



## Invitation

### **Democracy and equality beyond borders: promoting and strengthening asylum seeker, refugee and migrant women's rights**

**Events on 6-7-8 March 2018 in Brussels (Belgium)**

#### **Background**

Several events focusing on different aspects and issues related to gender and migration will be held in Brussels on 6-7 and 8 March 2018. These activities are organised by Le Monde selon les femmes in cooperation with WIDE+ in the framework of two projects co-financed by the EU and the Open Society Foundations:

1. The project "The Europe we want? Feminist approaches to gender, migration and democracy" (Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union) is coordinated by WIDE Austria. It aims at strengthening anti-racist feminist approaches within adult education on global and development issues. Involved actors explore the linkages between gender, migration, economic justice and democracy and promote the empowerment of relevant multipliers for gender just and democratic European societies. Participants: CEIM (Spain), GADIP (Sweden), KARAT Coalition (Poland) and Le Monde selon les femmes (Belgium). All organisations involved are members of WIDE+ (Women in Development Europe) <https://wideplus.org/>
2. The project "#womensvoices\_2018: Strengthening Innovative Solutions to protect Female Migrant and Refugee Rights" is coordinated by WIDE+ with the support of Le Monde selon les femmes. It aims at stimulate cross-national learning among women's rights, female migrant and refugee associations and where relevant, other stakeholders on innovative practices and strategies. Participants: organisations either partner or member of WIDE+ in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Poland, Serbia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, and experts from other countries.

The different workshops and events aim at exchanging findings, views and experiences from different perspectives and countries. They will contribute to disseminating good practice examples, highlighting current trends and challenges, and formulating recommendations to European politicians.

#### **Registration**

- The workshops held on **6 March** will be attended by invited project participants, who will receive further information in the coming days.
- The workshops on **7 March** in the morning (Maison des associations internationales) and on 7 March in the afternoon (European Parliament) are open to interested participants. There is a limited number of places available and previous registration required for both events (see details below).
- The WIDE + internal meeting and General Assembly of **8 March** is open to WIDE+ members.
- WIDE+ members who are not involved in either project are requested to register with Evgenia Ivanova by 21 February 2018: [info@wide-network.org](mailto:info@wide-network.org).

## Draft agenda

### Tuesday 6.3.2018

#### Morning - 09.00-12.45 (2 parallel sessions, with coffee break)

<p><b>OSF Project: internal kick off meeting</b></p> <p>Who: Delegates involved in the OSF Project</p> <p>Agenda: Detailed agenda to be sent to participants</p> <p>Venue: Auberge de jeunesse Jacques Brel, Rue de la Sablonnière 20, 1000 Brussels</p> <p>Responsible persons: Gea Meijers and Cristina Reyna</p>	<p><b>Erasmus+ Project: transnational partnership meeting</b></p> <p>Who: Participants in the Erasmus+ Project</p> <p>Agenda: field visit, Red Cross project aimed at women asylum seekers, Yvoir reception centre</p> <p>Venue: departure at <u>8.30</u> from Le Monde selon les femmes' office, Rue de la Sablonnière 18, 1000 Brussels</p> <p>Responsible person: Stefania Del Zotto</p>
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#### Lunch - 12.45 – 14.00

Venue : Amazone, Rue du Méridien 10, 1210 Bruxelles

#### Afternoon - 14.00 -17.00 (2 parallel sessions)

<p><b>OSF Project: internal kick off meeting</b></p> <p>Follow-up of morning session – separate agenda to be sent to participants.</p> <p>Venue: Auberge de jeunesse Jacques Brel, Rue de la Sablonnière 20, 1000 Brussels</p>	<p><b>Internal (Erasmus+) transnational partnership meeting:</b></p> <p>Agenda: separate agenda to be sent to participants.</p> <p>Venue: Le Monde selon les femmes' office</p>
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#### Evening – as from 18.00

#### Informal gathering and light meal at Le Monde selon les femmes

Venue : Rue de la Sablonnière 18, 1000 Brussels.

## **Wednesday 7.3.2018**

**Morning – 8.30 -12.00 (with coffee break)**

### **Workshop: “Women’s migration between agency, exploitation and resistance”**

This workshop will address several aspects related to women’s rights, gender and migration. It will involve both Erasmus+ and OSF project participants as well as Belgian local NGO and women’s associations’ representatives. This session aims at exchanging findings, views and experiences from different perspectives and countries in order to inform, highlight trends and challenges, and formulate recommendations to European politicians.

Methodology: after a short introduction by 4-5 speakers, participants\* will have the time for a structured discussion on the different issues at stake, including:

- current migration policies from a gender perspective;
- links between economic development, trade, gender and migration;
- reception of women asylum seekers;
- integration of migrant women (including access to rights, education, health, to the labour market, empowerment);
- violence against migrant women and trafficking;
- migrant women’s participation in the democratic life of host societies; etc.

Speakers:

- Maria Arena, Belgian MEP  
Migration and violence against women (TBC)
- Christa Wichterich, WIDE+  
Links between development, trade and migration - examples from Africa
- Carla Cingolani, Mujeres en Zona de Conflictos, Spain  
Overview of current trends in women’s trafficking between Africa and Andalusia based on a three-year research and ongoing NGO work on the ground
- Marijana Savic, NGO Atina, Serbia  
Situation of migrant women in Serbia following the « refugee crisis »
- Maria Miguel Sierra, La Voix des femmes, Belgium  
Integration and participation of migrant women in Belgium: trends over the last 20 years and challenges
- Olesya Malyugina, Social Communication Center of the City of Warsaw, Poland  
A feminist perspective on the situation of migrant women in Poland

Co-chairs:

Silke Steinhilber, WIDE + and Co-chair, Le Monde selon les femmes

\*(active) Participants:

- Erasmus+ participants from Spain, Sweden, Poland and Belgium (all participants are members of WIDE+).
- OSF Project participants: organisations either partner or member of WIDE+ in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Poland, Serbia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, and experts from other countries.
- Belgian and international NGOs and women’s associations, including: AWSA, Croix-Rouge de Belgique, GAMS Belgique, Exils, members of the Conseil consultatif genre, members of the World Women’s March (Belgian section), the International Rescue Committee, etc.
- Anyone interested in the topics discussed is welcome.

**Venue:** Maison des associations internationales, Rue Washington 40, 1050 Brussels

**Timing:** 8.30 registration, session 9-12.00 (with coffee break)

**Modalities:** general public participants are requested to register. Please send an e-mail indicating your name, surname, organisation and country to [berivan@mondefemmes.org](mailto:berivan@mondefemmes.org) by 1 March 2018.

**Translation:** EN-FR and FR-EN provided.

## **Wednesday 7.3.2018**

### **Afternoon at the European Parliament (registration required \*)**

12.15 – 13.30 - Sandwiches

**13.30-15.00** – Room to be confirmed

#### **Workshop on gender and migration in the framework of the “Feminist Forum” of GUE/NGL**

This workshop will focus on two specific topics related to gender and migration from a feminist perspective: on the one side the parallel between security narratives in several European countries and the undermining of women’s rights and, on the other side, current migration trends and evidence showing an increase in human trafficking and increased vulnerability to exploitation affecting women.

Proposed structure:

- The first speaker will provide general elements of context and of analysis for further reflection focusing in particular on the challenges of current policies and discourses.
- The second speaker will give an overview of current trends in women’s trafficking between Africa and Andalusia based on a three-year research and ongoing NGO work on the ground.
- The third speaker, who has a first-hand experience of asylum seeking, will explain how women remain vulnerable to violence once they are in Belgium and how current policies undermine women’s rights.
- MEPs’ intervention on current challenges and debates at EU level.
- Based on these contributions, recommendations will be proposed.
- Exchange of view with the audience.

Speakers:

- Present Members of the European Parliament (MEPs),
- Annemarie Sancar, WIDE-Switzerland,
- Carla Cingolani, Mujeres en Zona de Conflictos, Spain,
- Halimatou Barry, GAMS Belgique & Le Monde selon les femmes, Belgium,
- Additional speakers proposed by the GUE/NGL Group.

**Venue:** European Parliament, rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels.

**\*Registration:** previous registration is required by 1 March 2018. Please do so at the following address:  
<http://www.opinio.europarl.europa.eu/opinio/s?s=0603A>

NB: as you will see, the online form includes all events organised in the framework of the Feminist Forum. It is therefore possible for interested participants to attend the sessions following the migration workshop, just click the appropriate box(es).

Those registered will receive a confirmation and further information on how to access the building.

**Translation:** EN-FR and FR-EN provided as from 14.30 only. For those who need some informal translation from English into French before that time, please send an e-mail to [berivan@mondefemmes.org](mailto:berivan@mondefemmes.org) by 1 March 2018.

## **Thursday 8.3.2018**

9.00-11.00

**Joint WIDE+ Working space**

11.15- 14.00

**WIDE+ General Assembly 2018**

**Who** : WIDE+ members

**Venue**: Le Monde selon les femmes' office, Rue de la Sablonnière 18, 1000 Brussels, +32 (0)2 223 05 12.

### **And for those still in Brussels...**

- **As from 3:00 PM**: "Feminist village" close to Brussels Central Station organised by the World March of Women, Belgian section.
- **At 5.30 PM**: Public action "Feminist haka" (between flash-mob and self-defense activity) for women to make themselves heard!

**Venue** : place du Carrefour de l'Europe, in front of Brussels Central Station

## **Practical issues**

Participants are asked to organise their travelling and accommodation.

For information relating to transport and accommodation, please see the PRACTICAL INFORMATION document.

For Erasmus+ project participants and OSF delegates costs are covered (please follow the relevant rules and make sure you keep the receipts as required).

For a limited number of WIDE+ members (beyond the project participants), the organizers offer a support of 400.00 EUR. To apply for this support, please write an e-mail to: Evgenia Ivanova, [info@wide-network.org](mailto:info@wide-network.org) by 6.2.2018.

If you have any specific question, please contact:

Erasmus+:

Stefania Del Zotto: [Stefania@mondefemmes.org](mailto:Stefania@mondefemmes.org)

Claudia Thallmayer: [thallmayer@wide-netzwerk.at](mailto:thallmayer@wide-netzwerk.at)

OSF Project:

Gea Meijers: [info@wide-network.org](mailto:info@wide-network.org)

Cristina Reina: [cris\\_reyna@hotmail.com](mailto:cris_reyna@hotmail.com)

Looking forward to meeting you in Brussels soon!



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