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WOMEN MIGRANTS: CREATING A SPACE FOR COMMUNICATION IN BELGIUM:



THE VISIBILITY OF LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN MIGRANTS

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This presentation argues about the recent experience of a group of Latin American women migrants in Belgium in their attempt to gain visibility for other women migrants and for their trajectory in more than 30 years of Latin American migration to Belgium. The experience allow women of migrant origin to access public spaces such as radio programmes and public debates for the visibilisation of key problems such as right to active citizenship for women migrants, the limited access to the restricted labour market, the almost inexistent political participation, the difficulties faced in the recognition of diplomas and further education in their host society. This experience has allowed us to unite and recognise forces among us and collaborate towards a common objective through active and committed participation.

Keywords:

Gender, Latin-American migration, citizenship, political participation, public space

About the author

Kelly Mercado is a Peruvian journalist specialised in Gender issues and women migrants participation in Belgium and Spain. She focuses on the experience and right to active citizenship for women migrants in different domains, labour market, political participation, recognition of diplomas and further education. She is also a committed activist on issues of gender violence. Kelly directs and hosts in Brussels the radio programme Palabra de Mujer (Mot de Femme/Word of Women) which she founded in 1997 to become the voice of women migrants in Belgium.

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