



## NEWS REPORT

<b>Date:</b>	4 November 2010
<b>Expert :</b>	Corina Demetriou
<b>Title:</b>	Equality body survey on migrant women
<b>Country:</b>	Cyprus
<b><u>Context</u></b>	
<b>Issue at stake:</b>	The equality body publishes a survey it has commissioned to a research centre on the situation of female migrants, evidencing high degrees of racial discrimination
<b>Ground of discrimination:</b>	Race/ethnic origin
<b>Source:</b>	Equality body survey
<b>Field:</b>	Employment and vocational training
<b>Legislative provisions:</b>	The Combating of Racial and Other forms of Discrimination (Commissioner) Law N.42(I)/2004, article 44.
<b><u>Content</u></b>	

**Equality body survey:** The equality body commissioned a survey pursuant to Article 44 of the Combating of Racial and other Forms of Discrimination Law, which was conducted in February 2010 in the framework of a needs assessment exercise aiming at establishing the vocational training needs of migrant female workers in Cyprus. The sample was composed of 1,702 migrant women and the method used was based on personal interviews. The results established the profile of migrant women in Cyprus as follows: the majority (37 per cent) are aged between 26-35; have secondary education (32 per cent); are married (50 per cent); have children (58 per cent); are of Christian faith (90 per cent); come from Asian countries (49 per cent); work as domestic workers (54 per cent); their salaries range between 201-500 Euros per month (51 per cent). Their main problems were reported to be their low salary (37 per cent); discrimination (27 per cent); large volume of work (25 per cent); language (16 per cent). The vast majority does not know where to apply to seek assistance in case of sexual harassment, physical abuse or labour exploitation and only 16 per cent knows of the equality body. Also, 35 per cent have experienced 'a lot of' racism, 20 per cent feel socially excluded, 14 per cent were sexually harassed, 12 per cent were physically abused by



their employer, 6 per cent were sexually exploited and 4 per cent were raped by their employer. Half of the women interviewed were employed as house maids or cleaners; one out of ten women worked as a retail sales assistant and six per cent worked as nurses. The situation as regards the type of work performed was more or less the same in their previous job before they came to Cyprus with the exception of the maids/cleaners, from who only one in ten worked as a maid/ cleaner in her previous job.

The survey showed that with their advent to Cyprus, migrant women make less utilisation of their qualifications and experience than before, whilst salary-wise they are treated unfairly, given that the salary of the majority ranges between 201-500 Euros monthly and have to work long hours. Only two in ten women have undergone some type of training.

**Internet link source and additional information:** At the time of writing, the survey had not as yet been uploaded on the equality body's newly constructed website (<http://www.no-discrimination.ombudsman.gov.cy>) but the author was informed that it will be uploaded very shortly.