

Ref. No. 02-57

GENDER MANIFESTUM OF MARRI REGIONAL CENTRE (MARRI RC)

MARRI RC encourages, advocates and calls for the implementation of international and EU standards regarding human rights, including *de facto* realisation of gender equality as a keystone to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights.

MARRI RC recognizes that equal rights, responsibilities, opportunities, empowerment, participation and visibility for women and men are essential to the efficient and effective migration management.

MARRI RC is aware of the benefits of applying the concept of gender mainstreaming and is committed to integrate a gender perspective in all its activities. However, it expresses its readiness and dedication to initiate, coordinate and support rising awareness and educational activities on gender mainstreaming for MARRI Participant's administrations responsible for migration, asylum and other migration related topics.

MARRI RC acknowledges that the essence of gender mainstreaming is to take in consideration the perspectives, aspirations, needs, priorities, expectations, experiences, knowledge, and skills of men and women when undertaking any activities or actions, so that both men and women benefit equally, inequality is not perpetuated and any kind of gender-based discrimination is eliminated.

MARRI RC emphasizes that the effective gender mainstreaming requires gender responsive plans, financial resources and dedicated personnel to ensure that commitments are translated into action and produces meaningful changes in favor of those who are underrepresented or their human rights are violated and/or their gender specific needs are neglected. This involves making gender perspectives – what women and men do and what resources and decision-making processes they have access to – more central to all policy development, research, advocacy, implementation and monitoring of gender sensitive norms and standards, and planning, implementation and monitoring of projects. Organizational culture and organizational values are important in terms of creating work environments which are conducive to gender mainstreaming.

MARRI RC underlines that one of the very important components of gender mainstreaming concept is the establishment and strengthening of internal gender institutional mechanisms which are critical for the improvement of gender equality and implementation of a gender perspective as a cross-cutting issue.

Bearing in mind the above mentioned, the Special Advisor on Gender and Equality at MARRI RC supports the efforts of the MARRI RC Director to promote a continuous and sustainable gender mainstreaming process across the RC. She assists and advises the RC Director and all RC Personnel for the mainstreaming of gender in all MARRI RC products.

MARRI RC stresses the importance of strengthening partnerships with other regional and international organizations, as well as with civil society and academia, aimed at ensuring synergies, strengthening gender responsive impact and increasing effectiveness, outreach and visibility.

MARRI RC reiterates that the inclusive and gender responsive approach to migration management is fundamental to full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and requires appropriate legal, policy and practical responses in order to provide effective gender specific services.

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