

THE PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN: THE
SUCCESSSES, GAPS AND CHALLENGES

GOOD AFTERNOON, MY NAME IS SALOME MBUGUA, THE CEO OF AKIDWA, VICE CHAIR OF THE NWCI, I ALSO SEAT ON THE MONITORING GROUP ON 1325 REPRESENTING NWCI.

MY ORGANISATION AKIDWA HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH MIGRANT WOMEN OF ALL BACKGROUNDS AND OF DIFFERENT IMMIGRATION STATUS FOR A DECADE. OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE SUPPORTED WOMEN THAT HAVE ENDED UP IN IRELAND AS PROGRAMME REFUGEES AND WOMEN SEEKING PROTECTION- ASYLUM SEEKERS FROM SUDAN, CONGO, SOMALIA, RWANDA, ROMANIA, RUSSIA JUST TO NAME A FEW. WHILE THE BASIC NEEDS OF MOST OF THESE WOMEN MIGHT HAVE BEEN MET IN IRELAND AND WHILE THEY MAY FEEL SECURE, THEIR PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING HAS NOT BEEN MET, MAJORITY CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE WITH TRAUMA,

THERE IS DEFINITELY GAPS AND LACK OF SPECIALISED SUPPORT- OTHER CHALLENGES SUCH AS, LANGUAGE BARRIER AND LACK OF SUPPORT NETWORKS.

SINCE 2008 AKIDWA HAS BEEN ADVOCATING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ASYLUM GENDER GUIDELINES- RECOGNISE AND CONSIDER GENDER SPECIFIC HARM- 1951 UN DEFINITION/QUALIFY FOR REFUGEE DO NOT IN COOPERATE THE GENDER SPECIFIC HARSH, RAPE DURING WAR, FGM, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AKIDWA 2013 STATICS ON FGM INDICATE THERE ARE 3780 WOMEN LIVING IN IRELAND THAT HAVE UNDERGONE FGM, WHILE WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE THE LAW PROHIBITING THE PRACTICE IN IRELAND THERE STILL NO REFERRAL PATH OR SUPPORT MECHANISM IN PLACE TO ADDRESS NEEDS OF THESE WOMEN

DEPORTATION/ RETURN OF WOMEN TO WAR TORN COUNTRIES – ON WORLD REFUGEE DAY DEPORATION WERE CARRIED OUT TO D.R.CONGO, WOMAN WRE AMONG THOSE THAT WERE DEPORTED, THESE HAS BEEN WORRYING, ALSO THE WAY THESE DEPORTATIONS ARE CARRIED OUT TEND TO BE MORE TRAUMATISING TO WOMEN, THEY ACTUALLY LEAVE MORE TRAUMATISED THAN THEY CAME.

IN 2012 ORAC INVITED AKIDWA TO MAKE A SUBMISSION FOR DOMESTIC GENDER GUIDELINE, HOWEVER WE ARE YET TO SEE THE FINAL DRAFT.

- AT PRESENT THERE IS NO TRANSPARENT, OBJECTIVE AND PUBLISHED GUIDELINES UPON WHICH IMMIGRATION DECISIONS ARE MADE, INCLUDING FOR APPLICATION CRITERIA AND REFUSAL GROUNDS
- SUPPORTING TRAUMA, EMOTIONAL AND HEALTH NEEDS
- PROVISION OF TRAINING AND SUPPORT TO ENSURE CULTURALLY COMPETENT HEALTH SERVICES
- SUPPORT FOR ORGANISATION WORKING WITH MIGRANT WOMEN
- ENGAGING/ CONSULTING MIGRANT WOMEN IN DEVELOPING, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF 1325 NAP- E. G.WOMEN COUNT FOR PEACE- 1325 PLUS 10 NWCI, BY SHIRLEY GRAHAM
- INVOLVEMENT OF ALL THE UNITS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ORAC, PROMOTION AND INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS, RIA, COSC, TRAFFICKING