



## VOC: VOICES OF CHANGE



Voices of Change (VOC):

Enhancing girls with migration background to cooperate in women policies in the European Consultative Body for Migrant Girls Civic Engagement

### **Why Traditional Politics Fails Young Migrant Women**

Imagine moving to a new country, full of ambition and ready to make an impact. You want to be involved, to make a difference but the political system feels like a closed door. This is the reality for many young migrant women all around Europe. They're engaged, they care about their communities, but traditional politics isn't shaped for them.

### **Locked Out: Why the System Doesn't Work for Them**

It's not about a lack of interest or ability. The problem is the system itself full of barriers that make participation feel impossible.

### **A System That Feels Foreign**

Politics isn't just about laws; it's about knowing how things work, the unwritten rules, the networks they shape, the language of power. For young migrant women, this can feel like learning a whole new culture from zero.

### **An Exclusive Club**

Politics still feels like an "old boys' club" in many places. If you don't fit the traditional mold, it's easy to feel like an outsider. When decision making spaces don't reflect diverse voices, it sends a clear message: this isn't for you.

### **Paperwork Nightmares**

Residency rules, voting restrictions, endless bureaucracy before they even get a chance to speak, many migrant women are told they don't "qualify" to participate. The system keeps them on the sidelines, making engagement seem more like a privilege than a right.

### **Twice the Barriers**

Being both a woman and a migrant means dealing with bias from all sides. Racism, sexism, and more. Too often, their voices are pushed aside before they even get a chance to be heard.

### **Politics Beyond the Ballot Box**

Here's the reality: young migrant women are politically engaged, just not in the ways the system usually admits.

### **Grassroots Action**

They're at the head of community movements. Organizing protests, launching initiatives, and fighting for social justice. This is political work too, even if it happens outside government halls.

### **Redefining Leadership**

Traditional politics prefers those who "follow the rules," but young migrant women are rewriting them. They challenge old systems, break barriers, and bring fresh perspectives which is something they often resist.

### **Real-World Impact**

Their activism isn't about theory; it's about real life struggles. They fight for fair representation, better education, and equal rights which are issues that shape their communities every day.

### **Building a New Table: How VOC Is Leading the Way**

Instead of waiting for the system to change, initiatives like Voices of Change (VOC) are creating new spaces where young migrant women can lead.

### **Knowledge is Power**

VOC offers training in political engagement, advocacy, and leadership, equipping young women with the tools to make their voices count on their own terms.

### **Stronger Together**

By connecting young migrant women, VOC builds a network of support and shared experiences. Change is easier when you don't have to fight alone.

### **Amplifying Voices**

VOC doesn't just empower; it ensures that decision-makers are listening. Whether through dialogue with policymakers or public campaigns, they're making sure young migrant women aren't just speaking they're being heard.

### **Breaking Barriers**

VOC is getting migrant and local youth together, breaking down divisions and reshaping the political space into something more inclusive. This goes beyond integration, it's about creating a

society where everyone has a place and a can be heard.

### **Time to Change the Rules**

Traditional politics is letting young migrant women down not because they don't care, but because the system isn't shaped for them. That needs to change. The future of politics has to be inclusive, diverse, and open to new voices.

VOC is proving that young migrant women aren't just participants; they're leaders. It's time to stop asking them to fit into a broken system and start building a new one where they belong from the beginning.