

New Women Connectors aims to raise awareness through organized platforms and feature the voices of refugee and migrant role models who are succeeding in life despite different challenges that come with integrating in a European city. New Women Connectors aims to create policy and perspective shifts surrounding the stereotypes that refugee and migrants, especially women, face in Europe today. The primary objective of the organization is to facilitate an open platform for sharing refugee and migrant voices, to come together and engage in individual and group everyday challenges refugees and migrants face, such as integration, participation in labor market, representation in media and education. NWC focuses on ensuring that the voices of migrant and refugees are heard and taken into account. We plan to translate those voices into policy recommendations to ensure meaningful participation of newcomers into European society. The lived experiences and skills of newcomers can lead to proposing collaborative and feasible solutions for policy platforms. It will demonstrate how inclusion of refugee and migrant voices and listening can lead to positive societal cohesion and better integration.

I. Project Description

- **Problem Statement:** All around Europe, people who are forcibly displaced come together to organize, support one another, advocate and develop their own solutions. These refugee-led, migrant-led organizations, networks and advocates bring vital and distinct perspectives and ideas to policy discussions concerning forced displacement. At a local and national level, some opportunities and spaces are available for refugee and migrant self-representation through participatory approaches (e.g. community-based protection). However, as the discussion moves into regional or international dialogue, spaces shrink for people with direct experience to exert influence.
- **Theory of Change:** Our theory of change is that by addressing the refugee representation gap in the European Member States and at the EU Institutions, and by improving refugee diplomatic skills and capacities we will contribute to make the international and European refugee system more effective, sustainable and just and therefore ensure that European refugee policy delivers tangible improvements to the lives of refugees across Europe. The inclusion of refugees and migrants in policy-making discussions is important in acknowledging and facilitating refugee / migrant agency and self-determination. With personal experience in situations of displacement, refugees and migrants are best placed to offer practical and sustainable solutions. Refugees and migrants can be powerful agents of change, evidenced through their capacity and resilience to take charge of building local communities and filling gaps in services and assistance.
- **Impact:** A major challenge in refugee and migrant self-representation at the European level is the lack of opportunity for refugee-led and migrant-led organizations, networks and advocates to come together and collaborate on areas of shared concern. Advocating effectively in national and regional dialogue requires the resources to travel and time to develop collective policy positions as well as access to advocacy opportunities. Effective refugee-led and migrant-led advocacy can occur only when attention is paid to the barriers of these self-led organizations, networks and advocates confront in coming together, including limited mobility and motility due to legal status, lack of access to resources and practical pressures, for example, most refugee/migrant-led networks are leading these networks on a voluntary basis and face a lot of challenges to get support and resources for their work. The workshop aims at addressing these challenges and showcases the benefit of meaningful inclusion of refugees and migrants while also increasing the visibility of refugee/migrant-led organisations at the EU level which will allow these groups to build sustainable partnerships with national and European stakeholders.

- **Activities:** (i) A comprehensive **mapping of diverse Women refugee/migrant-led organizations across Europe** (ii) **Women Migrant led platform** to be established and serves as a segment for refugee/migrant-led organizations in Europe to exchange experiences and enhance collaboration. (iii) **A road map of future activities** for a two years' period (iv) **An outcomes paper** with policy proposals to improve and provide women focus migration policy in Europe.

- **Participation:** These consultations will have a 3-stage process which will allow meaningful engagement and empowerment of women refugee / migrant (i) **Base line Survey:** A survey will be distributed to choose the topics according to the priorities identified by refugees and migrants. By doing so, we make sure that the participants have also the ownership over the topics that they want to discuss and bring it to the EU level. The Survey will function as an application form that will allow us to screen and select the participants of the workshops according to the criteria that will come below. In the selection of the participants, particular attention will be paid to ensure a diverse participation in terms of age, status, country of residence and origin. (ii) **Women Consultation:** will take the form of a workshop where 30+ refugees and migrant women will be divided into thematic sessions to discuss the selected topics and develop the recommendations throughout workshop of closed-doors meetings amongst the refugees / migrant women. Our aim is to engage and build sustainable partnerships. (iii) **Event with key EU policymakers:** Elected representatives will present and discuss the outcomes of these consultation workshops with policymakers and politicians in a follow-up event. The target audience for the event are EU policy-makers including members of the newly-elected European Parliament, members of the European Commission and of EU Missions in Brussels. (iv) **Follow-up:** after Each city / country consultation workshops team will organize national gathering in their host-countries to present the outcomes document to their constituencies of refugees and migrants as well as to national policy-makers / politicians.