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The need for reinforced protection of rights of migrant women

Motion for a recommendation

tabled by Mr John GREENWAY and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

The Parliamentary Assembly is concerned about the human rights implications of the increasing proportion of migrants who are women, particularly women seeking work.

Half of all international migrants today are women. In many circumstances migrant women, particularly those working in poorly regulated sectors such as domestic services, are particularly vulnerable to exploitation, abuse and trafficking, and are in an urgent need for reinforced protection.

The Assembly considers that further steps need to be taken by the Council of Europe to enhance the protection of migrant women, irrespective of their occupation or migrant status. To this end, it calls upon member states and the Committee of Ministers to:

- encourage member states governments to step up the ratification of relevant existing legal protection instruments, notably the European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers and the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking of Human Beings;
- ensure that the future Council of Europe convention to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence includes the legal protection and support of migrant women from gender-based violence and abuse, irrespective of their legal status;
- encourage member states governments to introduce a gender-sensitive approach in formulating international migration policies;
- urge the European Union to recognise the rights of migrant women in developing European Union immigration and social policies;
- strengthen the partnership between Council of Europe member states and countries of origin in order to respect the human rights of migrant women, promote gender equality, including in civil law and empower women;
- undertake urgent examination of problems of ageing migrant women: their access to support, special needs and social benefits;
- re-examine, in co-operation with the European Union, the availability of legal migration channels for migrant women, safeguarding their migration opportunities and protection in the context of reducing irregular migration.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group