

## **Women's Migration and Asylum Network: Terms of Reference**

### **Background**

Rights of Women campaigns to ensure that the development and implementation of law and policy locally and nationally is consistent with national and international standards and best practice related to gender equality, with a view to improving the situation and status of all women.

An important part of our work is to ensure that the views of migrant women's organisations, organisations that provide services to, or work with migrant women, and interested individuals, are taken into account in the development and implementation of law and policy. In order to support this objective, Rights of Women has established the Women's Migration and Asylum Network for individuals and organisations based in England and Wales that have an interest in keeping up-to-date with law and policy changes that affect migrant women and who wish to participate in policy work and campaigning on women's rights in the UK.

There are many individuals and organisations across England and Wales who have expertise in a wide range of issues concerning the rights and needs of migrant women. It is the intention of Rights of Women that through facilitation and coordination, expertise may be shared between individuals and organisations for the benefit of all members and to influence law and policy, locally and nationally.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the Women's Migration and Asylum Network are to:

- facilitate communication between and strengthen the understanding of network members on legal and policy issues that affect migrant and asylum-seeking women;
- improve the participation of network members in the legal and policy formation process;
- positively influence law and policy that affects migrant and asylum-seeking women;
- promote gender equality and work towards the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of gender, as well as discrimination against women where it intersects with age, disability, gender identity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation or any combination thereof; and,
- to promote the human rights of all women in the UK.

### **Areas of interest**

The Network focuses on improving gender equality in relation to the following thematic areas:

- asylum;
- economic migration;
- family migration (including family formation and reunion);
- settlement and routes to citizenship;
- violence against women issues (including trafficking);

### **Membership**

The network is open to individuals and representatives from:

- charities, not-for-profit and voluntary organisations working on migration or asylum issues and / or women's or other equality issues;
- statutory sector organisations;
- individuals involved in immigration law and policy issues (such as activists, academics and legal professionals).

The network actively seeks to engage with smaller voluntary and community organisations from England and Wales. In doing so, it will seek to engage to the greatest extent possible representatives from a diversity of interest groups, including migrant women's organisation and those organisations working with women who experience discrimination and disadvantage on grounds of race, ethnicity, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability and immigration status.

### **Meeting Schedule and Timeframe**

The network exists primarily as virtual 'e-group' with occasional seminars and events being organised as and where necessary.

### **Role of Rights of Women**

Rights of Women coordinates and chairs the Women's Migration and Asylum Network and facilitates meetings and events where appropriate. Rights of Women will coordinate all activities of the Network including where required, the drafting and publication of joint policy statements and other documents.

### **To join**

To join the Network visit <https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en-GB#!forum/womens-migration-and-asylum-network>. You will need to set up a Google account (if do not already have one). The network is free and open to any professional interested in the group's objectives. Please include your full name, job title and organisation / affiliation when you submit your join request.