

## INVITATION

*Presentation results of research project*

### **Asylum and migration: reception of women in asylum centers... towards a gender sensitive reception policy?**

On **Thursday 10th June 2010 at 1.30 p.m.** the Nederlandstalige Vrouwenraad – the Dutch-speaking Council of Women of Belgium – will present the results of its research project on '*Asylum and migration: reception of women in asylum centers...towards a gender sensitive reception policy?*' The aim of this comprehensive and unique research project carried out between 2008-2010 was to examine the living conditions of women in the community centers for asylum seekers. Together with this publication the Vrouwenraad will present the **manual** that can be used for training courses aiming at achieving a gender sensitive reception policy in community centers where women and men live together in one building.

This research into the **living conditions of women** in open and closed asylum seekers centers in Belgium is a unique project in Europe. We examined the **specific difficulties** female asylum seekers experience in the community centers, the **quality** of the assistance, the respect of the **fundamental human rights** and to which extent the reception conditions contribute to **gender equality**. For this project we interviewed women living in the centers, staff members and policymakers. In this way we identified specific factors that influence the **quality of life** of women in the reception centers. On the basis of these findings we have elaborated **recommendations for policymakers** and a training manual with the aim to improve the living conditions of women and girls in the reception centers and to integrate a gender dimension in the Belgian reception policy.

As the results of this research reflect the social relations, inequalities and discriminations in the centers they should be the 'starting point' for reflections on the Belgian reception policy. In view of the ambitious Belgian law of 12 January 2007 aimed at integrating the gender dimension in all federal policy structures (Moniteur Belge 13 February 2007, also known as the law on gender mainstreaming) such research is of great importance. More specific research results will be given at the press conference. Both the research report and the training manual will be available for all participants.

This research project has been carried out by the Nederlandstalige Vrouwenraad in collaboration with the Conseil des Femmes Francophones de Belgique and with the support of the Institute for the equality of women and men.

Date and venue:

**Thursday 10th June at 1.30 p.m. - Amazonebuilding, rue du Méridien 10 - 1210 Brussels.  
Program attached**

For more information:

Fatma Arikoglu, Nederlandstalige Vrouwenraad  
[nvr.farikoglu@amazone.be](mailto:nvr.farikoglu@amazone.be), 0485 64 06 06 - [www.vrouwenraad.be](http://www.vrouwenraad.be)  
<<http://www.vrouwenraad.be>>

Fatma Arikoglu  
Stafmedewerkster Vrouwenraad  
[nvr.farikoglu@amazone.be](mailto:nvr.farikoglu@amazone.be) <<mailto:nvr.farikoglu@amazone.be>>  
+32 2 229 38 28

V R O U W E N R A A D  
Middaglijnsstraat 10 | 1210 Brussel  
[www.vrouwenraad.be](http://www.vrouwenraad.be) <<http://www.vrouwenraad.be>>