

Women for a tolerant, multicultural and multi-religious Europe



Women from migrant and ethnic minorities play the lead role in their integration into society.

- Several organisations, led by the European Contact Group in the Czech Republic, co-ordinated an international meeting on the situation of women of minority, migrant and refugee backgrounds in Europe. It resulted in a five-day international seminar entitled “Women’s values and spirituality as a key to a tolerant, multicultural and multi-religious Europe. Everyday life of women from ethnic minority groups in Europe” which took place in April 2005 in the Czech Republic.
- The project brought together 60 women for presentations, plenary discussions, lectures, group work, workshops, visits to local organisations and multicultural evenings. The women’s countries of origin were Afghanistan, Angola, Byelorussia, Cape Verde, Congo, Chechnya, Chile, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Philippines, Surinam, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and the countries of the former Republic of Yugoslavia, while their countries of residence were throughout Europe.
- Their work resulted in the creation of a publication entitled “Memorandum on migrant and ethnic minority women” available in 3 languages – Czech, English and Dutch. The booklet contains recommendations to the EU for building a tolerant multicultural society, analysis and examples of discriminatory practices, women’s views of their role in the society and recommendations to grassroots activists across Europe.

► European Contact Group (CZ)



- A large public of EU citizens of foreign origin were given a unique opportunity to propose specific recommendations on anti-discrimination and equality policies for minorities and to discuss strategies for developing a multicultural Europe from a women's perspective.
 - The results of the seminar were compiled in a memorandum that was distributed not only among participants and civil society organisations but was also sent to the media and to relevant state bodies.
 - The event had a direct impact on the personal development of the participants and the empowering of women through the training on assertiveness and communication skills and through the discussions and workshops. It also had an impact on their community groups as well as their future involvement in international networks.
- This project helped to establish links between women from different backgrounds and inspired several new activities for the future, at both the local and international level. Follow-up meetings, another international seminar, and multicultural activities have all taken place since the first event.

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