

Open Forum

Discussion between CEDAW Committee Members and Panellists

Moderator: Ms. Feride Acar, Chair, the CEDAW Committee

Committee members addressed the panellists with questions and reflections. Some key issues raised were:

- ◆ **Need for data on the situation of women migrant workers and trafficking in women and girls from Central and Eastern European countries.**
- ◆ **Need for research on the demand aspects of migration.** How, and in what ways we can transform the attitudes of people that lead to the exploitation of women migrant workers.
- ◆ **Need to mainstream gender concerns in migration into development plans, policies and programmes at regional, national and local levels.**
- ◆ **UNIFEM's role in working with NGO's** when governments do not promote and protect women migrant workers' rights.
- ◆ **Remittances from women migrant workers being unnoticed and invisible.** While we are moving constantly, although gradually, in the direction of recognising women's invisible housework around the world, we are now faced with the phenomenon of invisibility of women migrant workers paid public work and their remittances to the economies of countries of origin, as well as their economic contribution to countries of employment.

Outcomes of the UNIFEM-CEDAW Panel on Addressing Women Migrant Workers' Concerns

A. The CEDAW Committee pledged its continued commitment to the concerns of women migrant workers by:

- ◆ encouraging States Parties to report on their policies, legislation and programmes on women migrant workers and the impact of these on their lives;
- ◆ engaging in constructive dialogue with States Parties on the above and making recommendations to them to effectively protect the rights of women migrant workers;
- ◆ requesting information flows on rights violations of women migrant workers as well as good policies and programmes in countries of origin or employment to empower them;
- ◆ reiterating the need for collaboration within the UN treaty body system and between UN organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders to protect the human rights of women migrant workers.

B. The Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants recommended that the CEDAW Committee consider adopting a General Recommendation on migration either independently or with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

About UNIFEM

UNIFEM is the women's fund at the United Nations. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies that promote women's human rights, political participation and economic security. Within the UN system, UNIFEM promotes gender equality and links women's issues and concerns to national, regional and global agendas by fostering collaboration and providing technical expertise on gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment strategies.

United Nations Development Fund for Women

UNIFEM Headquarters
304 East 45th Street, 15th floor
New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel: (1212) 906-6400
Fax: (1212) 906-6705
Website: www.unifem.org

UNIFEM East and Southeast Asia
Regional Office
UN Building 5th floor
Rajadamnern Nok Avenue,
Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Tel: (662) 288-2225, (662)288
2093
Fax: (662) 280-6030
E-mail: info@unifem.un.or.th



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Overall Coordination: Dr. Jean D'Cunha, UNIFEM
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