

Women's Caucus Statement

People's Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights

2 December 2011, Geneva

The PGA¹ Women's Caucus met to discuss obstacles migrant women face regionally and globally and to share organizing strategies on critical issues. Having met at each PGA and at the UN Commission on the Status of Women since 2009, the caucus expressed readiness to work on common campaigns and focus on organizing around migrant women's rights. This will take on different specificities in each region, but will reflect a common focus.

Across the global regions we seek to share tools and examples of women's organizing, as we address critical needs of migrant women, including undocumented migrant women; women with temporary work permits in very precarious and often abusive situations; and migrant women with residency documents who nonetheless are prey to restrictive public policies and rising xenophobia.

We noted the importance for migrant women of working with allies, including trade unions, churches, women's organizations, local elected officials, anti-racist groups, and public service professionals among others. Central to this is supporting migrant women's leadership in community and migrant organizations and trade unions.

We noted the importance of seeing undocumented and temporary migrant women's experiences in the context of globalization. As we seek rights-based remedies for the situation of migrants, we must continue to address trade and finance policies that create poverty and cause women to migrate, while also monitoring how current bi-lateral trade policies increase forms of labor mobility without rights. We affirmed the need to demand accountability of governments to international human rights and labor rights treaties. We welcomed the participation of the World YWCA, based in Geneva, and their contribution of a statement on migrant women.

We have agreed to coordinate efforts across regions to begin to build the following global campaigns:

1. A joint campaign against the **criminalization of migrants**.
2. A campaign to guarantee economic and social rights, through the **provision of quality public services to all**, including temporary workers, undocumented migrant women and their families. This includes access to shelter, legal protections, healthcare, domestic

¹ People's Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights; <http://www.migrantwatch.org/pgs2011/>

violence rescue and support, and education among others. It is necessary to build a “firewall” between service providers and migration enforcement, so that migrant women are able to freely access services without fear.

3. A campaign against **gender-based violence** towards undocumented migrant women and temporary workers, affirming women’s right to move freely without being bound to their spouse or employer, which keeps women in violent situations.

In 2012 we anticipate coordinating efforts internationally in the context of:

- *UN Commission on the Status of Women* (New York, February)
- *Association for Women’s Rights in Development AWID Forum* (Istanbul, April)
- Rio+20 .June 2012
- World Social Forum on Migration (Manila, November)
- People’s Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights (TBD)
- exchanges between regions

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