



MIGS NEWS

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

Editorial

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the latest issue of MIGS news! In this issue you will find the latest activities of our team including new projects, events, lobbying and advocacy activities, as well as new faces.

This issue highlights the establishment of the Cyprus Women's Lobby, the newest member of the European Women's Lobby (EWL) of which MIGS is an active member. The Cyprus Women's Lobby has been actively promoting the EWL 50/50 Campaign for Parity Democracy (www.5050democracy.eu) in view of the upcoming European Parliament elections in June 2009. Please see our special feature that also covers the first event organised by the Cyprus Women's Lobby to promote the campaign that took place under the auspices of Commissioner for Health Androula Vassiliou.

MIGS is involved in two new projects, including a project funded by the Global Fund for Women to continue our research on trafficking in women, and specifically the demand side of trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation. MIGS is also partner to the City of Modena, Italy in an innovative project funded by the Daphne III Programme aimed at preventing gender-based violence among adolescents in secondary schools. The project's first event, a public seminar entitled Prevention of Gender-based Violence among Adolescents in Cyprus and Europe: Research and Educational Practices took place in Cyprus on the 27th April 2009 and we look forward to sharing the results of the seminar in our next issue.

We are particularly happy to make available our CEDAW Diary 2009 marking the 30th Anniversary of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women adopted in December 1979.

We have also continued our lobbying activities and have circulated policy statements and recommendations on a number of issues affecting women.

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

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Special Feature

Cyprus joins the European Women's Lobby



On the 8th September 2008, 16 women's organizations and NGOs gathered at the University of Nicosia to sign the Protocol of Cooperation formally establishing the Cyprus Women's Lobby.

The Cyprus Women's Lobby, an umbrella network of women's organizations and non-governmental organisations working on gender equality, is the newest member of the European Women's Lobby (EWL) having been voted unanimously during the EWL General Assembly that took place on the 25-26 October 2008 in Lyon, France. The European Women's Lobby [www.womenlobby.org] is the largest umbrella organisation of women's associations in the European Union representing over 2000 organisations and aimed at promoting women's rights and equality between women and men. The EWL works primarily with EU institutions and has a direct impact on gender equality policy on a European level.

The Cyprus Women's Lobby brings together a wide range of women's organizations and NGOs throughout Cyprus including a Turkish Cypriot organization, two bi-communal/multi-cultural organizations as well as an organization promoting the rights of migrants. The mission of the Cyprus Women's Lobby is to promote the empowerment of women in all their diversity to advance gender equality, to combat all forms of discrimination against women and violence against women, and to ensure full access for all women to their human rights through their active involvement in society, in policy development and implementation.

For more information on the Cyprus Women's Lobby and how to become a member please contact Susana Pavlou at: susana@medinstgenderstudies.org

Women in Decision-Making: Overcoming Barriers, Creating Change



The Cyprus Women's Lobby in cooperation with the European Parliament Office in Cyprus and the European Commission Representation in Cyprus, organized the event "Women in Decision-Making: Overcoming Barriers, Creating Change".



Change”, that took place on the 20th February 2009 at the EU House in Nicosia, Cyprus.

The main aim of the event was to promote the 50/50 Campaign for Parity Democracy of the European Women’s Lobby [www.5050democracy.eu] that aims to ensure equality between women and men in decision-making at all levels in the EU institutions and in Cyprus.

The event took place under the auspices of Ms Androula Vassiliou, Commissioner for Health of the European Commission. Guest speakers were Myria Vassiliadou, Secretary General of the EWL, and Sonja Lokar of the CEE Network for Gender Equality. Over eighty participants attended the event including Members of Parliament, the Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsperson), representatives of political parties, women’s organizations, NGOs, trade unions, as well as the media.

In her opening speech, Ms Androula Vassiliou gave an overview of the situation of women’s representation in decision-making in the EU, highlighting that despite women comprising over half the population of the European Union, they are severely under-represented in those institutions, where decisions are made that have an impact on women’s every day lives. Cyprus figures among the lowest in this regard with only one woman in the Council of Ministers, and is one of two countries in the EU that does not have a woman representative in the European Parliament.



The first session of the event focused on *Women in Decision Making: The European Context* with guest speakers Myria Vassiliadou, Secretary General of the European Women’s Lobby (EWL), and Sonja Lokar of the CEE Network for Gender Equality. During her presentation Sonja Lokar explained the linkage between gender equality and democracy and stated that the lack of women’s representation is largely to blame for the fate of women remaining unchanged in many communities. Myria Vassiliadou, Secretary General of the EWL, pointed out that the under-representation of women in the EU institutions is a serious obstacle to the democratic legitimacy of the EU and undermines all attempts to promote a more inclusive and participatory democracy.

The second session of the event focused on *Policies and Strategies for the Promotion of Equality between Women and Men in Politics in Cyprus*, where participants had the opportunity to discuss the issue of women in decision making and party electoral programs for the forthcoming EU elections. Representatives from all major political parties in Cyprus participated in the panel, who indicated that they are aware of the problem of the underrepresentation of women in political life and acknowledge the necessity to take action.



The event marked the beginning of a much needed dialogue on women’s representation in decision making among relevant stakeholders. It is the first time in Cyprus that all relevant stakeholders, including political party representatives, have



come together to engage in a constructive dialogue on the issue of women's representation in political life. It is evident that more concerted effort and action is urgently needed to address women's underrepresentation in all spheres of political and public life in Cyprus.

To read the full event report in English and in Greek please visit:
<http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=1571>

Support the EWL 50/50 Campaign

Sign Now

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New Projects

Intercultural Dialogue on Violence against Women



The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies has received funding from the Global Fund of Women to carry out a research project entitled "Investigating the demand side of trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation".

The aim of the project is to examine the demand side of trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation in Cyprus in order to first, identify the factors linked to the demand for sexual services and second, to examine the buyers/ clients' perceptions and attitudes towards women in prostitution and possible victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. The project will further examine the general perceptions and attitudes of Cypriot men and women towards women in prostitution and possible victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation.

For more information on our activities to combat trafficking in women please visit our website at: <http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=16>

Perspective: Peer Education Roots for School Pupils to Enhance Consciousness of Tackling and Impeding Women Violence in Europe



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.



Other partners to the project include Centro Documentazione Donna (Italy), UNICEF (Italy), the Province of Alicante (Spain), the European Anti-violence Network- EAVN (Greece); Strategy Transnational (Germany), Cap Sciences Humaines (Belgium).

The project contributes to the overall aim of preventing and combating violence perpetrated against women. 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.

The project's first event, a public seminar entitled Prevention of Gender-based Violence among Adolescents in Cyprus and Europe: Research and Educational Practices took place in Cyprus on the 27th April 2009 at the Classic Hotel, Nicosia. The main aim of the seminar, which was attended by over 40 participants, was to provide a forum for discussion and exchange of experience and best practice on strategies to prevent gender based violence in secondary school contexts among national and European NGOs, education practitioners, researchers and others.

For the seminar programme please visit our website at: <http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=1640>

For more information regarding the specific objectives and the main activities of the project please visit: <http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=1552>

UNESCO Chair on Gender Equality and Empowerment – University of Cyprus

The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies is a partner to the University of Cyprus in the recent establishment of the UNESCO Chair on Gender Equality and Empowerment. The objective of the Chair is to promote an integrated system of research, training, information and documentation activities in the field of women and gender studies on a local, European and international level. In addition, the Chair aims to sensitise policy makers, the public, the mass media, government agencies and services, as well as private employees and employers in the issues of gender mainstreaming and gender equality.

The UNESCO Chair aims to be a dynamic entity bringing together a variety of organisations, including NGOs, academic institutions, and governmental authorities, on a local and international level, constituting a strong advocacy and lobbying point with an academic and social orientation.

For more information please visit our website at:

<http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=1655>.

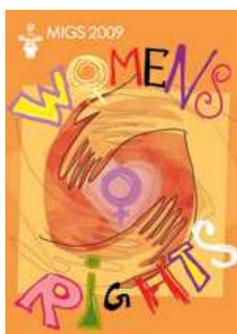
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DID YOU KNOW THAT...? MIGS Documentary "Gender Inequality in Family Life in Cyprus" is now available online at <http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=1380>

MIGS Events & Activities

MIGS Publishes Diary Celebrating 30 Years of CEDAW



MIGS has published a Diary for the year 2009 with the Convention of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as its central theme. This publication, marking 30 years since the adoption of the Convention of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) by the UN General Assembly in December 1979, aims to raise awareness on the only comprehensive international treaty guaranteeing women's human rights and the prevention of discrimination against women.

This CEDAW Diary 2009 was published with the support of the European Commission 'Europe for Citizens' Programme and the Cyprus National Machinery for Women's Rights of the Ministry of Justice and Social Order.

To download a copy in PDF format please visit <http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=1409>

To order a free hard copy please contact info@medinstgenderstudies.org

Trafficking Conference – European Anti-Trafficking Day

Within the framework of the European Anti-Trafficking Day, on the 13 October 2008 the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS), in partnership with the European Parliament Office in Cyprus, hosted a conference entitled "Trafficking in Women for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation". The conference was funded by the National Machinery for Women's Rights, the Ministry of Interior and the European Commission's Education and Culture DG "Europe for Citizen's Programme".

The aim of the conference was to address the issue of trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation with special focus on the demand for sexual services and gender equality. The conference provided a forum for discussion between NGOs, the Government of Cyprus and other NGOs and research organizations such as the European Women's Lobby and the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit, London Metropolitan University.

To read the full event report please visit: http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/migs_report_traffickinginwomen_eng_final.pdf



Training Workshop on Trafficking in Women

On 19 December 2008, the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies organized a training seminar for police officers and social welfare officers directly involved in anti-trafficking activities and victim care.

The aim of the training was to provide them with the necessary tools to effectively provide services to victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. The trainers were Sally Montier and Eva Roussou from the Poppy Project, Eaves Housing for Women Limited, UK. The main objective of the seminar was twofold: to provide participants with the tools for effective identification of victims, for support and protection of victims, as well as for strengthening of interdepartmental cooperation particularly between the Police, the Social Welfare Services, and NGOs. The seminar provided an opportunity for much needed exchange of experience and knowledge on providing support and assistance to victims of trafficking, as well as a forum for discussion on inter-departmental cooperation on trafficking and identification of victims.

To read the full seminar report please visit:

http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?attachment_id=1536

Migration Regimes under Review: Intersectionality of Gender and Race

The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) organised a lecture entitled "Migration Regimes under Review: Intersectionality of Gender and Race" to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The lecture took place at the University of Nicosia, UNESCO amphitheatre, on 20 March 2009.

The lecture was opened by the Minister of Labour and Social Security, Ms Sotiroula Charalambous and Ms Androula Kaminara Head of the European Commission Representation of Cyprus. Guest speakers were Amandine Bach, Project Coordinator and Policy Officer at the European Women's Lobby and Zelia Grigoriou, Assistant Professor, University of Cyprus and Board Member of MIGS.

The main aim of the lecture was to discuss and explore how the intersection of gender and race produce specific forms of exclusion that support and legitimate each other, and the need to integrate gender in immigration and integration policies on a national and EU level.

The full report of the lecture is available on our website at:

<http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=1666>

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DID YOU KNOW THAT...? MIGS has updated its Reference Guide to Gender and Women in Cyprus. To download the updated reference guide in pdf format please visit

www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp/?page_id=70





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MIGS Representation

EUROMED Human Rights Network



MIGS recently became a member of the Euromed Human Rights Network (EMHRN), following the Network's General Assembly that took place in December 2008. The EMHRN [www.euromedrights.net] was established in 1997 in response to the Barcelona Declaration and the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. It represents over 80 human rights organizations based in 30 countries in the Euromed region. The mission of the EMHRN is to promote and strengthen human rights and democratic reform within the framework of the Barcelona process and EU-Arab cooperation frameworks. The Network seeks to develop and strengthen partnerships between NGOs in the EuroMed region and facilitate development of human rights mechanisms, disseminate the values of human rights and generating capacity in this regard.

Christina Kaili, Project Administrator at MIGS, represents the Institute at the Women's Rights & Gender Working Group of the Euromed Human Rights Network, which aims to contribute to the full implementation of human rights values and international standards relating to women's rights and the achievement of gender equality in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

For more information please visit <http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=1564>

Group of Experts against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)



Josie Christodoulou, Project Coordinator at MIGS, has been selected by the Council of Europe to act as a member to the Group of Experts against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA). GRETA is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by the State Parties. GRETA will regularly publish reports evaluating the measures taken by the Parties and those which do not fully respect the measures contained in the Convention will be required to step up their action.

The Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings met for the first time on 24-27 February 2009 at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

For more information please visit http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/default_en.asp.

European Policy Action Centre on Violence against Women (EPACVAW)



The European Policy Centre on Violence against Women (EPACVAW) is a non-profit organization working to achieve equality between women and men through the elimination of all forms of violence against women. Set up as a branch of the European Women's Lobby (EWL) in 2007, EPAC VAW supports and manages the EWL's Observatory on



Violence against Women and informs national, European, and international institutions about efficient strategies to eradicate violence against women. The Observatory brings together experts from 30 European countries with extensive knowledge of violence against women including activists, academics, lawyers, as well as NGO service providers. Susana Pavlou, Director of MIGS, is the national experts for Cyprus to the Observatory.

For more information on the Centre's activities please visit www.epacvaw.org.

Seminar – The Politics of Gender Equality: Past, Present, and Future

Susana Pavlou, Director of MIGS, participated as a speaker in the seminar organised by the Association for Social Reform – OPEK entitled "The Politics of Gender Equality – Past, Present, and Future" that took place at the University of Nicosia on the 14 March 2009. Susana gave an overview of MIGS projects and activities and presented MIGS documentary "Gender Equality in Family Life in Cyprus" that was produced within the framework of the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All.

Seminar – Domestic Workers: Relations of Tolerance, Rage or Provision

Josie Christodoulou, Project Coordinator at MIGS, participated as a speaker in two seminars organized by the Unit for Equality and Equal Treatment of DEOK in cooperation with Cyprus Gender Equality Observatory entitled Domestic Workers: Relations of Tolerance, Rage or Provision? The seminars took place in Limassol and Nicosia on 7th and 11th March 2009 respectively.

Josie based her presentation on the research results of the project entitled Female Migrants Domestic Workers: Strategies for employment and Civic Participation coordinated by MIGS and funded by INTI Preparatory Actions 2005, European Commission. Her presentation focused on the feminization of migration in Cyprus and the demand for domestic work, pointing out that female migrant domestic workers are essentially the reconciliators of family and professional life for Cypriot families. She further explained the services of female migrant domestic workers have substituted the welfare system in Cyprus.

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Lobbying & Advocacy

Press Statement on the Issue of Abortion in Cyprus

Press statement by the Cyprus Family Planning Association and the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) with regard to public discussions on women's right to safe abortion.

<http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=1619>

Press Statement on Trafficking in Women in Cyprus

Press statement by the Cyprus Women's Lobby, of which the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) is a member, in response to demands made by Cabaret



owners and artiste agents following the abolition of the "artiste" visa. <http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=1628>

Policy Recommendations for the Integration of Female Migrant Domestic Workers in Cyprus

The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS), on the occasion of International Day against Racism, drafted policy recommendations aimed at the Cyprus Government for the integration of female migrant domestic workers based on the results of the transnational project "Integration of Female Migrant Domestic Workers: Strategies for Employment and Civic Participation" funded by INTI Preparatory Actions 2005.

The policy recommendations are based on the recognition that the intersectionality of gender and migration constitutes an indispensable analytic tool for understanding and combating the social exclusion of female migrant domestic workers in Cyprus. It is evident that female migrant domestic workers experience gender exclusion in different ways and degrees than Cypriot women because of their migrant status. Further, female migrant domestic workers experience discrimination and exploitation as migrant workers in different ways and in different degrees than other third country nationals because of their gender.

The policy recommendations are available in English and in Greek on our website at <http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=1660>.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

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

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Faces @ MIGS

Christina Kaili, Project Administrator

MIGS warmly welcomes Christina Kaili who joined MIGS in January 2009 as Project Administrator. A bright and talented recent graduate, Christina Kaili holds a BA in Sociology, with a minor in Political Science from the University of Cyprus, and an MA in Human Rights from the University College London. During her Master's thesis she conducted research on "The Discourses Constructed on Trafficking of women as a



Human Rights issue, as viewed from the Perspective of Public Opinion, NGOs and Policy Elites in Cyprus". A committed and passionate activist, Christina has long been active as a volunteer in civil society work and has participated in events and projects organized by various NGOs, including group gatherings, workshops, as well in information panels, training seminars and networking events on a local and European level. Christina was particularly involved in informing and sensitizing youth on issues pertaining to human rights, interpersonal relationships, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Christina's interests include Ethnicity and Nationalism, Power, Gender and Politics, Sexual and Reproductive Human Rights, and Trafficking in Women.

At MIGS Christina is currently involved in the project *Investigating the Demand Side of Trafficking in Women in Cyprus* and is responsible for our priority areas Gender and the Media and represents MIGS at the Euromed Human Rights Network.

christina@medinstgenderstudies.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:

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