MIGS NEWS

A publication by the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS)

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Dear All,

In this issue of MIGS newsletter you will find the activities of our team in the year 2006.

Since the circulation of the first issue of MIGS News, the Institute has come a long way and has grown both organically, with new staff members and associates joining our team, new projects and activities, and increasing impact and outreach in Cyprus, the Mediterranean, and the European Union.

MIGS is involved in a number of exciting new projects, some the first of their kind to be coordinated and implemented in Cyprus - on a number of issues including interpersonal violence, trafficking in women, and gender and migration.

We have also launched a newly designed website with many new features for simpler navigation and easier access to reports, news, and other information. We also have a subscriber option for regular updates on our news and activities delivered directly to your email inbox! Please visit www.medinstgenderstudies.org. Any comments and/or suggestions are welcome!

An important aspect of MIGS work is its lobbying and advocacy activities that have recently intensified as MIGS has taken a strong stand on a number of issues affecting Cyprus and the region. An example was our drafting of the Shadow Report to the Cyprus government report to the CEDAW committee and our participation in the 35th CEDAW Session that took place in New York this past May 2006. We all hope that through these activities we have made a small contribution to transforming long-held perceptions on gender and that we have done this in ways which are positive and sustainable.

Finally, we would like to invite our readers to contribute to our newsletter that will now be issued bi-annually. Please share with us any exciting new projects, reports, articles, as well as conferences and other announcements and we would be happy to include them. Announcements may also be posted on our website. We look forward to your comments, advice and contributions.

Enjoy Reading!

Contact us:
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Current Projects

DAPHNE II Programme: Date Rape among Young Women and the Development of Good Practices for Support and Prevention

MIGS has launched the transnational project entitled "Date Rape Cases Among Young Women and the Development of Good Practices for Support and Prevention", funded by the Daphne II Programme, European Commission.

The project is coordinated by MIGS in partnership with the University of Malta (Malta), the Institute for Equality (Greece), the Coalition for Gender Equality (Latvia), and the Women's Issues Information Center (Lithuania).

This is the first time a Daphne project is being coordinated in Cyprus as well as the first time that research on this particular topic is being undertaken in the five partner countries where there exists neither government statistical data nor research on forms of violence in relationships. Despite data collected, particularly by Student Consultation Centres at universities and colleges in the partner countries, demonstrating that the numbers of date rape cases among female college students are high, such cases are not officially documented and in the rare cases which they are, they are cited simply as examples of "sexual violence".

The project's main aim is to investigate the occurrences of date rape and other possible forms of relationship violence among female college students in the five partner countries and promote awareness, policy recommendations for victim support as well as strategies for prevention.

Activities to be carried out include the publication of five country research reports, awareness raising campaigns in the form of producing, publishing and disseminating information leaflets, training workshops, the preparation and publication of a training manual for training government and NGO officials and the police, the publication of a resource book incorporating all the activities of the project and a final international conference.

For additional information, please contact the project administrator, Susana Pavlou, at: daphne@medinstgenderstudies.org or visit our website at: www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=18

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INTI Preparatory Actions: Integration of Female Migrant Domestic Workers: Strategies for Employment and Civic Participation

The 29th of September 2006 marked the launch of the project "Integration of Female Migrant Domestic Workers: Strategies for Employment and Civic Participation", with the first kick-off meeting that took place in Cyprus. The project is funded under the INTI Preparatory Actions 2005, Integration for Third- country Nationals of the European Commission, and is coordinated for the first time by an organisation in Cyprus.

Migrant women and female migrant domestic workers in particular, are a group with special characteristics as they can face discrimination in the process of migration and integration in the host country for various multi-levelled reasons associated with gender, ethnicity, nationality, class and more. The lack of state and other formal means of safeguarding and protecting human rights can often result in these women being trapped in abusive relationships with their employers.

The project is coordinated by MIGS in partnership with CREA – University of Barcelona (Spain), ANTIGONE – Information and Documentation Centre on Racism (Greece), ISIS – Institute Fur Soziale Infrastructure (Germany), Lai-Momo Cooperative (Italy), and the EU Filipino Workers Association (Cyprus). The main aim of the project is to stimulate transnational cooperation involving a wide range of actors at the local, regional and EU level, including migrants themselves, in order to develop recommendations for an integration model responding to the specific needs of female

migrant domestic workers and their host countries and adaptable to different contexts.

The project will consist of activities such as: a mapping survey on existing integration services and policies, best practices and strategies adopted in all partner countries in relation to the target group; meetings amongst policy experts for the drafting of recommendations for policy change; training workshops; the publication of information leaflets and posters to raise awareness; the publication of a resource book, and a final conference.

For additional information, please contact the project coordinator, Josie Christodoulou, at: inti@medinstgenderstudies.org or visit our website at:
www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=17

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Grundtvig 2 – Women: Fit for Politics!

MIGS is involved as a partner to the project entitled Young Women: Fit for Politics, funded by the Grundtvig 2 Socrates Programme. The project is coordinated by the organization "Women without Borders" based in Vienna, Austria.

The project has been funded to continue its work for a second year and aims to advance the equal participation of women in political decision-making processes. 'Young Women: Fit for Politics' is a unique initiative, which puts interested and committed young women in a position to actively fight for a cause and make a contribution to society.

The project aims to arouse interest in daily politics in young women between the ages of 16-25; to provide training to young women to develop skills and abilities to enter in the public and political life; and finally, to develop and publish an interactive and adaptable Training Manual for concrete training of "leadership skills" of young women.

For the second year of activities, plans are underway for the organisation of two-day national training workshops for young women to take place in Turkey, Cyprus and Austria in March 2007, as well as an International Workshop, with participants from all the partner countries, to take place in Vienna in June 2007.

For more information:
www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=14&page=1

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"If we want the world to change and if you are also tired of seeing only men being in power, then women, let us become active and work together for a better world!", were the inspiring words of Polixeni Mavromichali, one of the participants of the pilot workshop **"Young Women: Fit for Politics!"** that took place in Limassol, Cyprus on the 22nd July 2006.

The pilot was attended by 10 participants from all over Cyprus and representing diverse backgrounds. The ice was broken after a few warm-up exercises and the group quickly immersed itself into the workshop's goal: to acquire and strengthen capacities and competences to become an active part in politics and civil society.

The trainers were Chrystalla Ellina, project coordinator at MIGS, and Elisabeth Kasbauer from Women without Borders. Everybody made a valuable contribution to the workshop each in her own way, sharing their experiences and opinion and, above all, enthusiasm.

From identity and orientation we moved to communication / public speaking, conflict resolution, peace / peace culture and leadership, a dense, but diverse program. The training handbook, which all the partners to the project developed specifically for the purposes of this project, provides not only background information on the project and the project partners but also includes

dynamic interactive and group exercises on the above mentioned issues.

"To actively participate, to shape the world, young women need skills and competences which they can pack in their suitcase for the journey into their future!".

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Role of Women in Economic Life in the Mediterranean Region

Technical assistance for the provision of studies, data collection, capacity building and monitoring as well as dissemination of results

The Role of Women in Economic Life- RWEL is a three year programme launched by the European Commission in January 2006 and geared towards enhancing the role of Mediterranean public governmental and non - governmental institutions to facilitate and expand opportunities for women's economic participation. The project covers 10 countries in the MEDA region and is being implemented by the British Council in partnership with MIGS.

The two main components of the programme are firstly, training and capacity building, and secondly, information, communication and networking. Among the activities selected to be carried out are promoting women's participation in policy debate on economic participation and building national, regional and international business women's networks.

On the whole, the programme will share the knowledge base it will generate by engaging in awareness-raising actions, dissemination of information and communication. This will include the collection and dissemination of results, exchange of information and networking among Euromed beneficiaries, cross regional cooperation and synthesis of key lessons learned. Study results (e.g. legal regulations, innovative financial tools, etc.) will be promoted through regional seminars, mid-term review and a closing conference.

As a partner to this project MIGS is responsible for the compiling and editing the quarterly EUROMED Gender Equality Newsletter, organising, co-facilitating and/or providing technical inputs in selected regional meetings, and for providing regular inputs to the project's website. MIGS also plays an active role in the communication and dissemination strategy of the project.

The first issue of the EUROMED Women's Rights Quarterly newsletter is now available at www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=108 or www.euromedwomensrights.net

Seven NGO consortia from across the region gathered in Cairo 26-29 June for the **First Regional Partners Meeting**. Held at Cairo's Nile-side Conrad Hotel, the meeting marked the launch of the EUROMED Women in Economic Life Regional Programme.

Besides the NGO consortia from such countries as Turkey to Morocco, the meeting was attended by the RWEL Technical Assistance Team, representatives from the European Commission (EC) Brussels, and the EC delegation in Lebanon, as well as the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies. The meeting provided a forum for partners to become familiar with the aims, objectives and approach of the RWEL regional programme, clarify the roles of the various stakeholders involved, including the technical assistance team, the EC delegation in Lebanon, and the EC Brussels. It also worked to define the expectations of all those involved.

A valuable aspect of the meeting was that it provided an opportunity for the project partners to become acquainted with each others work and exchange information and experience on best practice, share lessons learned and establish linkages on issues of mutual interest and concern. As a result of this five working groups were established with the aim of proposing specific activities, within the framework of the RWEL regional programme, on areas requiring special support and assistance.

Mapping the Realities of Trafficking of Women in Cyprus

MIGS has received funding from the National Machinery for Women's Rights to carry out a research project entitled "Mapping the Realities of Trafficking in Women in Cyprus".

The main aim of the proposed project, which will be carried out using a gender-sensitive perspective, is to raise awareness of the phenomenon of trafficking in women for sexual exploitation as well as the living conditions of trafficked women in Cyprus.

Among the project's specific objectives are to conduct research on the issue, assess the conditions under which trafficked women are forced to live in Cyprus and finally, attempt to create a profile of these women in order to be able to identify them for future prevention of the phenomenon.

The research is now in its final stages and the final report is due for release in January 2007.

Leaflets / Posters on Trafficking in Women

As part of our efforts to combat trafficking in women, MIGS has published awareness-raising leaflets and posters on trafficking in women. This effort has been funded by the National Machinery for Women's Rights.

The institute recognizes that trafficking in human beings is a large- scale human rights violation which can take diverse forms including trafficking for sexual exploitation, and forced labour.

The leaflets aim to inform and raise awareness among students, policy makers and government officials, as well as the general public about trafficking in women and specifically questions relating to the following:

a. What is human trafficking and when does it occur?

b. How many women are victims of trafficking worldwide?

c. Why are women vulnerable to human trafficking?

d. Do women choose to take these risks?

e. What lives do trafficked women have?

f. What can be done to prevent and combat human trafficking?

g. Where to seek more information about trafficking in human beings in Cyprus.

The posters and leaflets may be downloaded from the following web link:

http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=25

Trafficking Reference Guides

MIGS is pleased to make available its **Guide to Reference Sources on Trafficking in Women** and its **Guide to Websites on Trafficking in Women**.

The aim of the Reference Guide is to identify reference sources in English for trafficking issues worldwide. The aim of the Website Guide is to provide a comprehensive list of websites which deal with the subject of trafficking in Women. Both guides are addressed to students, researchers, policy makers, scholars and/or anyone interested in such issues.

MIGS hopes you find the guides helpful and welcomes additional updates.

Both guides are available at the following link:

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=134

ELANI: Open Doors, Equal Initiative

MIGS is excited to be involved as a partner to the project entitled "ELANI – Open Doors – Reconciliation of Professional and Family Life", coordinated by the Cyprus Gender Equality Observatory – PIK, and funded by the Equal Initiative of the European Structural Funds. The project constitutes the first major step towards the establishment of a culture of equal opportunities for women and men in the workplace. Specifically, MIGS is responsible for Action 4 "Mapping of the Social Gender Map of Cyprus", whose main aim is to map the situation of women in the society of Cyprus with regard to employment and reconciliation of family and professional life.

The project targets women whose ability to work is undermined due to family obligations, unemployed women, women who have never worked but who wish to enter the labour market, and finally, businesses and organizations in the public and private sector willing to adapt to a business culture friendly to women.

Its basic aims include formulating a new business culture friendly towards women and promoting a more equitable working environment; developing essential support mechanisms and structures that offer services to women; identifying and exchanging experiences and best practices through the application of "reconciliation plans" within specific organizations.

MIGS is also an active participant in other actions of the project including Action 5: "New models – New culture and labour environments". Within the framework of the action, training seminars have been organized to train members of each partner organization as well as members of the Labour Department of the Ministry of Labour to provide recommendations for family friendly policies in their respective organizations. MIGS was involved in the training seminars, which took place from 26 December – 23 November 2006, both as trainers and trainees. Chrystalla Ellina, Josie Christodoulou, Susana Pavlou and Krini Kafiris conducted training sessions on Sex/Gender and Stereotypes, Gender Equality and the Cyprus Reality, European Gender Equality Policy, Migrant Women and trafficking in Women, Gender Mainstreaming, and Gender and the Media. Eleni Skarpari and Rania Tollefson were active participants in the training seminars.

For additional information please access:

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=13#more-13

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CIVICUS: Exploring the Gender Gap in Civil Society

MIGS is participating as a partner in a bi-communal project coordinated by MC-Med in cooperation with Intercollege entitled *4th International Symposium: The State of Civil Society: Where should we go from here?*, funded by UNDP – Action for Cooperation and Trust. This project is a follow-up to a project also conducted by MC-Med and Intercollege entitled CIVICUS: Civil Society Index (CSI) that aimed to assess the state of civil society and map out its strengths and weaknesses on both sides of the island.

The CSI study found that more then 40% of Civil Soceity Organisation (CSO) representatives from both sides of the island felt that women were somewhat under-represented as members of CSOs. However, when it comes to women in leadership positions in CSOs, over 40% said that women were severely under-represented or absent. In addition, over 50% of respondents said that residents of rural areas were either severely under-represented or absent as members or leaders of CSOs. The CSI findings are limited to the opinions of CSO representatives that participated in the study

about CSOs in general within their community.

As a result MIGS is conducting a study with a sample of CSOs in the south to directly assess the extent to which women participate in CSOs, quantifying if and where there is a gender gap, and identifying the barriers and constraints potentially excluding women from participation. The analysis will also identify what differences or similarities there may be within different categories, such as geographic location and sector.

The results will be presented at the 4th International Symposium and published soon after.

For additional information please access: www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=96

EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

ASEF Lecture - Gender Wage Differentials in Asia and Europe

To mark the occasion of International Women's Day, MIGS, in collaboration with the Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the Cyprus Federation of Business and Professional Women (ΚΟΓΕΕ), hosted a lecture entitled "Gender Wage Differentials in Asia and Europe: An Overview of Issues and Findings" by Dr. Teo Siew Yean of Brunei Darussalam University.

The purpose of the lecture was to identify and discuss the various factors that impact gender wage disparities in the various countries of Asia and Europe. This lecture also explored the issue from a policy perspective and attempted to determine what policy changes are needed to narrow the gender wage gap.

Gender wage equality is needed for both men and women to realise their full potential in terms of economic participation and position, as well as for effective utilisation of human capital for the benefit of the economy as a whole.

Nira Yuval Davis gives Lecture on the Social Integration of Migrant Women

Photo-Exhibition on Migrant Women in Cyprus by Laura Boushank

The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies hosted a lecture entitled "Migrant Women, Citizenship and Social Integration" which was followed by a photo exhibition entitled "Migrant Women Living in Cyprus" with photographs taken here in Cyprus by Laura Boushank.

The lecture took place on Monday, 3rd of April, 2006 at 18:30 at Intercollege, UNESCO amphitheatre and the photo exhibition followed in the Gallery restaurant along with a cocktail. The photo exhibition was on display until Friday, 7 April.

Nira Yuval Davis is a Professor and Graduate Course Director in Gender, Sexualities and Ethnic Studies at the University of East London and has written extensively on theoretical and empirical aspects of nationalism, racism, fundamentalism, citizenship and gender relations in Britain & Europe, Israel and other Settler Societies.

Laura Boushnak is a photojournalist and has been based in Cyprus since 2000 working with the French News Agency Agence France Presse (AFP) as photo-editor and photographer. Her work has appeared in international publications such as the International Herald Tribune, Newsweek, The Washington Post, The New York Times and National Geographic.

MIGS Conducts Seminar to the Police Academy

On the invitation of Police Officer Rita Superman, of the Anti-Trafficking Unit of the Police Department, Josie Christodoulou and Susana Pavlou conducted a training session on Gender Stereotypes and Trafficking in Women at the Police Academy on the 9th November 2006.

Participants included officers from various departments such as the Immigration Office and the Anti-Trafficking Unit, among others. The training session also focused on gender and stereotypes in order to provide a better understanding on how stereotypes are related to inequality between men and women and in turn how this relates to violence against women, and trafficking in women in particular.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

MIGS is a member of a number of European organisations and networks including the European Women's Lobby [EWL], the Secretariate of Women's International Studies Europe [WISE], Women Against Violence in Europe [WAVE], the Association for Women's Rights in Development [AWID], Women in Development Europe [WIDE], and ATHENA3 – a Socrates Thematic Network. For details please see our website at www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?cat=5

ATHENA III- The aim of this network is to further unite experts, scholars, teachers, and stakeholders from civil society and public institutions in the field of gender and diversity. MIGS has been an active member of the ATHENA network through its participation in the working group 3b "Working Group Activity 3b: Reconceptualising / (Re)thinking Equal Opportunities, Policy (Instruments) and Aims"

For additional information please access: www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=99

EUROPEAN NETWORK AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (ENATW) - is committed to the prevention of trafficking in women for sexual exploitation and to providing support and assistance to victims. For additional information please access: www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=97

EUROPEAN NETWORK AGAINST RACISM (ENAR), CYPRUS COORDINATION-

is a non-profit, non-governmental network whose main aim is to link the activities of its members in combating racism and xenophobia in Cyprus, the European Union and internationally. For additional information please access: www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=48

ANNA LINDH EURO MEDITERRANEAN FOUNDATION - launched at the Barcelona Conference in 1995, the foundation's main objective is to bring people and organizations from both shores of the Mediterranean closer to each other and to help bridge the gap between them. Particular importance is given to the development of human resources, while youth is the main target group. For additional information please access: www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=46#more-46

LOBBYING & ADVOCACY

MIGS ATTENDS CEDAW 35TH SESSION

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (the CEDAW Convention) is a human rights treaty for women. CEDAW is one of the most highly ratified international human rights conventions, having the support of 182 States parties.

MIGS participated in the "From Global to Local" programme coordinated by International Women's Rights Action Watch - Asia Pacific. Through this programme IWRAW assists women's groups in countries reporting to the UN CEDAW Committee to prepare shadow/alternative reports and facilitate the flow of alternative information to the CEDAW Committee with the aim to increase the impact and effectiveness of the review of the government report. Visit their website at: www.iwraw-ap.org

As part of this process MIGS has prepared a shadow/alternative report to the Cyprus Government CEDAW report which was submitted to the CEDAW committee for review. MIGS also participated in the reporting process during the 35th CEDAW Session in New York to create a lobby presence during the session as well as provide input during the drafting of the concluding comments by the CEDAW committee. To view the MIGS Shadow report access:
www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?attachment_id=91

The Government of Cyprus reported to the CEDAW 35th Session that took place from 15 May – 2 June 2006 in New York. The Cyprus government, during this session, showed what measures it had taken to identify and eliminate discrimination against women and bring about equality between women and men, what obstacles exist and how these would be overcome in the short-term as well as in the long-term.

For more information access:

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=30

Cyprus Media Complaints Commission decides in favour of MIGS

The Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies applauds the decision of the Cyprus Media Complaints Commission concerning the violation of the Journalistic Code of Ethics in both a Politis and Phileleftheros newspaper article, regarding the rape of a young woman. The Commission's decision came as a result of a complaint filed by MIGS against the newspaper and journalist for the article in June 2006.

The CMC Commission decided that there was indeed a violation of the Journalist Code of Ethics pointing out that the journalist and newspapers in question violated articles of the journalist code, such as sensitivity towards acts of violence, crime and human pain as well as the display of discreetness, sympathy and the avoidance of actions which may worsen human suffering. We hope complaints like ours will lead to more humane and gender sensitive reporting in the Cypriot press.

Please find below the original newspaper article, the letter of complaint to the aforementioned newspaper by MIGS which was published shortly after the article, and the decision of the CMC Commission, all in the Greek language.

Newspaper Article:
www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/politis_rapearticle_31_5_06.pdf

MIGS Letter of Complaint:
www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/politis_complaintletter2.pdf

Decision of the Cyprus Media Complaints Commission:
www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/cmcc_decision2.pdf

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Chief of Police Warns Against Increase of Women Police Officers – Statement by the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies

MIGS demanded a public apology from the Chief of the Cyprus Police Department as well as assurances that under no circumstances will measures be taken against the employment of women in the police force or in society in general.

To view the rest of the statement released by MIGS please click below:

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/migs-statement_en.pdf

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/migs-statement_gr.pdf

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REPORTS

ERF: Measures to Integrate Women Refugees in the Society in Cyprus and to Promote a Multicultural Society

The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies [MIGS] recently completed a year-long project titled "Measures to Integrate Women Refugees in the society in Cyprus and to promote a Multi- cultural Society". The project, involving women refugees, directly in most phases, was funded by the European Refugee Fund of the European Commission and managed by the National authorities in Cyprus.

The aim of the project was to empower and support women refugees, who are a special group who are discriminated against and victimized in the process of migration, by assisting their social integration into the local society in Cyprus and promoting a multicultural, tolerant, diverse environment on the island.

One of the problems crucially addressed was associated with refugee women's living conditions. We also tried to provide them with and facilitate their access to crucial, practical information regarding their rights in Cyprus related to employment, welfare, accommodation, equal opportunities and other governmental services as well as provide basic Greek language courses to facilitate their induction in the society. Finally, we wanted to provide a platform for joint activities as well as the exchange of information, customs and cultural realities among women refugees and women from all communities in Cyprus. Throughout the project, dissemination and valorisation had a key role to play, electronically and on-line, in the press, the distribution of leaflets, by contacting key policy makers, scholars, NGO officials and other stakeholders.

The project finished with a successful final event, an intercultural evening, which attracted over 40 guests and included the active participation of women in singing, dancing, catering and more.

For more detailed information on the project and the full end report please access the following web link:
www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=26

At present MIGS is also involved in other activities related to migrant women and trafficking in women through a number of EU and national projects. More details about these projects can be found on our website at www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=17 and www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=16

WOMEN WRITERS: FICTION, VOICE AND IDENTITY

MIGS recognises the significance of literature and women writers in terms of understanding the multilayered levels of discrimination against women. Women writers have been traditionally excluded from the literary canon thus their voices, now heard, are a testament to change. Our newsletter seeks to remind us of the work of women writers from diverse backgrounds that have broken the male standards of literature and dealt creatively with a variety of themes relating to gender.

"Almost everything we do is left-brain work. Poetry should be subsidized by the NHS on the grounds that it is one of the few things in our mad world that offers a counter balance. ..One-sided people need help – poetry, like music, is the help we need. "
Jeanette Winterson
(www.jeanettewinterson.com)

Words
Anne Sexton

Be careful of words,
even the miraculous ones.
For the miraculous ones we do our best,
sometimes they swarm like insects
and leave not a sting but a kiss.
They can be good as fingers.
They can be trusty as the rock
you stick your bottom on.
But they can be both daisies and bruises.

Yet I am in love with words.
They are doves falling out of the ceiling.
They are six holy oranges sitting in my lap.
They are the trees, the legs of summer,
and the sun, its passionate face.

Yet often they fail me.
I have so much I want to say,
so many stories, images, proverbs, etc.
But the words aren't good enough,
the wrong ones kiss me.
Sometimes I fly like an eagle
but with the wings of a wren.
But I try to take care
and be gentle to them.
Words and eggs must be handled with care.
Once broken they are impossible things to repair.

PUBLICATIONS TO DELIGHT IN…

- **Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye* (1970)**
- **Jeanette Winterson, *Gut Symmetries* (1997)**
- **Jean Rhys, *Good Morning, Midnight* (1939)**
- **Margaret Atwood, *The Edible Woman* (1969)**

WHY WE LOVE 'EM!

Useful information on these writer's works:

Toni Morrison's writings are notable for their epic themes, vivid dialogue, and richly detailed African American characters. *The Bluest Eye*'s protagonist is Pecola Breedlove, a young black girl who prays each night to become a blue-eyed beauty like Shirley Temple. Breedlove's family has numerous problems and she believes everything would be okay if only she had beautiful blue eyes.

Jeanette Winterson's novels explore the boundaries of physicality and the imagination, gender polarities, and sexual identities.

Jean Rhys' writing often centres on the lives of women transplanted from their roots and left to die at the whims of unfamiliar societies. Her style is often noted for its distinctive blend of modernist techniques and West Indian sensibilities.

Margaret Atwood is often described as a feminist writer, as issues of gender often appear prominently in her work. Her work in this area has focused on the social myths of femininity, representations of women's bodies in art, women's social and economic exploitation, as well as women's relations with each other and with men.

For additional contribution on this page please e-mail Eleni Skarparis at:
eleni@medinstgenderstudies.org

Faces @ MIGS

Susana Elisa Pavlou, Programme Coordinator

Susana Elisa Pavlou holds a BA in Political Science from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and an MSc in International Politics with an area concentration in the Middle East from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London University.

She has previously worked as a project coordinator and student advisor at the Cyprus International Institute of Management (CIIM). She holds a central and key role at MIGS and is currently the Programme Coordinator with a responsibility for a general administrative overview of all the activities and strategic planning of the Institute.

An outspoken and committed feminist and a tireless activist, Susana plays an integral part in MIGS's reporting and dissemination activities, project management, international dimension and links, and advocacy and lobbying. Susana is more specifically interested towards issues of nationalism, intersectionalities, religion, and human rights violations in relation to gender.

She is currently involved in two projects in particular,
www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=18
and
www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=15

Miranda Christou, Research Associate

Miranda Christou is a Lecturer in Sociology of Education (Department of Education, University of Cyprus) and holds a doctorate in Education (Harvard University, Ed.D. 2002).

Miranda's research interests include the political role of memory and history, the construction of knowledge on youth and youth cultures and the representations of young people through the discourses of globalization.

Miranda is also interested in how schools and educational institutions in general shape the construction of sexuality and gender and has also worked as a research advisor for the projects "Gender Equality: Responsibility of Both Sexes" and "Facilitating Equality through Education" where she facilitated training for teachers on gender stereotypes in education.

Miranda, a passionate scholar and activist, is also a member of the MIGS Board and in this capacity provides invaluable guidance and insight to the Institute. She is currently the project coordinator for the Daphne II project – Secondary Schools and Education in Values.
www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=19

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Type: **Conference**
Title: **The 3rd Christina Conference on Women's Studies & the 4th European Gender & ICT symposium**
Dates: **March 8–10, 2007**
Place: **University of Helsinki, Finland**
For additional information please access:
www.helsinki.fi/kristiina-instituutti/

Type: **Summit**
Title: **Global Summit of Women 2007**
Dates: **June 14-16, 2007**
Place: **Berlin, Germany**
For additional information please access:
www.globewomen.com

Type: **Conference**
Title: **Women's Worlds 2008, 10th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, New Frontiers: Dares and Advancements**
Dates: **July 3-9, 2008**
Place: **University Complutense of Madrid, Spain**
For additional information please access:
www.mmww08.org

Type: **Research Associateships**
Title: **Fellowship Opportunities**
Deadline for Submission: **February 12, 2007.**
Place: **Five College Women's Studies Research Centre, USA**
For additional information please access:
www.fivecolleges.edu/sites/fcwsrc

Type: **Conference**
Title: **Gender Unbound: An International Conference in Law, Gender and Sexuality**
Dates: **9th to 11th of July 2007**
Place: **Keele, Staffordshire, United Kingdom**
For additional information please access:
www.kent.ac.uk/

Type: **Conference**
Title: **Feminism and Popular Culture**
Dates: **29th June- 1st July 2007**
Place: **University of Newcastle, UK**
For additional information please access:
www.fwsa.org.uk/

Type: **Conference & Call**
Title: **National Women's Studies Association 2007 Conference & Call**
Dates: **28-July 1, 2007 (Conference)**
Place: **St. Charles, IL, USA**
For additional information please access:
www.nwsaconference.org/

Post your Events!

MIGS invites you to contribute to our newsletter by posting events such as conferences and training courses, as well as new publications on gender-related issues, articles etc

Please contact:

Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies
46 Makedonitissas Ave.
P.O. Box 24005
1703 Nicosia
Email: info@medinstgenderstudies.org

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT MIGS

The Internship Programme

Interns working with MIGS will have the opportunity to learn how an NGO functions on a day to day basis and how a gender institute functions by working on projects alongside activists and researchers in the fields of social, political, and economic themes relating to gender.

Experience & Qualifications

Potential interns should be currently enrolled in an undergraduate programme with senior status or a graduate programme. Applicants should have above average grades, very good written and analytical skills, as well as knowledge of standard computer software. Interns are expected to be well organized, willing to work flexible hours and able to adapt to a varying workload. They should have a strong desire to learn, a sense of responsibility as well as adaptability and flexibility, team work, initiative and enthusiasm. Interns must devote a approximately 10 hours per week to the Institute.

Please Note: This internship is unpaid.

Application Process:

To apply for an internship at the MIGS, please send the following information to our postal address or e-mail us at info@medinstgenderstudies.org

- An introductory e-mail
- Your Curriculum Vitae
- A letter of intent explaining why you would like to work with MIGS

Please send applications to:

Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies [M.I.G.S]

46 Makedonitissas Avenue,
P.O.Box 24005, Nicosia 1703,
Cyprus
Tel: ++ 35722 351274 (ext.115) Fax: ++357 22 353682
Email: info@medinstgenderstudies.org
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