



# THE 1979 RECOMMENDATION ON WOMEN MIGRANTS

1st meeting of the Drafting Committee on Migrant Women (GEC-MIG)  
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## Recommendation No. R(79)10 of the Committee of Ministers to member States concerning women migrants

- ✓ The **first of the 29 recommendations** on gender equality issues
- ✓ Should **serve “as a basis”** for new recommendation
- ✓ Many **changes** in the last 40 years
- ✓ Some issues initially identified for the new recommendation are **covered** – but may need updating
- ✓ Some issues are **not covered**

## Recommendation No. R(79)10 concerning women migrants

### Aims:

- ✓ Ensuring the 'effective exercise of the right of migrant workers and their families to protection and assistance', and
- ✓ Ensuring 'equality of treatment of national and migrant women workers'.

### Recommends measures to member states related to:

- ✓ Information
- ✓ Conditions of residence and work
- ✓ Living conditions and socio-cultural development
- ✓ Basic training, vocational guidance and promotion



## Recommendation No. R(79) 10 concerning women migrants

- ✓ Development of **gender equality-related concepts, policies and legal instruments** at all levels since 1979 on:
  - Violence against women & trafficking
  - Women's rights as integral part of human rights
  - Sexual and reproductive rights
  - Women's empowerment and economic independence
  - Care issues
  - Gender mainstreaming and gender sensitive policies
  - Multiple discrimination and intersectionality

## Recommendation No. R(79) 10 concerning women migrants

- ✓ Development of **migration and asylum-related policies and legal instruments** at all levels since 1979 on:
  - Trafficking
  - Migrant and domestic workers
  - Anti-discrimination legislation
  - Asylum
  - Family reunification

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**Migration patterns** have changed:

- ✓ Increased numbers of migrants & refugees (but stable proportion globally: about 3% of humanity)
- ✓ People displaced as a result of armed conflict, human rights violations, or persecution has increased dramatically over the last decade
- ✓ Both globally and in Europe, most migration is intra-continental.
- ✓ Increased diversity (countries of origin, ethnic and religious backgrounds, cultural practices and languages)

**Migrant women's situation** has changed:

- ✓ Mostly seen as mothers and wives in 1979 recommendation
- ✓ Women migrating on their own
- ✓ Higher labour market participation

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Protecting the rights of migrant,  
refugee and asylum-seeking  
women and girls



Council of Europe  
Gender Equality Strategy