



11th International Metropolis Conference
“Paths & Crossroads: Moving People, Changing Places”
2-6 October 2006 Lisboa, Portugal

WOMEN AND MIGRATION
Pre-conference workshop

2 October 2006
10:00 - 17:00

ORGANISERS:

Zeynep Karman, Status of Women Canada
Eva Haagensen, Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion, Department of Integration and Diversity, Norway
Lucinda Fonseca, Centro de Estudos Geograficos, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Opening speech:

Dr. Nicola Piper, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

Migration is a gendered experience. Until recently this has been much overlooked by policy and research. The goal of this workshop is to bridge this gap by examining more closely the impact of feminisation of migration. Almost half of the world's international migrants are women (48.6%, Report of the Global Commission on International Migration, October 2005) and in North America and Europe there are more female than male international migrants (51% and 52% respectively). While women remain predominant in the category of family migrants more recent trends show an increase in women migrating alone or as the main wage-earners. Women who migrate for economic reasons remain employed in traditionally female occupations, such as nursing, services, retail, domestic work and entertainment.

In order for public policies to be effective, they need to take gender into account. There are many areas where gender-based policy research is still needed to inform policy development. This workshop proposes to engage academics, researchers, policy makers and civil society in an informed debate around three main topics: 1) migrant women's contribution to economic development in both source and host countries (e.g. issues such as foreign credentials recognition; migration of high-skilled women and professionals; status and rights of migrant women temporary workers; remittances); 2) migrant women's access to social and health services and programs (e.g. language and job training; access to public health information and services; reproductive health of refugee and immigrant women; challenges of trans-national families) and 3) migrant women's human, social and labour rights (e.g. trafficking in women; undocumented migrants; working conditions and labour standards).

We invite North American, European and other international experts to participate in this policy research dialogue with a goal to inform better policies and inclusion of gender in all dimensions of migration management: economic, social, health, human rights and equality.

As seating will be limited, after you have registered for the 2006 Metropolis conference at <http://www.ceg.ul.pt/metropolis2006/registration.html>, please confirm your attendance for this pre-conference workshop by sending an e-mail to metropolis2006@ceg.ul.pt .

For any other information on the workshop please contact:

In Canada: www.research@swc-cfc.gc.ca
In Portugal: metropolis2006@ceg.ul.pt