

MIGRANT WOMEN

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Migrant women in the European Union have varying backgrounds, experiences, and circumstances. They have come to Europe for many different reasons, as for employment opportunities, education, family reunification, or seek asylum or refuge. Accordingly, the legal status of migrant women in Europe varies depending on their reasons for migration.

Migrant women and refugee women often face inequalities depending on various factors such as the country they reside in, their socioeconomic status, education level, language proficiency, and cultural background. While it is essential to acknowledge that not all migrant women face discrimination, many encounter challenges and prejudices in their host countries as for instance:

- bureaucratic hurdles and legal barriers in obtaining residence permits
- accessing social or health care services
- accessing decent employment opportunities. They may work in low-paid and precarious jobs, facing labour exploitation, long working hours, and difficult working conditions
- language barriers, cultural differences, and lack of recognition for prior qualifications
- difficulties in finding affordable and suitable housing due to discriminatory practices by landlords or real estate agents. They may also face segregation and social exclusion in certain neighbourhoods.
- challenges in integration, whereby language barriers in particular can limit their access to services, employment, and social networks, making it harder to fully participate in society.

European policies on migrants vary among different countries and the European Union as a whole. However, addressing these challenges requires comprehensive policies and initiatives that promote inclusivity, gender equality, and integration, as well as combating discrimination and providing support tailored to the specific needs of migrant women. Particularly, organisations, NGOs, and activists advocate for the rights of migrant women and combat discrimination in order to create a more inclusive and equitable society for all.