



European Network Against Racism  
Réseau européen contre le racisme

# PRESS STATEMENT

## License to rape?

### **Ethnic minority and migrant female domestic workers suffer unacceptable levels of violence in Europe**

**Brussels, 23 November – Ahead of International Day for the elimination of violence against women on 25 November, the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) calls for urgent measures to end the compound violence faced by ethnic minority and migrant women in Europe.**

Maia, a Filipino nanny in Romania, cleaned, cooked and looked after the children of her high-income employer day and night for a monthly salary of 200-300€ and even encountered physical abuse by her employer. In the UK, 86% of the domestic workers registered with the organisation Kalayaan, which works with migrant domestic workers (the majority of which are women), reported working more than 16 hours a day. 70% denounced physiological abuse and 23% physical abuse. ENAR's yearly Shadow Reports on racism highlight also many such examples of exploitation and abuse in "typical female" occupations such as domestic work, or in prostitution, notably in Greece, Portugal, Spain, Cyprus, Italy and Romania.

These women are all the more likely to continue enduring this violence because of a number of factors, including fear of deportation, language barriers, discrimination practiced by police officers, and difficulties in accessing legal support.

It is therefore urgent that action is taken by trade unions, employers, public authorities, policy and decision makers to address and combat the unacceptable violence faced by these women. In addition, services to support victims of violence should be equally accessible to all ethnic minority and migrant women, irrespective of their legal status, and service providers should receive gender and culturally sensitive trainings. Data collection on violence against migrant and ethnic minority women is also necessary to define and implement targeted and efficient prevention policies.

ENAR Chair Chibo Onyeji said: *"It is intolerable that these appalling situations occur in the European Union, which places such a high value on human rights. We need to urgently put an end to all forms of violence against women, and to these extreme forms of violence against ethnic minority and migrant women in particular."*

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#### **Notes to the editor:**

1. The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) stands up against racism and discrimination and advocates for equality and solidarity for all in Europe. We connect local and national anti-racist NGOs throughout Europe and act as an interface between our member organisations and the European institutions. We voice the concerns of ethnic and religious minorities in European and national policy debates.
2. The European Women's Lobby has launched a campaign for a European Year to end violence against women. For more information: <http://womenlobby.org/spip.php?rubrique172&lang=en>