



One in eight people in Ireland are from a migrant background. Migrant women represent more than 6% of the population in Ireland today. We bring enterprise and initiative. We have chosen to live in Ireland and want to contribute. In order to fully participate in Irish society, migrant women must be visible in all spheres of Irish life and be represented proportionally in the Irish population in all decision making processes.

But we face numerous barriers to full participation and in many situations, overt discrimination. Integration is a second thought, largely absent from the programmes of all political parties. Meanwhile we hear daily accounts of racism which increasingly include violence and deliberate attempts by a minority to create segregation and tension.

This is not the Ireland we want to inhabit and it is not the Ireland the majority of people wish to inhabit.

A diverse republic needs inclusive politics and institutions which reflect the brilliant diversity of Irish society. Government bodies and local authorities need to do much more to engage with immigrant communities. They must recognise and support the efforts being undertaken by us. Our leaders must proactively support interculturalism and take a stand to end racism.

Migrant Women na hÉireann is a positive collective of dozens of organisations working for the promotion of the status and wellbeing of migrant women in Ireland today. We stand together seeking equality and political acknowledgement not only that we belong, but that we are bringing a positive benefit to Irish society.

## **Actions**

We are seeking full equality of access in the following areas and proactive efforts to identify and overcome discrimination in the following areas:

- Labour market including wages
- Housing, including fair access to housing supports
- Education
- Women's support services relating to GBV
- Health incl. in particular mental health services and reproductive health

We are seeking specific policy & legislative progress in the following areas:

- A new National Action Plan Against Racism
- Effective hate crime legislation
- Fair and clear immigration system, including the end of Direct Provision
- Effective approaches to integration
- Pathways to regularisation for undocumented people
- Protection from domestic, sexual and gender-based violence
- Clear pathways to citizenship for children
- Full implementation of the Istanbul Convention