



MIGS NEWS

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

Editorial

Dear friends,

We are all very excited to bring you this new edition of our biannual newsletter. As you will see, the last six months have been very busy for all of us at the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies with many of our projects producing very visible results! We have done a lot of work on trafficking in women and have published a report on the realities of trafficking in Cyprus which attracted a lot of attention by the authorities and the media both in Cyprus and internationally. We also recently screened our documentary on gender inequality in domestic life - which will be available on our website shortly!

MIGS welcomed to Cyprus young women from various parts of the Mediterranean for a specialised training aiming to consequently produce four documentaries on issues related to women's marginalisation and exclusion. More women travelled to Cyprus from the Euromed region for a workshop and photo exhibition on the issue of violence against women. Under one of the trans-national projects we are coordinating, we have also conducted research on date rape among young women in collaboration with another four European countries. As part of our continuous work on migration, we are about to publish an edited volume on the integration of female migrant domestic workers and strategies for their employment and civic participation with an international conference on the same issue is taking place at the end of February in Cyprus.

MIGS was also actively represented at an international workshop in Vienna aiming to improve and enhance female youth participation in local politics in order to empower young women in their rights and responsibilities as active citizens. As part of our regional partnership work under a MEDA project with the British Council, we worked on and attended a regional meeting which served as a forum for actors from government bodies and civil society across the Mediterranean to discuss national women's machineries, their achievements as well as their shortcomings. We are also working on a research project on gender violence prevention in secondary education schools with results coming up soon and have become partners to a project on multisectoral and multidisciplinary professional specialization network for Violence Prevention.

Happy reading from all of us at MIGS and we look forward to your comments and suggestions

Enjoy reading,
MIGS Team



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New Projects

Anti-Trafficking Capacity Building for NGO's

MIGS recently coordinated a project entitled 'Anti-Trafficking Capacity Building Programme for NGOs'. The project was implemented in partnership with the Turkish Cypriot University Women's Association and funded by United States Embassy.

The aim of the project was to increase gender awareness and knowledge amongst NGOs in both parts of Cyprus in order to effectively combat trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The project's activities included a bi-communal meeting with the aim to exchange knowledge, experiences and best practices on issues of trafficking in women and victim support and protection in the south and north of Cyprus.

Within the activities of the project MIGS also organised a seminar and training workshop entitled "Combating Trafficking in Women in Cyprus". Keynote speaker was Ms Irina Todorova, Protection/Direct Assistance Program Coordinator at the International Organization for Migration, IOM. The seminar was attended by over forty representatives from NGOs, the government and other interested parties. For more information on the seminar please see *Combating Trafficking in Women in Cyprus*.

Click on link below for additional information from our website:
www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=283

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

The Gender and the Media Handbook published by MIGS is listed as training material in the *INSTRAW Gender Training Wiki*, the first-ever "wiki" specifically devoted to gender issues for all NGOs, popular organisations, research institutions and UN agencies. Visit the Wiki website at:

www.un-instraw.org/wiki/training/index.php/Main_Page



Euro-Mediterranean Youth Forum for Gender Citizenship Education



MIGS is coordinating a project entitled Euro-Mediterranean Youth Forum for Gender Citizenship Education with funding from the Anna Lindh Foundation for Dialogue between the Cultures. Partners to this project are the Sustainable Development Association [Egypt], The University of the Middle East Project (UME) [Spain], the Society Voice Association for Community and Civil Work [Palestine], the Fundación Centro de Educación Superior en Oriente Medio [Spain] and IMCS Intercollege Ltd [Cyprus].

The aim of the project is to create four video documentaries on issues related to women's marginalization and exclusion by youth groups in each of the partner countries and to promote the use of the documentaries as a citizenship education resource for both teachers and students, as well as a means of awareness on issues that women face in the Mediterranean region. The project has already completed a one week workshop on Gender, Media and Video Production in Cyprus which provided specialised training to 17 participants from the Euro-Mediterranean region. For more on the workshop conducted please see *Anna Lindh Workshop on Gender, Media and Digital Video Production*.

Click on link below for additional information from our website.
www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=282

Current Projects Update

Mapping the Realities of Trafficking Women in Cyprus



MIGS recently published a research report on *Mapping the Realities of Trafficking in Women in Cyprus*. The report was the result of a research project which aimed to gain and share awareness, knowledge and understanding on the phenomenon of trafficking in women in Cyprus for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

The research was carried out using a feminist perspective and attempted to map and assess existing data on the extent of trafficking in women for sexual exploitation in Cyprus, outline state and non-governmental responses to the problem and suggest ways to combat this increasingly widespread phenomenon. To view the Executive Summary of the Final Report please visit the link:
www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=322.

To download the Final Report of the research project click below:
www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/migs-trafficking-report_final_711.pdf
Click on link below for additional information from our website.
www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=16

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DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

MIGS' work on trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation is featured on the web resource for combating human trafficking, www.HumanTrafficking.org.

Gender Inequality in Family Life in Cyprus



MIGS recently finalized the production of a documentary under the title "Gender Inequality in the Domestic Life of Cyprus". The project was funded by the Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission and the Ministry of Justice and Public Order in Cyprus for the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All.

The main aim of the project was to challenge gender stereotypes, prejudice, and the unequal power distribution among women and men within family life in Cyprus through the production of a documentary film. The documentary will be used as a tool to raise awareness among key stakeholders as well as the general public on issues facing women in Cyprus in the private sphere.

The documentary was compiled based on research through bibliographic references regarding the issue of gender in Cyprus. It focused on issues of gender relating to education, economic inequality, sexuality, rape, prejudices, welfare and the church. The documentary also included interviews with experts on gender issues in order to deepen the analytical framework of the documentary. The coordinators of the action, Josie Christodoulou, Eleni Skarpari and Sotiris Themistokleous in cooperation with the director George Sycallides of Mediazone, University of Nicosia, created a vital tool for future awareness raising and education on gender equality.

The screening of the documentary took place in the Cine Studio of the University of Nicosia on the 15th of December 2007 and was followed by a heated discussion amongst the audience which proved to be a promising method for igniting further debate on the role of the Cypriot woman. The documentary will soon be available to the public through our website and will also be distributed to educational institutions and interested organisations in hope that it will serve as an educational tool and a stepping stone for further work and debate in the area of gender equality.

Click on link below for additional information from our website:
www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=310

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Date Rape among Young Women and the Development of Good Practices for Support and Prevention



From left, Dr Costas Kadis, Minister of Health, Christiana Kouta, MIGS and Susana Pavlou, MIGS.

MIGS is coordinating a 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, of the European Commission.

The project is now in its second phase as the research has been completed and the country reports have been finalised, based on collection of comprehensive data, information and material through quantitative and qualitative research in each partner country. The research aimed at measuring the prevalence and incidence of date rape among female college students, in the partner countries and assessing the attitudes, behaviours and level of awareness among beneficiaries and target groups.

Within the framework of this project MIGS also organised a press conference for the presentation of the results of the Cyprus Research Report. The press conference received a lot of media coverage and was opened by Dr. Costas Kadis, Minister of Health and attended by government officials, journalists and NGO's.



Around 20 people attended the press conference, including journalists, public officials and NGO's.

The publication of the project's second leaflet detailing information on Date Rape and available support services in each of the five partner countries is expected to circulate in early February and will be widely available in print and electronic format. Click on link below for additional information from our website: www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=18.



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

Since September 2006, MIGS has coordinated this transnational project which is funded under the INTI Preparatory Actions 2005, Integration for Third- country Nationals of the European Commission.

The project is about to be finalized as most of its activities have been completed. The results of the mapping survey on existing integration services and policies adopted in all partner countries in relation to female migrant domestic workers are currently being compiled, and will be published by March 2008. In addition, the project's second leaflet containing the research results,



which has been translated in 5 different languages (Spanish, Greek, English, Italian and German) is now available at:

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/inti-results-leaflet-english.pdf

MIGS also organized a press conference announcing the project's results in relation to the specific situation of female migrant domestic workers in Cyprus. The event gained extensive media coverage. For more on this event please see our section on *MIGS in the Media*.

The final International Conference, that will bring the project to a close, will take place in Cyprus, on Thursday, the 28th of February, 2008, at the University of Nicosia. The conference will address the need for the development of an integration model responsive to the particular needs of female migrant domestic workers in Europe. For further information on how to participate please visit our website at:

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=331.

Click on link below for additional information from our website:

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=17.

Intercultural Dialogue on Violence against Women



Participants from the workshop pose for a group photo during the photo exhibition

MIGS is coordinating a project entitled "Intercultural Dialogue on Violence against Women", funded by the *Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures*.

The project recently completed the majority of its activities with the successful organisation of an innovative photographic competition open to young women from Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Morocco and Spain

under the theme "Violence against Women in the Mediterranean".

As part of the project MIGS also successfully conducted a 2 day workshop which took place during the 27th and 28th of November in Cyprus. The workshop brought together women from diverse backgrounds in five countries of the Euro-Med region [Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Morocco and Spain] and served as a platform for to discussion on the situation of violence against women in the Euromed region. For more please see *Workshop and Photo Exhibition on Violence against Women*.

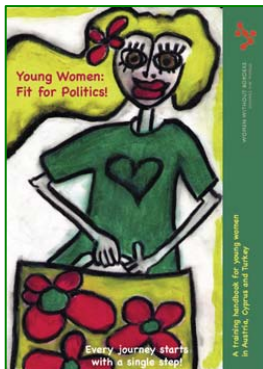
The final activity of the project will be the publication of a resource manual during early April consisting of reports on the situation of violence against women in the five partner countries, the short-listed photographs from the photo-exhibition, and information based on the exchanges that took place during the workshop. Finally, the manual will aim to reflect the diversity of perspectives on violence against women as well strategies for action. Click on link below for additional information from our website: www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=240

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Young Women: Fit for Politics! in Vienna

The EU/Socrates Grundtvig project “Young Women: Fit for Politics!” came to an end with the organisation of an International workshop in Vienna, Austria on June 30th and July 1st. A total of 13 young women from Vienna, Limassol/Cyprus and Istanbul participated in this successful workshop.



The workshop was organised with the aim to improve and enhance female youth participation in local politics and start a networking and exchange process on an international level in order to empower young women and inform them of their rights and responsibilities as active citizens. To view a report of the workshop visit: www.women-without-borders.org/news/92.

The international workshop was the culmination of a two year process whereby the partner organisations Women without Borders/Vienna, ARI Movement/Istanbul and MIGS worked together to develop an interactive training handbook which includes theoretical information, discussions and interactive exercises on gender identity and orientation, public speaking, problem solving, peace and conflict resolution and leadership.

The training handbook can be downloaded though the link below:

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?attachment_id=365

Click on link below for additional information from our website:

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=14

MEDA- Role of Women in Economic Life



The project “Role of Women in Economic Life” aims at enhancing the role and involvement of Mediterranean public governmental and non-governmental institutions in facilitating and expanding opportunities for women’s economic participation. The project, covering 10 countries in the MEDA region, is funded by the European Commission and managed by the British Council in partnership with MIGS.

Within its activities the project recently held a seminar on National Women’s Machineries from 13-14 June 2007 in Cairo, Egypt with participants from Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey. The seminar offered a platform for presenting and discussing the outcome of the research topic of National Women’s Machineries. This was the first regional meeting of its kind which served as a forum for actors from government bodies and civil society across the Mediterranean to discuss national women’s machineries, their achievements as well as their shortcomings. For more information on the seminar please visit:

www.roleofwomenineconomiclife.net/Newsletters/July_sep07/national_Machine.html

The project has also produced four quarterly newsletters, edited by MIGS, which are available on our website at www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=15.



Daphne II: Secondary Educational Schools and Education in Values Proposals for gender violence prevention”



MIGS is a partner to a project coordinated by the University of Zaragoza and funded by the European Commission – Daphne Programme entitled “Secondary Education Schools and Education in values: Proposals for gender violence prevention”.

The main aim of the project has been to contribute to gender violence prevention in secondary schools, given that it is one of the stages in which many young people begin their first relationships and begin to shape certain values in relation to the models of attraction. Within the activities of this project, MIGS has completed a state of the art report on the current situation of gender based violence in Cyprus.

Currently, the project is undergoing its second phase whereby all three partner countries [Cyprus, Malta and Spain] conduct qualitative research in five secondary schools in Cyprus with the aim of assessing the Models of Attraction of Cypriot teenagers and also for discovering the perceptions concerning gender relations and gender roles which currently exist among the younger generation of Cyprus. All the reports will be available upon completion of the project.

Click on the link below for additional information from our website.

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=19



APROPOS - Multisectoral and Multidisciplinary Professional Specialization Programme and Network for Violence Prevention

MIGS is partner in the project “APROPOS - Multisectoral and Multidisciplinary Professional Specialization Programme and Network for Violence Prevention” funded by the DAPHNE II programme of the European Commission and co-financed by Finland’s Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The project is coordinated by [Women's and Gender Studies, University of Oulu](http://www.womenandgenderstudies.org), Women's studies, University of Oulu with the aim to construct a regional, national and international network of professionals working and dealing with questions of violence.

Within the framework of this project, a web-based specialization programme is now being offered to a limited number of students and professionals in the partner countries, who are interested or working on issues of gender-based violence. The aim of the programme is to increase awareness of violence, give tools to encounter violence, to work in different violent environments and to help the victims of violence. The APROPOS programme has already begun and offers 5 consecutive web courses each consisting of 5 ECTS.

For more information on the web courses visit:

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=312

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MIGS Events & Activities

Workshop and Photo Exhibition “Violence against Women in the Mediterranean”



The project “Intercultural Dialogue on Violence against Women” funded by the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures, recently finalised some of its main activities by the organisation of a workshop and a photographic competition for young women from Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Morocco and Spain.

MIGS conducted the two-day workshop in Cyprus. The workshop brought together women from diverse backgrounds in five countries of the Euro-Med region [Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Morocco and Spain] and served as a platform for to discussion and identification of areas of common concern, exchange of experiences, and as a highlight for best practices between all the participants and partner countries in relation to the situation of violence against women in the Euromed region.

Participants presented the situation of violence against women in their home countries and consequently split up into working groups which discussed and reported back on issues such as how the media can contribute to the prevention of violence against women, the development of projects, awareness campaigns as well as useful lobbying and advocating methods on issues of violence against women.



Photo by Hanaa Youssef, Egypt

The photo exhibition was organised on the final day of the workshop opened on the 28th of November and lasted for one week. It took place at the University of Nicosia and featured images submitted by young women aged 18 years - 40 years from Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Morocco and Spain which made a creative and powerful statement on the issue of violence against women in the Mediterranean region.

Each participating country selected its five best entries, of which one final successful photographer was selected to travel to Cyprus and represent her country in a two-day training workshop and the final exhibition. The photographs were evaluated for their creativity, originality, gender sensitivity and their ability to raise awareness on violence against women to a wide audience and particularly youth. All the short-listed photographs which participated in the exhibition will be published in a final project publication on violence against women in April 2007.

For more extensive information on this project and its activities please visit:
<http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=240>

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ESF Exploratory Workshop on Feminisms and Activism: Transversal Politics in Contemporary Europe and across the Globe



Participants from the workshop group together for a picture

MIGS conducted the ESF Exploratory Workshop entitled “Feminisms and Activism: Transversal Politics in Contemporary Europe and across the Globe” on the 12-16 September 2007 in Nicosia, Cyprus.

The scientific coordination of the workshop was the responsibility of Professor Nira Yuval Davis, University of London and the event was co-sponsored by the Global Fund for Women. It brought together a group of key feminists who live across various countries across the globe and who have been involved in European and global feminist initiatives networks, in order to systematically address the tensions and uncertainties faced by the women’s movement both on the European level and the global level.

Participants came from eight European countries from a range of backgrounds. The workshop was exploratory in nature and raised some of the most crucial issues, both theoretical and political, which relate to contemporary feminist activism. Discussions focused on two major issues. The first issue concerned the relationship between feminism and human rights and the second issue related to the organizational facet of the feminist movement, sometimes called ‘the NGOisation of the women’s movement’ and especially to issues relating to its mechanisms of decision making. A third sub-theme emerged during the discussions on both these issues, which related to the problem of intergenerational reproduction of the movement. It was agreed by all participants that the workshop was very productive and managed to raise issues that are too often avoided in other feminist frameworks, both academic and activist.

Click on the link below for additional information from our website.

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=351

Seminar and Training Workshop on “Combating Trafficking in Women in Cyprus”



From left, Ms Josie Christodoulou, MIGS, Ms Irina Todorova, IOM, Ms Amy Dahm, US Embassy, Dr Juliette Dickstein, US Embassy.

On the 7th of December 2007 MIGS organised a seminar and training workshop entitled “Combating Trafficking in Women in Cyprus” which was attended by over forty representatives from NGOs, the government and other interested parties.

Keynote speaker of the seminar was Ms Irina Todorova, Protection/Direct Assistance Program Coordinator, and International Organization for Migration, IOM who gave examples of best



practices related to the protection of the rights of trafficked persons in the Republic of Moldova as a key element in prevention and combating trafficking in human beings. Speakers also included representatives of the US Embassy, Dr Juliette Dickstein and Ms Amy Dahm.

Josie Christodoulou of MIGS presented the results of the project “Mapping the Realities of Trafficking in Women for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation in the Republic of Cyprus” and especially focused on the increase in demand for sexual services as well as and the need for abolition of “artiste visas” issued by the Cyprus Government. Mine Yugel of Prologue Consulting presented the situation of trafficking in women in the Turkish Cypriot community and explaining in detail the visa procedures that currently take place in the north.

This seminar was organised within the framework of the project “Anti-Trafficking Capacity Building for NGO’s” with funding from the American Embassy in Nicosia.

Click on the link below for additional information from our website.

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=349

Anna Lindh Workshop on Gender, Media and Digital Video Production



MIGS recently organized a workshop on Gender, Media and Digital Video Production in the context of the project ‘Euro-Mediterranean Youth Forum on Gender Citizenship Education’ funded by the Anna Lindh Foundation between the 7th and 11th of January 2008 at the University of Nicosia in Cyprus.

The workshop provided training for 17 participants from Egypt, Palestine, Spain and Cyprus on issues of Gender, Media and Representation, Gender Identities in the Mediterranean, Story/Script Development and Camera Skills. The workshop also included screenings of several documentaries related to issues of gender, human rights and the marginalization of women in various contexts.

Participant teams from each country discussed and finalized a topic in which each team will spend the next two months researching and producing a short video documentary. Issues that will be raised in the documentaries produced are “women and employment”, gender violence, rural women and education, trafficking in women and a personal story on a woman in Palestine.

For more information on this project please visit:

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=282

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MIGS Representation

Trafficking in Human Beings and Gender

Josie Christodoulou of MIGS attended the conference "Trafficking in Human Beings and Gender", sponsored and organised by the Portuguese Presidency on the 8th and 9th of November, 2007 in Oporto, Portugal. The conference gathered experts on Gender Equality, Gender Violence and Trafficking in Human Beings to debate and share best practices among member states in order to foster the development of public policies and legislation following European and international legislation and guidelines.

Trafficking in Human Beings: Time for action!

Rania Tollefson of MIGS, attend the EU Anti-Trafficking Day - "Trafficking in Human Beings: Time for action!" event on the 18th of October 2007 in Brussels. The event was launched in an effort to highlight the need for the implementation of practical measures to prevent and combat trafficking and to protect victims of trafficking on a national, European and international level.

Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network [EMHRN] Human Rights Education Summer School in Cyprus



The Human Rights Education Summer School took place from the 23rd to the 29th of June in Limassol (Cyprus). It gathered 32 participants, 9 trainers, 3 lecturers. Members of other Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network working groups and from the EMHRN Executive Committee attended the Summer School as well. Rania Tollefson of MIGS was among the participants of the summer school and Susana Pavlou conducted a participatory workshop as a trainer. At the end of the seven days, the participants were extremely motivated to continue networking on the question of Human Rights Education programmes and activities.

To view a documentary on the summer school visit:

www.euromedrights.net/usr/00000047/00001811.wmv

Click on the link below for additional information from our website.

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=323



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Lobbying & Advocacy

Press Statement: “The government’s justifications for not combating trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation”

In light of the Institute’s recent publication of the Research Report on “Mapping the Realities of Trafficking Women in Cyprus” and the various recent statements on the issue of trafficking by governmental officials, MIGS issued a press statement actively lobbying and expressing its disappointment over the way the state is currently handling the issue of trafficking in women, emphasizing the lack of research on this phenomenon as well as the need for the abolition of “artiste” visas for employment in “high risk establishments”.

Click on the link below to view the statement [pdf]:

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/migs_trafficking_press-release_eng.pdf

Recommendations to the Cyprus Parliament on the new 2007 legislation for combating trafficking and exploitation of human beings and the protection of victims

MIGS was recently asked to submit its recommendations and position with regards to new legislation on “Combating trafficking and exploitation of human beings and protection of victims law (L.87 (I) -2007)”. The Institute submitted its position in writing to the Cyprus Parliament and the Parliamentary Committee for Human Rights stressing the lack of research in the area of demand for sexual services as well as calling for the abolition of “artiste” visas for employment in “high risk establishments”.

MIGS IN THE MEDIA

As part of its objectives and advocacy work, MIGS often works with media professionals and attempts to disseminate 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](#)” or www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?page_id=157. Please see a selection of recent media articles related to MIGS’ work below. For additional articles please visit our website at the link mentioned above.

Newspaper Articles

“Αυτές που Φροντίζουν τα Παιδιά μας”, Phileleftheros 14/12/07

Newspaper article in Phileleftheros Newspaper with regards to the results of the research of the project “Integration of Female Migrant Domestic Workers: Strategies for Employment and Civic Participation”.

Read article [Only available in Greek]:

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/phileleftheros_inti_14_12_2007.pdf



“Research highlights Date Rape concerns”, Cyprus Mail, 17/11/2007

Newspaper article in the Cyprus Mail with regards to the research results of the project “Date Rape Cases Among Young Women and the Development of Good Practices for Support and Prevention” about the prevalence and incidence of date rape among female college students.

Read article:

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/cyprus-mail_17_11_2007.pdf

“Σωματεμπόριο: Ψάχνουν δικαιολογίες”, Politis, 16/11/07

Article in the Cypriot Newspaper “Politis” with reference to the press statement released by MIGS with regards to the publication of its Research Report on “Mapping the Realities of Trafficking Women in Cyprus” and various recent statements on the issue of trafficking by governmental officials.

Read article [Only available in Greek]:

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/politis-16_11_2007.pdf

“CYPRUS 2007: ‘Worst record’ in Europe for people trafficking”, Financial Times, 27/11/2007

Newspaper report in the Financial Times refers to MIGS’ statements with regards to the situation of Trafficking in Women for sexual exploitation in Cyprus.

Read article:

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/financial-times_trafficking-migs.pdf

Radio Appearances by MIGS representatives

-Susana Pavlou participated as a speaker on a live radio show for the 3rd Cybc radio station on the programme “Open Communication to Youth” on the 30th of October, 2007. The programme focused around the definition of “feminism” and the feminist movement in Cyprus.

-Margarita Zervidou participated as a speaker on the Cybc2 radio talk show “Round and About” on the 14th of November, 2007. The discussion focused on the results of the project “Integration of Female Migrant Domestic Workers: Strategies for Employment and Civic Participation” which were in relation to the specific situation of female migrant domestic workers in Cyprus.

Television appearances by MIGS representatives

-Josie Christodoulou and Margarita Zervidou of MIGS were invited as guests on the Sigma TV morning show “Goodmorning”. The show aired live on Friday the 14th of December 2007 with a 20 minute discussion focusing around the rights of female migrant domestic workers and integration policies.

-Christiana Kouta spoke on the TV programme “Mera Mesimeri” aired by the Cybc1 television channel on the 16th of November. The discussion referred to the results of the Daphne project on Date Rape among young females and especially the existence of sexual violence in relationships, dates in Cyprus as well as the lack of resources for young women to seek for help and/or information related to date rape.



Women Writers: Fiction, Voice and Identity

As stated in her autobiography, according to author Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Literature is writing with 'a purpose'. In her most famous short story, 'The Yellow Wallpaper' [1892], Gilman skillfully depicts the dependence that women of the 19th century experienced in their marriage, as well as the isolation they suffered in motherhood, and how both were dramatically detrimental to their health. In Gilman's time, writing, like many other occupations, was considered an intrinsically male profession and talent. And yet Gilman defied the notion of "natural" differences between the sexes, claiming that in reality, most were "cultural" sex-distinctions. 'The Yellow Wallpaper' is an example in itself of how women found a voice "within the constraints of masculine language". In this edition of MIGS newsletter, short stories written by women, definitely worth reading are introduced. We urge you to hear their voices.

As the nameless female protagonist of 'The Yellow Wallpaper' remarks on the pattern of the wallpaper that obsesses her and that forms the central metaphor of patriarchal incarceration in the story:

"The front pattern does move- and no wonder! The woman behind shakes it! Sometimes I think there are a great many women behind, and sometimes only one, and she crawls around fast, and her crawling shakes it all over [...] And she is all the time trying to climb through."

Short Stories to Delight In:

- 'The Story Of An Hour', *Kate Chopin* (1894)
- 'Sweat', *Zora Neale Hurston* (1926)
- 'Girl', *Jamaica Kincaid* (1978)
- 'The Bloody Chamber', *Angela Carter* (1979)

WHY WE LOVE 'EM!

- **Kate Chopin**, was an American author (of a Louisiana Creole background)of short stories and novels and in her writings addressed the the universal concerns women faced and are still troubled with. Her major works were two short story collections, *Bayou Folk* (1884) and *A Night in Acadie* (1897) and her important short stories included 'Desiree's Baby', 'The Story of an Hour' and 'The Storm.'
- **Zora Neale Hurston** was an American author/folklorist during the time of the Harlem Renaissance, and is best known for her novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937). Her work artistically utilises the African American dialect of the day.
- **Jamaica Kincaid** is an American novelist and gardening writer. She changed her name to Jamaica Kincaid because her family disapproved of her writing. Two of the main issues she explores through her work are those of colonialism and gender.
- **Angela Carter** was an English author known for her prolific fiction which utilised feminist magical realism and science fiction. She was also a journalist who contributed many articles to *The Guardian*, *The Independent* and *New Statesman*.

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

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Faces @ MIGS

Georgina Christou, Research Associate



Georgina holds a BA in Law from the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, an MA in Human Rights from the University of Malta (EC scholarship) and an MA in European Society from University College London, with a focus on the cultural anthropology of the Balkans and the Mediterranean regions. More specifically her research interests involve theories and manifestations of social/cultural memory, and the creation and perseverance of gender roles and national identity in the above regions as well as their depictions in various art forms and the media.

Georgina is also involved in theatre and documentary making. She recently co-directed her first documentary film on religious and rave cultures in Cyprus called 'Closer to the Source' which was screened at the Young Film-makers competition organized by UNDP-ACT in October 2007. She has also served as assistant director of two amateur theatre productions produced by the 'P. A. Theatre Workshop'. Georgina has currently been working with MIGS on an exciting project with the aim of producing four documentaries dealing with gender issues in the Mediterranean basin.

Georgina is involved in the projects: [Daphne II-Secondary Education Schools and Education in Values](#) and the [Euro-Mediterranean Youth Forum for Gender Citizenship Education](#).

Zelia Gregoriou, Policy Expert



Zelia Gregoriou holds a PhD in Philosophy of Education, University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, MA in Philosophy of Education, MA minor in Gender Studies and a postgraduate diploma in Criticism and Interpretive Theory. In the past she has taught at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, at Georgia Southern University and at Intercollege, Nicosia (Director of the Educational Studies Program). She is currently teaching at the Department of Education, University of Cyprus. Zelia's focus in her research and writing has been on poststructuralist philosophers of ethics and subjectivity and postcolonial theory and multiculturalism. Her latest work focuses on mourning and educational processes of memorialisation, as well as on migration policy and education. Her recent publications include, "Resisting the Pedagogical Domestication of Cosmopolitanism: From Nussbaum's Concentric Circles of Humanity to Derrida's Aporetic Ethics of Hospitality" (Philosophy of Education Society Yearbook), "De-Scribing Hybridity in 'Unspoiled' Cyprus: Postcolonial Tasks for Theory of Education" (Comparative Education), "Deleuze's notion of Minoritarianism: Towards a Minor Philosophy of Education" (Educational Philosophy and Theory), "The Europeanization of Ethnocentrism: The performativity of new Borders in Cyprus" (Hagar, International Social Science Review) and "Difficult Multiculturalism" (Educational Theory, forthcoming).

Zelia is involved in the project: [Integration of Female Migrant Domestic Workers: Strategies for Employment and Civic Participation](#)

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Conferences - Calls for Participation

Call for papers: "Language & Sexuality (through &) beyond Gender: Anthrolinguistic Perspectives"

The goal of this workshop is to examine the linguistic manifestation of sexuality and to investigate the linguistic construction of gendered "identity" through the interplay of gender and sexuality, given the multiple indexical relations holding among language, sexuality, and gender.

Abstract submission deadline: 15 March 2008, Workshop date: Saturday, 7 June 2008. For more information contact: Costas Canakis, c.canakis@sa.aegean.gr Graduate Program Secretary, gender@sa.aegean.gr
Read more at www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?p=368

Call for papers: Women's Worlds 2008, 10th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women New Frontiers: Dares and Advancements, July 3-9, 2008

Women's Worlds 2008 is open to proposals in ALL fields and themes related to women, gender and sexuality in contemporary societies, as well as historically. Special emphasis is placed on violence and migrations. Deadline for proposals: February 28th, 2008. Read more at: www.mmww08.org

Women and Ambition Conference, March 2008, Trinity College, Dublin

This conference aims to provide an international feminist context for understanding the nature of ambition in the working lives of women. For more information please visit the conference website:
<http://www.tcd.ie/cgws/events/ambition.php>

POST YOUR EVENTS!

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

Please contact:

c/o Rania Tollefson
Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies
46 Makedonitissas Ave.
P.O. Box 24005
1703 Nicosia
Email: rania@medinstgenderstudies.org



WHO WE ARE

Josie Christodoulou, Project Coordinator
josie@medinstgenderstudies.org

Georgina Christou, Research Associate
georgina@medinstgenderstudies.org

Miranda Christou, Project Coordinator/ Senior Research Associate
mirandachristou@yahoo.com

Olga Demetriou, Senior Research Associate
od212@yahoo.co.uk

Zelia Gregoriou, Policy Expert
gregoriou@ucy.ac.cy

Christiana Kouta, Project Coordinator/ Senior Research Associate
nnikolaou@cytanet.com.cy

Alexia Panayiotou, Senior Research Associate
alexiap@ucy.ac.cy

Susana Pavlou, Acting Director
susana@medinstgenderstudies.org

Eleni Skarpari, Project Administrator
eleni@medinstgenderstudies.org

Rania Tollefson, Project Coordinator
rania@medinstgenderstudies.org

Myria Vassiliadou, Senior Research Associate

Karolina Vinakurava, Research Associate
carol@globaleducationcy.com

Margarita Zervidou, Research Associate
zervidou.m@cytanet.com.cy