebrate 8 March, the Isis Centre for Women and Development (Fes, Morocco) is organising an international conference on the 8-10 March 2010 on marginalised women: single mothers, divorced women, widows, household breadwinners - in brief, women without men in a globalised world seriously threatened by the impact of the financial crisis. Interested scholars/activists or post-graduate students are welcome to contact the Director Fatima Sadiqi at [sadiqi\\_fatima@yahoo.fr](mailto:sadiqi_fatima@yahoo.fr).

**DID YOU KNOW THAT...?** MIGS has updated its Reference Guide to Gender and Women in Cyprus. To download the guide please click [here](#).

## WHO WE ARE

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