

PROGRAMMES

The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies concentrates on the following areas of activity.

A Civil Society Programme

MIGS promotes initiatives which strengthen and enhance civil society participation and that empower women, especially in the processes of governance. Priority is given to issues of involvement of women in local and national government; engaging minority and socially excluded groups in training and debate in order to help promote diverse public dialogue; combating gender discrimination and domestic violence; enhancing and promoting social empowerment, human rights and people's diplomacy.

B Education and Leadership Programme

The dynamics of political leadership are explored through two approaches used in conjunction to one another: scholarly and experiential learning [through training, workshops, conferences, meetings and so on]. Emphasis is put on younger women, potential leaders, and other female leaders in the social and political domains who will work directly with international academics and specialists in dealing with traditional and contemporary decision-making processes. Particular focus areas are young women's development and organising; information technologies and the media and, women's political participation. The Institute can potentially support female students whose post-graduate work is related to the Institute's areas of competence and concern.

C Trans-national Peace Initiatives

Given the transforming global political climate and conditions in South Eastern Europe, the Near East, the Middle East, and the whole of the region, priority is given to the following areas: Gender and Peace-making, Peace-building, Peace-Keeping; Preparing for Peace; Policy Making and Ethnic Identities; The Role of Culture in Reaching agreements; The Role of Women in Peace; The Role of Violence during Peace Processes; Minority Rights; Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution; Demilitarisation; Development and Conflict; Media, Gender, and Conflict; Post-Conflict Conditions. The above areas have attracted the attention of various funding agencies and scholarly work both in Europe and elsewhere.

D Archival and Publications Programme

The progressive development of a well-organised, informative web-page on the activities of the Institute, a specialised collection of publications at the Institute's offices and its function as a reference centre for academics, students and other interested parties in its areas of competence are important channels of information and networking. We are currently developing such a programme with the aim of collecting the works of influential thinkers in any area of gender studies. This library will specialise in archival material on Cyprus and the region that relates to gender studies and publications with reputable works, which relate to the Institute's programmes and activities.

Activities

MIGS encourages diverse approaches, creative activities, and a variety of methodologies, and epistemologies in order to promote its broader objectives of an egalitarian, non-sexist, democratic, and tolerant society.

MIGS is closely affiliated to Intercollege, the largest academic institution in Cyprus. The institute has been actively involved, both as a coordinating institution and as a partner, in the administration and implementation of a number of projects related to issues of gender. More specifically, the institute has conducted work in the area of the media, interpersonal violence against women and girls, migration, leadership and decision making, ethno-political conflict, employment and economic life. The institute has received funding from the European Commission, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the British Council, the European Journalism Centre, the Embassy of the United States of America and the National Machinery of Women's Rights in Cyprus as well as from various other national, regional, and international organisations.

MIGS works with a broad network of scholars and researchers with expertise in gender related areas and has strong links with a wide network of organisations working on gender in the Mediterranean region and the European Union, particularly civil society organisations, research institutes, and universities.

MIGS is a member of several large European networks including the European Women's Lobby (EWL), Women Against Violence in Europe (WAVE), Women In Development Europe (WIDE), and ATHENA III - a - Socrates Thematic Network Project. MIGS is responsible for the secretariat of the Women's International Studies Europe (WISE) network. The Institute engages in the regular exchange of information with these organisations and networks through newsletters, mailing lists, country reports on gender related topics, as well as information on new publications, training seminars, workshops, and conferences.



Profile of the Institute

The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies [M.I.G.S.] (Reg. no. 234) is a non-profit organisation which promotes and contributes to projects of social, political, and economic themes relating to gender with an emphasis on the Mediterranean region.

The Institute recognises the multilayered levels of discrimination against women and accepts that this discrimination takes different forms. It is committed to the elimination of this discrimination using a combination of research, advocacy and lobbying, as well as trainings, conferences, and other activities with the aim to:

- > Stimulate interest in gender research in the Mediterranean region and identify key areas of concern and action in the area.
- > Systematically address, analyse, and conduct research on, for, and by women; review and use existing information on women and the gender system such as research, statistical information and other available data and make relevant recommendations on policy and practices in related areas. Support gender research through library and documentation services, including the introduction and promotion of a system of data collection by gender.
- > Identify the need to develop new legislation that corresponds to the new conditions and protects women's rights effectively.
- > Increase awareness of gender issues in civil society and facilitate the capacity for action by providing all interested parties with information and organising training, campaigns, seminars, workshops, and lectures.
- > Support and promote educational programmes, including post-graduate work, in related areas in collaboration with research Institutes and universities.
- > Develop methods and take initiatives on peace-building and conflict transformation as these relate to gender issues.

- > Support regional, European, and global initiatives and programmes concerning issues affecting women's lives, such as domestic violence, substance abuse, trafficking, war, and the labour market.

- > Create and support networks with other non-governmental organisations in related areas.

CONTACT US:

For more information on our projects and activities please contact us at:

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