



# WORKING WITH MIGRANT WOMEN

Comments of Ana Murcia, member of Garaipen

## General comments

### **1-At the beginning, after the presentation, set the internal work rules.**

Setting the rules must be a negotiation involving everyone in the group, trainer and participants.

### **2- Develop a critical approach in the participants.**

We must take into account that it's not the same thing to work with migrant men and migrant women.

### **3- There are some difficult topics, don't avoid them.**

It's better talking about them naturally rather than avoiding them. To ignore difficult topics could create frustration, misunderstanding or conflict, and it could be counter-productive as they will pop up sooner or later. Topics such as religion, prostitution, sex, racism, sexism, gender-based violence, verbal violence, neoliberal violence...

### **4- When we talk about difficult topics, for example:**

When they say "Thanks to Ala", it's useful the form "thanks to you too", which enables the empowerment of the women. She's the decision point, she has the power.

We have to work respecting everyone's point of view, beliefs and ideology. We need to work from an empowering perspective, but being respectful to all.

### **For example:**

There's a ship full of women, and it's sinking. They have to decide who's going out, but they will decide it themselves. This decision making game is very valuable in the process of empowerment, because they will take the decision themselves, and not the trainer.

### **5-How to work, regarding the space.**

- The best option is to work in their own space or the premises of the organisation supporting them.
- A place where they feel comfortable, free and safe.
- Somewhere comfortable, sitting on a chair or on the ground.
- Creating a circle, without tables or chairs in the centre.

### **6-Regarding the methodology**

- It is best if we use the same language. And besides that, using visual communication (photos, graphics, videos).

## **7-Infrastructure**

- Women usually have to take care of their kids. So it's quite useful to set a childcare service. The aim is to engage the participation of migrant women.