

# Gender Lenses in States' Migration Policy

## A Comparative Quick Scan

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## Disclaimer

*This publication is a 3-week research product of an intern of WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform. It might not fully cover all migration and asylum policies or policy implementation of the referred states.*

## Introduction

While the implementation of an effective and humane migration policy remains an issue not just in the Netherlands, especially women, girls and LGBTQI persons are at disadvantage when having to leave their country of origin and are vulnerable to discrimination and e.g., sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The needs of those groups therefore have to be considered by governments in their approach to migration. In the following an overview will be given over the gender-sensitive policies countries have incorporated, in particular to what extent the specific needs of women, girls and LGBTQI persons have been considered in states' migration policies. The countries investigated are part of the "Group of Friends of 1325" (UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security adopted in 2000<sup>1</sup>) and include the Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, France, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Moreover, regulations, guidelines and goals of the European Union as a whole were evaluated. Areas in which a gender lens was successfully implemented are divided into domestic policies and foreign programs and include asylum law and procedures, accommodation and housing, social and economic integration, language education, healthcare, specific support for survivors of SGBV, the protection of LGBTQI persons and the collection and provision of gender-specific data. Further, the challenges women continue to face in the context of flight, migration and integration in these realms were outlined. The goal of this paper is to, on the one hand, present role models and exemplary policies of countries who have successfully incorporated the gender-specific needs of women in their approach to migration, so that other actors can benefit and learn from these, while on the other hand highlighting areas in which women still face considerable challenges and where there remains a need for action on the part of governments.

## Summary and Analysis

Some countries under review have developed comprehensive strategies and programs targeted at migrant and refugee women, girls and LGBTQI persons. Canada's policies for instance cover nearly all areas named above and are particularly extensive concerning the protection of women at risk under Canadian asylum law, the support of migrant women during social integration, the protection of survivors of SGBV and policies specifically targeting the LGBTQI community, under which Canada also includes its indigenous communities. In other countries substantive shortcomings have to be noted, with Sweden being an especially striking example; the new government's focus on reducing the number of migrants arriving and staying in Sweden has led to a blindness towards gender-specific needs and the lack of gender-sensitive policies, especially domestically.

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<sup>1</sup> Peace Women – Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. "[Group of Friends on Women, Peace and Security.](#)"

Overall, most countries have successfully adopted, or at least plan and aim to adopt, domestic policies concerning the social and economic integration of women and the protection and support of survivors of SGBV. Moreover, five out of ten countries, in addition to the EU, explicitly state gender as a base for asylum in their law, while four further states at least mention and consider gender aspects in their asylum process, e.g., by providing special protection to women at risk or incorporating gender concerns when assessing safe countries of origin.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, issues remain in the practical implementation and accessibility of these legal protections. While some areas by now are relatively well covered by governments' policies, as outlined above, there are major shortcomings in others. These include the incorporation of gender-specific needs concerning housing, the provision of healthcare to migrant women and specific offers targeting LGBTQI persons, all of which remain completely unmentioned by most countries investigated.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, some countries encounter additional challenges due to fragmentation and a lack of a coherent national policy.<sup>4</sup>

In terms of countries' international approaches, the central role the protection of survivors of SGBV plays is striking; 10 out of 11 actors have dedicated themselves to addressing this issue internationally.<sup>5</sup> However, on other topics the global approach mostly remains vague with some mentioning of the collection and provision of gender-specific data, the facilitation of orderly and safe migration channels and social empowerment of women through projects in the field.<sup>6</sup> The important goal of minimising causes and drivers of flight and migration however is only mentioned by Spain in its international approach to migration.

Overall, while most countries have recognised the need for gender-based migration policies, much more needs to be done in the future in order to successfully meet the needs of vulnerable groups such as women, girls and LGBTQI persons during the process of migration. Existing policies and programs have to be expanded, including the recognition of gender as a base for asylum, in addition to addressing shortcomings especially in the provision of gender-sensitive housing and healthcare and the support of LGBTQI persons and survivors of SGBV. However, not just the adoption of new laws and strategies is of importance, the practical implementation and accessibility of support has to be ensured by governments.

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<sup>2</sup> Include gender as a base for asylum; Czech Republic, Germany, France, Spain and Sweden.

Consider gender in the asylum process; Belgium, Canada, the UK and the United States of America.

<sup>3</sup> Excluding: Housing is addressed by; Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium (partly) and the EU, Healthcare; the Netherlands, Belgium, the UK and the EU, Protection of LGBTQI; Canada and the Netherlands (vaguely).

<sup>4</sup> The Netherlands and Belgium.

<sup>5</sup> This excludes the Czech Republic, which does not outline their international policies specifically.

<sup>6</sup> Excluding: Data collection & provision is addressed by; Belgium and Sweden, Facilitating orderly migration channels; Spain and the UK, Women empowerment in the field; Germany.

### **Areas Addressed Concerning Domestic Policies**

- Asylum Law
- Asylum Procedure
- Accommodation/Housing
- Social Integration
- Economic Integration
- Language Education
- Healthcare
- SGBV
- Protection of LGBTQI Persons
- Gender-Specific Data Collection/Provision

### **Areas Addressed Concerning Foreign Programs Related to Migration**

- Structural Problems
- SGBV
- Gender-Specific Data Collection/Provision
- Social/Political/Economic Empowerment
- Advocacy
- Agreements with 3<sup>rd</sup> Countries
- Funding of NGO Projects
- Minimisation of Push-Factors
- Facilitation of Orderly and Safe Migration Channels
- Protection of Women Human Rights Defenders

# Belgium

## Domestic Policies

- **Asylum Law**
  - Residence permits based on family reunification (status depends on sb.'s partner) can lead to relationships of dominance, blackmail and domestic violence, Belgium therefore aims to; ([NAP SGBV 2021](#), p. 117-118)
    - Amend the Aliens Act and Migration to improve the status of victims of domestic violence with a right of residence based on family reunification
    - Educate victims on procedure and practice of the Immigration Office
    - Standardise the various arrangements under which victims of family violence can keep their residence permit
    - Improve communication between the police and the Immigration Department's Family Reunification Office with regard to victims of domestic violence
  - Gender dimension is considered when drawing up the list of "safe countries of origin" ([NAP SGBV 2021](#), p. 119)
- **Asylum Procedure**
  - The Secretary of State for Asylum and Migration has committed to ([EMN Migrant Women in Belgium](#), p. 15)
    - Integrating the gender dimension as a priority in domains related to reception of applicants for international protection and the reform of the legislation on family reunification
    - appointing a gender mainstreaming coordinator at the Immigration Office and at the Federal Agency for the reception of asylum-seekers
  - The gender dimension is taken into account in asylum and migration policy in three different areas: ([NAP SGBV 2021](#), p. 117)
    - The assessment and decisions regarding asylum applications that depend on the CGRS (Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons)
    - The asylum procedure as such
    - The reception and accommodation of asylum seekers who depend on the federal agency FEDASIL
  - Gender-sensitive guidelines and support services which are already in place in the asylum procedures; ([NAP SGBV 2021](#), p. 119)
    - Specialization program for the team of protection officers in charge of handling gender issues
    - Active monitoring of the quality of the treatment of files based on gender-related grounds
- **Accommodation/Housing**
  - Belgium aims to address the specific needs of women who apply for asylum, including the needs of women refugees in reception and housing ([NAP 1325 III 2017](#), p. 16)
- **Social Integration**
  - Social orientation courses, which are part of the civic integration programme, address the issue of equal opportunities and gender equality within Belgian society ([EMN Migrant Women in Belgium](#), p. 22)
  - Flemish community: ([EMN Migrant Women in Belgium](#), p. 16, 19, 25)

- Integration of migrant women is a policy priority but focuses on their economic integration
  - Until 2022; (Partial) reimbursement of childcare cost
  - Since 2022; childcare no longer reimbursed, civic integration program will cost 360€
- French community: ([EMN Migrant Women in Belgium](#), p. 20, 26)
  - Integration of migrant women is not a policy priority as such
  - In specific topics contributing to the integration of third-country nationals, migrant women are specifically targeted
  - Civic integration is free of charge
- German-speaking community ([EMN Migrant Women in Belgium](#), p. 20, 22-23)
  - Integration of migrant women is not in itself a policy priority
  - Government has introduced integration courses exclusively for women
  - Projects for women and girls, such as the creation of social meeting places and integration courses specifically for women, mothers and children
- Brussels-Capital Region ([EMN Migrant Women in Belgium](#), p. 23)
  - OUMMI project; aims to improve social and cultural participation of Syrian mothers
  - VIA Brussels (a reception office for newcomers); organises trainings to increase an understanding of the social and cultural norms
- **Economic Integration**
  - Dual approach of gender equality based on gender mainstreaming (the promotion of gender equality in all policy areas and activities) and gender-specific measures ([EMN Migrant Women in Belgium](#), p. 15)
  - Belgian service voucher scheme ([EMN Migrant Women in Belgium](#), p. 18)
    - Subsidises a restricted list of household services including cleaning, washing, and ironing, in order to create low-skilled jobs, reduce the informal sector activities and improve the work-life balance of the user
    - Mainly employs women & 46% foreign born workers
    - Problem: system fails to offer transition to non-subsidised work
  - Flemish community: ([EMN Migrant Women in Belgium](#), p. 16)
    - Change from specific labour policies targeting migrant women to inclusive labour policies; policies for migrants, activating 'long term unemployed', 'young and old workers', 'women' and 'disabled persons' on the labour market
- **Language Education**
  - Flemish community; ([EMN Migrant Women in Belgium](#), p. 20, 22)
    - No distinction is made between men and women with regards to education and language training
    - Specific civic integration programme for low-literacy parents with young children, open to parents who experience practical or psychological barriers to participating in the regular social orientation, Dutch as a second language or childcare services
  - French community; ([EMN Migrant Women in Belgium](#), p. 20)
    - No specific language training aimed at migrant women
    - Operators organise training courses on a staggered timetable or on the weekends to enable women with young children to attend courses
  - German-speaking community; ([EMN Migrant Women in Belgium](#), p. 20, 22-23)

- Language courses exclusively for women who follow the same integration programme are available
  - Courses are aimed directly at women; families with children can benefit from childcare facilities
  - “Frauenerzählcafé”
    - A meeting point for girls and women from abroad and from Belgium, of all ages, generations, and education
    - Aims to provide a space where migrant women can learn the language more easily as there are no constraints, pressure, or expectations
- **Healthcare** ([EMN Migrant Women in Belgium](#), p. 21-22)
  - No differentiated policies in place in public health targeting women migrants
  - ‘Urgent medical assistance’
    - Covers medical expenses related to consultation with a doctor, hospitalisation, purchase of medicines or medical equipment
    - System benefits undocumented migrants, without distinction of gender
  - CRéSaM, the reference centre for mental health in Wallonia, has been organising the ‘Exile and Mental Health Consultation’; teams specialised in therapeutic and psychosocial support of foreigners
    - No distinction made between women and men
  - Use of intercultural mediators instead of interpreters for the provision of health care to not only bridge language gaps but also socio-cultural barriers and interethnic tensions or discrimination
  - Nevertheless, there can be specific actions or campaigns subsidised by the government to reach women migrants (e.g., for prevention, screenings, or vaccinations)
- **SGBV**
  - In the asylum process ([NAP SGBV 2021](#), p. 120, 122)
    - Explore how the reception and care of children (mainly with mothers) in reception centres can be improved to empower women victims of gender-based violence
    - Designate a gender coordinator within the IO and Fedasil
    - Structurally include gender-based violence in the training plan for staff at Fedasil reception centres
    - Organize an exchange between Fedasil reception centres to share good practices regarding GBV
    - Educate victims that if an order to leave the territory is issued with regard to a person without a residence permit who files a complaint because of intimate partner violence, no detention will follow
  - Healthcare ([NAP SGBV 2021](#), p. 122)
    - Undocumented migrants do not need an identity card to access care and counselling at Care Centres for Sexual Violence (ZSG)
  - Human trafficking
    - Make the fight against human trafficking a priority in the national security plan
    - Assistance to survivors ([NAP Migration 2022](#), p. 7)



- Under certain conditions, legal and administrative support as well as psychological, medical and social follow-up is provided to victims of human trafficking
- Centres are authorized to submit applications for residence documents in the framework of the special status ‘victim of human trafficking’ for those cooperating with legal investigations
- Legal & Police involvement ([NAP 1325 III 2017](#), p. 22; [NAP Migration 2022](#), p. 7-8)
  - Specific legislation and specialized magistrates are appointed for all judicial districts for trafficking and human smuggling
  - Integration of human trafficking into bilateral agreements on police cooperation
  - Establishment of ‘Specialized Human Trafficking Unit of the Federal Judicial Police’
  - Police, immigration officers, and guardians receive training to detect human smuggling and trafficking to raise awareness of the tools to detect potential victims
- Facilitating orderly and legal migration channels ([NAP Migration 2022](#), p. 7)
  - To dissuade people using the services of smugglers, the Belgian Immigration Office organises prevention and information campaigns on legal pathways in countries of origin
  - Alternative and legal pathways schemes for migration including labour mobility regimes, family reunification, student visas, and resettlement programmes
- **Protection of LGBTQI Persons:** no data found
- **Data Collection/Provision:** no data found

### **Foreign Programs Related to Migration**

- **SGBV** ([NAP 1325 III 2017](#), p. 18, 20, 22)
  - Belgium deems it essential to address this issue before, during and after conflict; violence must be prevented or stopped, through awareness-rising campaigns and concrete interventions
  - Supports of transnational judicial and police investigations on SGBV
  - Support for NGO initiatives at the international, Belgian, and local levels, which work for the protection of women and to combat sexual violence
  - In countries in fragile situations;
    - Support programs and projects that focus on re-establishing the rule of law to combat impunity for acts of violence against women
    - Provision of integrated medical and psycho-social care, the socio-economic reintegration of victims, and the provision of protection and accommodation
    - Take into account the protection of women and girls in the context of humanitarian tasks, such as the construction of refugee camps
- **Data Collection/Provision** ([EMN Migrant Women in Belgium](#), p. 15; [NAP Migration 2022](#), p. 3-4)
  - Problem: Lack of gender specific data generally and on specific issues such as gender-specific violence occurring on migration routes
  - Goal: A harmonisation of data collection methods between actors for local, national, regional, and global migration with a specific focus on collecting gender-specific data

- Secretary of State for Asylum and Migration has committed to ensuring the publication of gender-disaggregated data by the asylum- and migration authorities

## Challenges

- **Structural Problems**

- Belgium is a federal state with competencies distributed across the national level and the language communities; integration is a responsibility of the communities while the national government oversees migration matters ([EMN Migrant Women in Belgium](#), p. 14, 17)
  - Differences between different states/communities
  - Fragmentation is considered an obstacle to a coherent, far-reaching and truly inclusive policy; migrant women fall in between chairs

- **Asylum Law**

- The legal status of immigrant women too often depends on the restrictive conditions which govern family reunification ([EMN Migrant Women in Belgium](#), p. 12)

- **Housing/Accommodation**

- There are no specific policies targeting migrant women in terms of housing in Flanders, Wallonia, or the Brussels-Capital Region at the moment ([NAP 1325 III 2017](#), p. 16)

- **Economic Integration** ([EMN Migrant Women in Belgium](#), p. 11-13)

- Low employment rate of third-country national women, due to
  - Little recognition of previous qualifications, particularly in the case of refugees
  - Lack of networks and role models
  - Structural discrimination on the labour market
  - Lack of information and bureaucracy relating to the labour market
- Discrimination
  - Despite shortages of e.g., teachers and workers in public administration, women are prohibited from wearing a veil, which affects migrants women specifically

- **Language Education** ([EMN Migrant Women in Belgium](#), p. 11)

- Poor accessibility of language training to women (e.g., lack of evening or weekend courses and of childcare facilities)
- This impacts women's access to the labour market, social integration and inclusion and active citizenship, access to housing and health

- **SGBV** ([NAP Migration 2022](#), p. 8)

- Substantial strategy and assistance for survivors of human trafficking, no such approach for survivors of SGBV in Belgium
- Human trafficking: risk of targeting victims or organisation and citizens who work to help migrants

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Kingdom of Belgium. "[Global Compact on Migration – Action Plan 2022 Belgium](#)."

Council of Ministers. "[National Action Plan in the Fight against Gender-Based Violence 2021-2025](#)." Adopted in 2021.

# Canada

## Domestic policies

- **Asylum Law**

- Assistance to Women at Risk Program ([NAP 1325 Progress Report](#))
  - Canada provides resettlement opportunities to women abroad in precarious or permanently unstable situations who do not have the formal protection of a family unit
  - Applicants are exempt from the normal requirement to demonstrate an ability to establish themselves in Canada
  - This allows for expedited processing and additional settlement support services once in Canada through the Joint Assistance Sponsorship Program
  - In 2020: 639 refugees were resettled, 428 of those women and girls
- Urgent Protection Program ([NAP 1325 Progress Report](#))
  - Provides rapid protection to refugees, including women and girls, facing immediate risks to their life, freedom or safety
  - In 2020: 115 refugees were resettled, 55 of whom women and girls
- Foreign nationals in Canada in situations of family violence ([NAP 1325 Progress Report](#))
  - Supports those whose immigration status may be precarious due to their reliance on an abusive spouse or partner for their status in Canada (e.g., sponsored spouses and partners)
  - Individuals may apply for an expedited, fee-exempt, temporary resident permit (TRP), including a work permit and Interim Federal Health Program coverage
    - July 2019-March 2021; IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) has approved 167 TRPs from victims of family violence, a majority of which were women and dependent children
  - Helps escape the influence of abuse and grant them time to decide their next course of action
  - Some can apply for permanent residence on humanitarian and compassionate grounds -> applicants will have their permanent residence applications processed more quickly, with the goal of helping them leave abusive situations as expeditiously as possible
- Protection of Yazidi refugees and other survivors of Daesh ([NAP 1325 Progress Report](#))
  - Includes women and girls targeted through SGBV
  - Since 2016: special measures put in place by IRCC, facilitated the resettlement of more than 1.400 survivors of Daesh, including family members
  - Since 2021: further measures to allow for extended family members to join resettled Yazidi refugees in Canada
- Protection to Women Human Right Defenders ([NAP 1325 Progress Report](#))
  - IRCC cooperates with two human rights defender's civil organisation (Front Line Defenders and ProtectDefenders.eu), which devote particular attention to the protection of women human rights defenders, in order to identify and resettle them

- **Asylum Procedure**
  - The IRCC department has developed specific program delivery instructions with respect to processing in-Canada claims for refugee protection of vulnerable persons such as women ([NAP 1325 II 2017](#))
    - Ensuring a vulnerable person's physical comfort
    - Being sensitive to cultural and gender issues
    - Efforts to allow victims of sexual violence the option of choosing the gender of the interviewing officer
  - Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB)
    - Develops set of guidelines on how to specifically treat vulnerable groups, including women refugee claimants fearing gender-related persecution
    - 2017: Announced new Guideline
      - Promote greater understanding of cases involving sexual orientation and gender identity and expression and the harm individuals may face due to their non-conformity with socially accepted norms
      - Establish guiding principles for decision-makers in adjudicating cases
- **Accommodation/Housing:** no data found
- **Social Integration**
  - IRCC provides targeted settlement supports for populations that experience increased vulnerability, including women and refugees ([NAP 1325 II 2017](#))
    - Supposed to address integration barriers for this population, empowering women and girls so they can participate in Canada's social, cultural, civic and economic life
  - A range of targeted settlement services that can be accessed by newcomer and refugee women aim to provide...
    - Support employment programming for visible minority women
    - Additional supports such as mentoring, information and orientation on rights and responsibilities in Canada
    - Women's only employment, language training, translation, interpretation
    - Gender-based violence prevention support, temporary crisis counselling
    - Child-minding and transportation services
  - Assistance Programs ([NAP 1325 II 2017](#); [NAP 1325 Progress Report](#))
    - Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP)
      - Provides assistance for 12 months to Government Assisted Refugees (GARs)
      - Assistance for 6 months to Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) refugees
        - In 2020: 9.235 refugees were safely resettled
      - Assistance for 3 months to LGBTQ+ refugees who are privately sponsored (through a cost sharing arrangement with the Rainbow Refugee society)
    - Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)
      - Provides assistance to refugees who are identified as having special needs (e.g., women) for up to 24 months, jointly provided by the Government and private sponsors
  - Syrian resettlement effort ([NAP 1325 Progress Report](#))
    - Support the unique settlement needs of Syrian refugee women; conversation circles specifically for women to enable them to establish valuable social

connections, learn about available community supports, practice their new language skills and reduce isolation

- **Economic Integration** ([NAP 1325 Progress Report](#))
  - The Racialized Newcomer Women Pilot (formerly the Visible Minority Newcomer Women Pilot)
    - Provides support to improve the employment outcomes and career advancement of racialized newcomer women in Canada through the delivery of targeted settlement services
    - Designed to address multiple barriers, including gender- and race-based discrimination, precarious or low-income employment, lack of affordable childcare, and weak social supports
- **Language education:** no data found
- **Healthcare:** no data found
- **SGBV**
  - Prevention ([NAP 1325 II 2017](#); [NAP 1325 Progress Report](#))
    - Provision of activities and information to mitigate the risks of exposure to gender-based violence by strengthening migrant women's knowledge of Canadian laws, social cohesion and community connections
    - The services are provided through online resources, publications, in-person services and through referrals to important community supports
  - Support ([NAP 1325 Progress Report](#))
    - Settlement organisations working in the area of violence prevention have strong partnerships with local transition houses, policy and emergency services to ensure a holistic programming for victims of abuse
    - 2017 Federal action plan to end gender-based violence; Delivers targeted services for newcomer women and youth with place-based interventions
    - RAP programs
      - Include referrals, when appropriate, to specialised services such as Centres for Victims of Trauma and/or Torture and orientation to Canadian laws, informing that women and men have same rights and abuse of any sort is a crime in Canada
      - Provides support services (translation, interpretation) to ensure equitable access to services for all clients
  - Education/Training of authorities ([NAP 1325 Progress Report](#))
    - Training for front-line settlement workers to assist in identifying abuse and making appropriate referrals for newcomers, including those in smaller cities and rural communities
    - Gender-based violence training for IRCC officers processing immigration applications and for IRCC Client Support Centre Staff
    - Training is intended to increase employee awareness of different forms of gender-based violence and equip them with tools to identify and appropriately address cases of abuse
    - Trainings were adapted to an online format during the pandemic
    - 2020-21: 2.440 IRCC employers completed the Introduction to GBA (Gender-Based Analysis) online course
- **Protection for LGBTQI** ([NAP 1325 Progress Report](#))
  - Resettlement of vulnerable refugees, including LGBTQ2 individuals (specialised settlement supports to all LGBTQ2 immigrants)

- The IRCC department continues to work with LGBTQ2 stakeholders in Canada to collaboratively improve the available support and ensure the Settlement and Resettlement Assistance programs integrate the needs of members of the LGBTQ2 community
- Rainbow Refugee Assistance Partnership: 5-year initiative (2020-24), established in cooperation with the Rainbow Refugee Society
  - Partnership encourages more Canadians to support LGBTI refugees
  - Provides funding for LGBTI refugee settlement
  - Seeks to strengthen collaboration between LGBTI organisations and the refugee settlement community in Canada
  - Since 2011, over 160 refugees have arrived through the program
- **Data Collection/Provision:** no data found

### **Foreign Programs Related to Migration**

- **SGBV** ([NAP 1325 II 2017](#))
  - Canada supports initiatives to build the capacity of international organisations to support survivors of sexual and gender-based violence
  - The IRCC department has put in place a number of policies and programs designed to provide protection and support to women and girls displaced by situations of conflict and state fragility
- **Advocacy** ([NAP 1325 Progress Report](#))
  - Canada will continue to share and participate in and advocate for the development of gender-transformative and intersectional migration management practices and refugee responses within the international community
  - Canada funds migration capacity building projects and research to support gender-responsive migration management
  - Canada promotes gender-responsiveness in the international migration management (e.g., organisation of migration platform events on the integration of migrant women)

### **Challenges**

- **Accommodation/Housing and Healthcare**
  - No specific assistance with/provision of healthcare and housing to migrant women and LGBTQI+ persons in place

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# Czech Republic

## Domestic Policies

- **Asylum Law**
  - Gender-based Asylum claims
    - The Asylum Act provides in s. 12 that asylum shall be granted where it is established that an alien “(b) has a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, sex, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion...”: Act of 11 November 1999 Asylum and Amendment to Act No. 283/1991 Coll., on the Police of the Czech Republic, as amended (the Asylum Act) ([Tahirih Justice Center - Gender-Based Asylum](#))
- **Asylum Procedure:** no data found
- **Accommodation/Housing:** no data found
- **Social Integration**
  - Vulnerable foreigners (women) will be given increased attention as part of the integration policy ([Concept of Integration of Foreigners](#), p. 16)
    - Targets foreign women, not only economically active women, but also housewives, especially given their key role in the education of future generations
    - Provides information and a targeted offer of integration measures to help orientation in Czech society in order to enable women to participate in integration activities and to reduce the risk of their isolation
      - E.g., supporting the involvement of foreign women in local community events to prevent their social isolation
    - Aims at strengthening the prevention of domestic violence by decreasing isolation
  - Support of families in relation to; ([Concept of Integration of Foreigners](#), p. 27-28)
    - Information about the school system in the Czech Republic
    - Communication and cooperation between families and the school
    - Placing children in pre-school facilities
    - Health prevention and care
- **Economic Integration**
  - 2012: Government strategy “Updated Policy for Integration of Immigrants” recognised migrant women’s specific situation and the possibility of involving them in the local labour market ([Migrant Integration in the Czech Republic](#), p. 22)
  - Unemployment rate of migrant women in the Czech Republic has decreased the most over ten years from 2007 to 2017 through the EU (OECD, 2017) ([Migrant Integration in the Czech Republic](#), p. 24)
    - Problematic: migrant women often work on a short-term and uncertain employment contract and have lower pay
- **Language Education** ([Concept of Integration of Foreigners](#), p. 27-28)
  - Aims at
    - Enabling the participation of foreign women (or parents of foreign children) in the teaching of Czech
    - Adjusting the duration of the courses to their possibilities and providing childcare
- **Healthcare:** no data found



- **SGBV** ([Concept of Integration of Foreigners](#), p. 22)
  - Creation of a comprehensive system of informing foreign women about SGBV and their rights
  - Focus on preventive measures and providing foreign women with information on where to seek help
- **Protection of LGBTQI Persons:** no data found
- **Data Collection/Provision:** no data found

### Challenges

- **Asylum Law**
  - Conditions for family migration ([Migrant Integration in the Czech Republic](#), p. 23)
    - Implies disproportionately high fees and income requirements for the sponsor and a too long nine-month administrative period for processing the application for long-term residence permit for the purpose of family reunification
    - Entails a very restrictive definition of family members
  - Family reunification schemes ([Migrant Integration in the Czech Republic](#), p. 23)
    - Beneficiaries (mostly women) can change the purpose of their stay or divorce only after several years under Czech immigration law
    - Disruption of family ties with the sponsor may lead to the withdrawal of their residence permit, which reinforces dependency of migrant women on their partners and increases their vulnerability to domestic violence
    - Law provides for some protection rules within the decision-making of immigration bodies to ensure a more sustainable status for these family members
- **Economic Integration & Healthcare** ([Migrant Integration in the Czech Republic](#), p. 22-23)
  - 2014-2020 Strategy for Gender Equality; draws attention to the problem of unavailability of public health care for migrant women and to their multiple discrimination on the labour market

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# The European Union

## Domestic Policies

- **Asylum Law** ([Protecting the Rights of Migrant Women](#), p. 4, 6)
  - The EU recognises gender- and sex-specific persecution in asylum claims
  - Aims to integrate a gender equality perspective in family reunification, aid and development, peace and security, and return policies and create “firewalls” between the legal status of undocumented women and their rights to access to justice, protection, health and education
- **Asylum Procedure** ([Protecting the Rights of Migrant Women](#), p. 3-5)
  - The EU calls on its member states to
    - Adopt specific gender-sensitive procedures and practices (e.g., adapted and separate interviews, ensuring security and confidentiality of the process)
    - Offer trainings for interpreters and asylum officials relating to gender-specific needs
    - Disclose accessible information relevant to determining the asylum claim
      - Provide migrant women with accessible information about their rights
      - Provide reasons for decisions and access to legal advice and representation
    - Ensure that women also form part of the staff of social workers and interpreters, as applicable, in accommodation, reception and detention facilities
  - In the case of administrative detention, separate zones must be provided for women and men within detention facilities (safe separate sleeping areas and bathrooms for women and girls) and health-care services must be ensured
- **Accommodation/Housing** ([Protecting the Rights of Migrant Women](#), p. 4-5)
  - Ensure that accommodation and reception facilities put in place, including by local and regional authorities, are safe and women- and girl-friendly, and that they provide separate sleeping areas as relevant, and clean and safe bathrooms
  - Adopt a child-rights-based approach that includes the specific situation and needs of girls (e.g., place unaccompanied girls in mainstream child protection institutions in order to prevent their possible sexual exploitation or abuse)
  - Ensure that, when absolutely necessary, the stay of women and children in mass accommodation is kept as short as possible ([Reception of Women Refugees](#), p.3)
- **Social Integration**
  - Ensure that local and regional integration programmes are gender-sensitive ([Protecting the Rights of Migrant Women](#), p. 6)
  - Pay special attention to measures aimed at dismantling gender stereotypes, including those supposedly based on culture, tradition and religion and actively engage with migrant women and feminist organisations ([Protecting the Rights of Migrant Women](#), p. 7)
  - Recognise civil society organisations as valuable actors in developing gender-sensitive policies and create appropriate platforms with local stakeholders ([Reception of Women Refugees](#), p. 3)
- **Economic Integration** ([Protecting the Rights of Migrant Women](#), p. 6)
  - Lift barriers to the active labour market participation of migrant women

- E.g., by providing them with an independent legal status, facilitating the recognition of skills, and adopting women-specific employment policy and support frameworks
  - Provide vocational training and higher education taking into account the specific needs of migrant and refugee women and ensuring the recognition of diplomas and professional qualifications
  - Develop specific measures to address the racialised sexual exploitation of migrant women (punitive, preventive and educational measures)
- **Language Education** ([Protecting the Rights of Migrant Women](#), p. 6)
  - Provide specific language courses to women as soon as possible after their arrival in the host country
- **Healthcare**
  - Provide women and children refugees and asylum-seekers with effective access to quality, age- and gender-sensitive health services, encompassing in particular mental, sexual and reproductive health care ([Reception of Women Refugees](#), p. 3)
  - Ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services, hygiene products and healthcare services specific to women and girls, including during pregnancy and breastfeeding ([Protecting the Rights of Migrant Women](#), p. 5)
- **SGBV**
  - In the asylum procedure
    - Develop screening mechanisms to identify victims of trafficking and SGBV ([Reception of Women Refugees](#), p. 3)
    - Refer to relevant authorities and provide prioritised access to protection, treatment and care for migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls victims of trafficking and gender-based violence ([Protecting the Rights of Migrant Women](#), p. 5)
    - Train social workers, interpreters, officials working on asylum claims, and migration police and custodial officers on gender equality issues and on identifying and assisting victims of gender-based violence ([Protecting the Rights of Migrant Women](#), p. 5)
      - Put in place mechanisms to enable incidents of sexual and gender-based violence to be discussed, including to ensure appropriate referral and treatment
  - Programs in place ([EU Gender Equality Strategy](#), p. 16, 18)
    - Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme
      - Funding for projects benefiting civil society organisations and public institutions that implement specific actions, including preventing and combating gender-based violence against women and girls in the asylum and migration area
    - Asylum and Migration Fund
      - Commission will encourage Member States to target actions that support the specific needs of women in the asylum procedure, as well as actions that support the integration of women in the new society
      - Fund will enable the stepping up of protection of vulnerable groups, including women victims of gender-based violence in asylum and migration contexts
    - Spotlight Initiative

- Joint EU-UN global programme with an overall EU allocation of 500 million Euro with the goal of eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls
- **Protection of LGBTQI Persons:** no data found
- **Data Collection/Provision** ([EU Gender Equality Strategy](#), p. 5)
  - The EU needs comprehensive, updated and comparable data for policies on combating gender-based violence to be effective
  - To get a complete picture of gender-based violence, data should be disaggregated by relevant intersectional aspects and indicators such as age, disability status, migrant status and rural-urban residence
  - An EU-wide survey, coordinated by Eurostat, will provide data on the prevalence and dynamics of violence against women and other forms of interpersonal violence, with results presented in 2023

### **Foreign Programs Related to Migration**

- **SGBV**
  - Prevention
    - EU supports all efforts for institutional mechanisms to be established and/or activated for the protection of women and girls, as well as men and boys, in fragile environments and or conflict-affected contexts to help prevent and respond to all forms of SGBV ([EU Action Plan 1325 2019](#), p. 11)
  - Legal aid
    - Promote women's and girls' access to justice at local, national, regional and international levels through special emphasis on restorative justice and the rights of survivors and victims' ([EU Action Plan 1325 2019](#), p. 11)
- **Economic Integration**
  - EU aims to provide support for refugee and asylum-seeking women's and girls' economic and social empowerment in the country of origin, in refugee camps, in transit or the country of destination ([EU Action Plan 1325 2019](#), p. 14)
- **Agreements with Third Countries**
  - All agreements by the EU with third countries on migration flows and border control must integrate a gender perspective and meet human rights' standards ([EU Action Plan 1325 2019](#), p. 12)

### **Challenges**

- Despite the standards established, quite often the measures put in place are inadequate or do not meet the protection and integration needs of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls ([Protecting the Rights of Migrant Women](#), p. 2)
  - Monitoring reports point to a lack of gender-sensitive migration and asylum policies and procedures
- Lack of assistance/support for LGBTQI persons

### **Amended Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union (June 2023)**

- **Asylum Law**
  - EU acknowledges that certain applicants may be in need of special procedural guarantees due, inter alia, to their age, sex [...], sexual orientation, gender identity,

disability, serious physical or mental illness or [...] disorders, including when these are [...] a consequence of torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical, sexual or gender-based violence. It is necessary to [...] assess whether any individual applicant is in need of special procedural guarantees. [...] ([Amended Proposal](#), p.8)

- **Asylum Procedure**

- With a view to ensuring substantive equality between female and male applicants, examination procedures should be gender-sensitive ([Amended Proposal](#), p. 9)
  - Personal interviews should be organised in a way which makes it possible for both female and male applicants to speak freely about their past experiences, including in cases involving [...] persecution based on sex, gender identity or sexual orientation
  - Applicants should be given an effective opportunity to be interviewed separately from their spouse, partner or other family members. [...]
- Training of authorities ([Amended Proposal](#), p. 70)
  - Persons conducting the interview shall be competent to take account of the personal and general circumstances surrounding the application, including the applicant's sex [...], sexual orientation, gender identity and special procedural needs [...]
  - Personnel interviewing applicants shall also have acquired general knowledge of [...] factors which could adversely affect the applicant's ability to be interviewed, such as indications that the person may have been tortured in the past

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European Commission. "A Union of Equality: [Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025](#)." March 5, 2020.

Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy. "[Protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls](#)." Published 2019.

Council of Europe, Current Affairs Committee. "[Reception of women and children refugees in Europe's cities and regions](#)." September 20, 2022.

Council of the European Union. "[Amended proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council](#) establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union and repealing Directive." June 6, 2023.

# France

## Domestic Policies

- **Asylum Law**
  - Gender-based Asylum claims
    - Article L711-2: “With regard to the grounds for persecution, gender and sexual orientation aspects are duly taken into account for the purposes of recognizing membership in a certain social group or identifying a characteristic of such a group.” ([Tahirih Justice Center - Gender-Based Asylum](#))
- **Asylum Procedure** ([NAP 1325 II 2015](#), p. 20)
  - France aims to increase considerations of issues linked to gender and violence against women in their asylum procedures, by
    - Providing mandatory training on taking account of gender for peacekeeping operations and other actors involved in the asylum procedure (e.g., OFII - French agency in charge of migration and welcoming foreign people, regional platforms)
    - Making instruments available on carrying out an asylum request interview on the grounds of gender-based persecution
    - Appointing “gender” representatives to OFPRA (Office Francais de protection des refugies et apatrides), the CNDA (French National Court of Asylum) and regional welcome platforms
- **Accommodation/Housing:** no data found
- **Social Integration** ([EMN Migrant Women in France](#), p. 50)
  - Integration of migrant women is a policy priority for France at the national level; women are specifically taken into consideration in the national integration policies
    - The French government subsidises associative carriers that implement support programmes specifically for women
    - Offers information campaigns more specifically targeting women asylum seekers and refugees
    - Training for newly-arrived women on gender equality and gender stereotypes
- **Economic Integration** ([EMN Migrant Women in France](#), p. 48)
  - Differentiated integration in the employment market depending on gender and access to education depending on level of education
- **Language Education:** no data found
- **Healthcare:** no data found
- **SGBV:** no data found
- **Protection of LGBTQI Persons:** no data found
- **Data Collection/Provision** ([NAP 1325 II 2015](#), p. 20)
  - France aims to produce gender-based statistics, as well as specific analysis on the situation of women, regarding the processing of requests for international protection

## Foreign Programs Related to Migration

- **SGBV**

- Dinard Declaration: G7 provide political support to the Global Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, France donates to this Fund and actively participates on its board ([NAP 1325 III 2021](#), p. 9, 14-15), the Fund aims at
  - Strengthening the available training specifically on the inclusion of gender and the protection of women against sexual violence and violent extremism in conflict and post-conflict situations
  - Increasing specific support that must be provided for women and girls who are survivors of violence, including sexual violence
  - Strengthening support to the documentation, collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data and investigate into sexual violence
  - Protecting women and girls [...] in all of “France’s actions overseas”

### **Challenges**

- **SGBV**
  - Substantial involvement abroad, no clear strategy to how survivors are supported domestically
- **Social/Economic Integration** ([EMN Migrant Women in France](#), p. 50)
  - Absence of childcare solutions, obstacle for access to the labour market
  - Newly-arrived women being in situations of vulnerability & specific needs due to being victims of violence

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EMN France. “[National Report 2021 - Integration of migrant women in the EU and France](#): policies and measures.” November 2021.

Tahirih Justice Center (TJC). “[Countries with Asylum/Refugee Laws That Explicitly Protect those Fleeing Gender-Based Persecution](#).” 2021.

# Germany

## Domestic Policies

- **Asylum Law**
  - Gender-based Asylum claims
    - Asylum Act 2 September 2008 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 1798), last amended by Article 2 of the Act of 11 March 2016 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 394) Section 3b: “(1) ...4. a group shall be considered to form a particular social group where in particular...a particular social group may include a group based on a common characteristic of sexual orientation...if a person is persecuted solely on account of their sex or sexual identity, this may also constitute persecution due to membership of a certain social group.” ([Tahirih Justice Center - Gender-Based Asylum](#))
- **Asylum Procedure:** no data found
- **Accommodation/Housing** ([Report on NAP 1325 II](#), p. 32)
  - Between 2016 and 2018 100 new staff positions for coordinating protection from violence in accommodation centres were funded
  - In 2016 the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) launched an initiative to protect refugees and migrants in refugee accommodation centres in Germany
    - Germany’s first nationwide Minimum Standards for the Protection of Refugees and Migrants in Refugee Accommodation Centre
      - Serve as guidelines for the implementation of facility-based protection concepts – especially for particularly vulnerable individuals– for safeguarding the social participation and integration opportunities of all residents
  - Since 2019 the BMFSFJ has been supporting a project for evaluating protection concepts in refugee accommodation centres
    - Measures serve to implement suitable steps when accommodating persons requesting asylum to ensure that women and vulnerable individuals are protected
- **Social Integration** ([Report on NAP 1325 II](#), p. 33)
  - “Mädchen Mischen Mit - Inklusive Mädchenarbeit für Vielfalt und Teilhabe” (Girls are joining in - inclusive girls’ work for diversity and participation)
    - The pilot scheme is run by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) Germany
    - Enhances refugee girls’ opportunities for participation and establishes support networks
  - Global “Action Network on Forced Displacement – Women as Agents of Change”
    - Founded in 2020, finances projects aimed at promoting the political and economic participation of refugee women
- **Economic Integration:** no data found
- **Language Education:** no data found
- **Healthcare:** no data found
- **SGBV**
  - During the reporting period 2017-2020 127 projects featuring components on sexual and gender-based violence received support ([Report on NAP 1325 II](#), p. 56)



- Germany’s approach to trauma and survivors of SGBV is survivor-centred and human rights based ([NAP 1325 III 2021](#), p. 28)
- Goal: provide survivors with the long-term support they need, irrespective of their legal status and prevent SGBV in conflict situations, especially in high-risk contexts such as flight ([NAP 1325 III 2021](#), p. 28-30)
- Provision of information ([Report on NAP 1325 II](#), p. 19)
  - Germany has set up a multilingual advisory service via the nationwide “Gewalt gegen Frauen” (Violence against women) helpline and the “Schwangere in Not” (Pregnant women in need) helpline, making it easier for refugee women and girls to access the German support system
- **Protection of LGBTQI Persons:** no data found
- **Data Collection/Provision:** no data found

### **Foreign Programs Related to Migration**

- **Social/Political/Economic Empowerment**
  - Social, political and economic participation by women and girls is strengthened in the context of fight, displacement and migration (in Germany, in host countries and in the context of internal displacement) ([NAP 1325 III 2021](#), p. 33)
  - Germany promotes inclusive and, if possible, long-term skills development programmes for women in the contexts of flight, displacement, migration ([NAP 1325 III 2021](#), p. 48)
  - Provides needs-based healthcare facilities and education for girls and women ([NAP 1325 III 2021](#), p. 49)
  - Syria:
    - “Elbarlament for Syria”: Projects lets Syrian women take the lead, enhances the leadership skills of refugee Syrian women and prepares women to take on leadership roles in their communities during the reconstruction process ([Report on NAP 1325 II](#), p. 41)
- **SGBV**
  - Humanitarian measures aimed at supporting survivors are primarily centred around preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian context ([Report on NAP 1325 II](#), p. 56)
  - Projects in the region
    - Enhancing Women’s Leadership for Sustainable Peace in Fragile Contexts in the MENA Region
      - Project supports participation of women in Middle East peace processes and supports the prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence ([Report on NAP 1325 II](#), p. 36)
    - Expanding individual and structural abilities to tackle (S)GBV for refugee accommodation centres and host communities in the Kurdish region of Iraq
      - Projects empowers women and girls who have been affected by violence, offers educational and informational seminars for women and men in refugee camps and host communities, develops action strategies to prevent and safeguard against (S)GBV ([Report on NAP 1325 II](#), p. 63)
- **Funding of NGO Projects** (e.g., Johanniter Unfallhilfe’s emergency projects in Kabul) ([Report on NAP 1325 II](#), p. 33)

## Challenges

- No specification on support concerning **economic integration** and **language education** offered to migrant women
- **SGBV**
  - Germany provides only few specific measures to support survivors of SGBV, especially domestically ([Report on NAP 1325 II](#), p. 56)
  - Too little medical, legal and psychosocial support, social stigma ([NAP 1325 III 2021](#), p. 28)
- No programs targeted at **LGBTQI persons**

## References

Die Bundesregierung. „[Report on the Action Plan](#) of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security for the Period 2017 to 2020.” Interministerial Working Group on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. 2021.

Federal Foreign Office. “[Third Action Plan](#) of the Federal Government on the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council’s Agenda on Women, Peace and Security 2021 to 2024.” The Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. 2021.

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# The Netherlands

## Domestic Policies

- **Asylum Law:** no data found
- **Asylum Procedure** ([NAP 1325 IV](#), p. 26, 65)
  - Goal: a safe and gender-responsive reception and asylum procedure for persons in a vulnerable position such as single women, minors and LGBTQI+ asylum seekers
  - Language accommodation; anyone with a limited command of Dutch has the right to an interpreter throughout the asylum procedure and in appeals
- **Accommodation/Housing** ([NAP 1325 IV](#), p. 29)
  - NL wants to prevent women and minors from unnecessarily ending up in a dependent, often vulnerable (residence) position
  - No clear measures on how this will be achieved
- **Social integration:** no data found
- **Economic Integration**
  - 26% of municipalities offer specific trajectories to guide women into paid work, elements include: ([EMN Migrant Women in NL](#), p. 8-9)
    - Improving motivation
    - A personalised approach
    - Intensive support in the workplace
    - Creating broad support for integration within organisations and support among the social network
    - Cooperation between municipalities, employers and healthcare organisations
  - Projects aimed at integrating migrant women into the labour market;
    - “Reform Assignment Civic Integration”: ([EMN Migrant Women in NL](#), p. 3, 9)
      - Pilot projects aimed at improving labour market participation among female family migrants
      - Combined language training with labour market integration of newcomers
      - Extra financial support and help in arranging childcare
    - Durven Doen!':
      - Aims to help single mothers escape poverty and regain control of their lives ([EMN Migrant Women in NL](#), p. 3)
    - Programme ‘Further Integration in the Labour Market’ (Verdere Integratie op de Arbeidsmarkt - VIA) ([EMN Migrant Women in NL](#), p. 9, 11)
      - Financed by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment
      - Focuses on labour market integration of persons with a non-Western migrant background
      - Aimed at uncovering methods to improve labour market participation among migrants in the Netherlands
      - Looks at access to internships and employments for students from universities of applied sciences
    - Parliamentary initiative “In Nederland beslis je over je eigen leven” ([EMN Migrant Women in NL](#), p. 13)

- Initiative aimed at improving the position of women and LGBTI+ persons living in closed communities (“Femmes for Freedom” and “Dona Daria”)
  - Wants to increase the social network of women and LGBTI+ persons from closed communities by informing them about volunteering and available courses
    - Defence and security sector: ([NAP 1325 IV](#), p.19)
      - Supports women and girls with migrant backgrounds who have experienced conflicts so that they can participate meaningfully in the development and implementation of national equal opportunities and security policies, work to eliminate institutional barriers to their participation
  - Many projects focus on labour market integration of women generally, not migrant women specifically, e.g.; ([EMN Migrant Women in NL](#), p. 11-12)
    - Vakkundig aan het werk (‘Skillfully at work’) (2021-2023)
    - Economische veerkracht van vrouwen (‘Economic flexibility of women’) (2019-2024)
    - ‘Educatie voor Vrouwen met Ambitie’ in 2014-2018
- **Language Education** ([EMN Migrant Women in NL](#), p. 12)
  - Measures include e.g., new communication campaigns to reach adults facing low literacy, funding and support for municipalities in order to e.g., train ‘language buddies’ and subsidizing employers for courses on basic skills available for their employees
  - E.g.; Project ‘Tel mee met taal’
    - Goal: ensuring people have sufficient basic skills to fully participate in society
  - Policy takes gender specific needs into account (no further specification of this consideration of gender)
- **Healthcare**
  - Special treatment of asylum seekers during their pregnancy; responsible midwife is more involved and helps to coordinate the pregnancy of the migrant woman ([EMN Migrant Women in NL](#), p. 12)
- **SGBV**
  - Prevention ([NAP 1325 IV](#), p. 31)
    - Improve socioeconomic position of survivors in order to decrease vulnerability
  - Legal aid ([NAP 1325 IV](#), 27, 65)
    - Women and girls who have experienced conflict and/or related sexual and gender-based violence should have access to international, regional, national and local security and legal systems
    - NL works to ensure easily accessible security and legal systems for women and girls with a migration, asylum or refugee background, with support in their own languages
    - Refugees residing in the Netherlands receive information about how to lodge a criminal complaint against suspects of international crimes and how to give testimony as witnesses
  - “Dutch Chain Approach”; integrated approach of governmental and non-governmental organisations to address female genital mutilation through prevention, care, law enforcement and education ([EMN Migrant Women in NL](#), p. 13)

- **Protection of LGBTQI Persons:** no data found
- **Gender-Specific Data Collection/Provision:** no data found

## Challenges

- Challenges Migrant Women Face: ([EMN Migrant Women in NL](#), p. 7)
  - Lower levels of education and economic independence
  - Rise in unemployment during COVID-19 crisis
  - Childcare duties
  - Mental health issues
  - Cost of healthcare
- **Structural Problems**
  - No government-wide, structural policy; support for migrants generally is currently fragmented because municipalities can decide for themselves what kind of help they offer ([NAP 1325 IV](#), p. 65)
  - Dutch integration policy is characterised by a general approach, at the national level, limited distinction is made between sub-groups ([EMN Migrant Women in NL](#), p. 11)
    - No national integration policy addressed towards migrant women ([Migrant Women in NL](#), p. 11)
    - In policy areas related to integration (entrepreneurship, housing, and health) gender is not mainstreamed in national policies ([EMN Migrant Women in NL](#), p. 11)
- **Asylum Law**
  - No clarification on gender-based Asylum claims
- **Asylum Procedure** ([NAP 1325 IV](#), p. 64)
  - Need for more knowledge, understanding and attention to the situation in countries of origin
    - E.g., about the fact that women from countries with conservative, patriarchal family law have little or no access to relevant official documents
    - Women therefore need better communication about the asylum procedure and the progress of their application, especially since they have not had prior experience of legal procedure
- **Economic Integration** ([EMN Migrant Women in NL](#), p. 3, 8)
  - Many municipalities and projects focus on men
    - Share of municipalities that declared to have been offering support to both partners in finding paid employment has decreased, from 67% in 2020 to 47% in 2021
- **Healthcare** ([EMN Migrant Women in NL](#), p. 3, 9)
  - Non-Western migrant women on average have a higher cost of healthcare
  - Lack of specialised, culturally-sensitive healthcare where the specific issues of beneficiaries of international protection are taken into account
- **SGBV** ([NAP 1325 IV](#), p. 64-65)
  - In the asylum procedure
    - Survivors of conflict-related SGBV have to recount these traumatising events over and over again during the asylum procedure, exacerbating their traumas
  - Healthcare
    - Lack of psychosocial support for survivors

- Legal aid
  - Legal assistance should be provided in a more gender-sensitive manner
  - Witnesses/Victims do not have access to free legal aid in the Netherlands if the crimes were committed outside of the Netherlands
- **COVID-19** ([EMN Migrant Women in NL](#), p. 3)
  - No national integration policies or measures developed to counteract consequences of COVID-19 specifically for migrant women's integration
  - Unemployment rose for migrant women while it decreased for persons without an immigration background

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European Migration Network (EMN) The Netherlands. "[Integration of Migrant Women](#) in the Netherlands." August 2022.

# Spain

## Domestic Policies

- **Asylum Law**
  - Gender-based Asylum claims
    - Under the Law 12/2009 of 30 October Regulating the Right of Asylum and Subsidiary Protection, Article 3, a refugee is an individual from a non-EU country with a “well-founded fear of being persecuted in his or her country for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, membership of a certain social group, gender, or sexual orientation...” ([Tahirih Justice Center - Gender-Based Asylum](#))
  - Immigration regulations provide for special favourable provisions to women who are victims of trafficking, smuggling or domestic violence ([Report on Compact for Migration](#), p. 25)
    - Regulations offer access to a residence permit even if women are in an irregular situation in the country; aims to encourage victims to report and cooperate in the procedures without fearing that this contact with the authorities could lead to an expulsion from the country
    - Temporary residence and work permit is available for exceptional circumstances for foreign women victims of gender-based violence
  - Spanish law promotes specific measures for the protection of women defenders of human rights ([NAP 1325 II 2017](#), p. 29)
- **Asylum Procedure**
  - Education/Training of authorities ([NAP 1325 II 2017](#), p. 19)
    - Provide training and awareness-raising for staff from the public administration
- **Accommodation/Housing:** no data found
- **Social Integration** ([NAP on Social Inclusion 2013](#), p. 70)
  - Spain promotes the equal treatment and no discrimination of the immigrant population, particularly attending to groups with specific needs (e.g., women) and the general population in order to fight racism and xenophobia
  - Subsidises programmes geared towards the immigrant population, with special attention to vulnerable groups
    - Comprehensive refuge programmes for basic needs and support for the insertion of immigrants
    - Introductory refuge programmes for immigrants
    - Programmes to foster participation, association, cooperation and intercultural mediation
- **Economic Integration** ([Report on Compact for Migration](#), p. 21-22)
  - Intensification of control of working conditions of immigrant workers (especially women and minors), actions will take special account of the gender perspective
- **Language Education:** no data found
- **SGBV**
  - Integration ([NAP on Social Inclusion 2013](#), p. 71)
    - Improve refugee infrastructures and services for the integration of asylum seekers with special consideration for those dedicated to particularly

vulnerable groups (victims of serious forms of violence, psychological, physical or sexual abuse and of human trafficking)

- Provision of Information ([NAP on Social Inclusion 2013](#), p. 71)
  - Promote information campaigns on trafficking in human beings or any other criminal practice whose potential victims are found among refugee and displaced women and girls ([NAP 1325 II 2017](#), p. 22)
  - Promote a network of refuge resources for gender violence victims, with a view to creating a map of resources and services to attend to victims and establish shared information systems
- Legal aid ([Report on Compact for Migration](#), p. 25)
  - All foreign women who are victims of trafficking, smuggling or domestic violence, regardless of their administrative situation (regular or irregular) are equally covered by Organic Law on Comprehensive Protection Measures against Gender Violence
- **Protection of LGBTQI Persons:** no data found
- **Data Collection/Provision:** no data found

#### **Foreign Programs Related to Migration**

- **SGBV** ([NAP 1325 II 2017](#), p. 31)
  - Spain aims to foster a transformative justice which, without renouncing the battle against impunity, favours reconciliation and the eradication of the discrimination at the root of numerous conflicts
    - Guarantees comprehensive and multisector services (police investigation, medical, legal, psychosocial services, and alternative livelihoods) to the survivors of SGBV in armed conflicts
    - Promotes gender-sensitive Truth Commissions
- **Minimise Push-Factors** ([Report on Compact for Migration](#), p. 9-10)
  - Minimise drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
  - Addressing development challenges; creating opportunities for women and youth
- **Facilitating Orderly and Safe Migration Channels**
  - Women as Financially Independent Rural Actors (WADIRA) project ([Report on Compact for Migration](#), p. 17)
    - Pilot project on legal migration with Morocco
    - Funded by the EU through the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), total cost of the project around €3.25 million (95% EU contribution)
    - Offers training to seasonal women workers who come to Spain each year from Morocco as part of the GECCO circular migration programme, so that they can start up income-generating activities, thanks to the financial and technical support the project will offer them
    - A total of 250 women will be divided into two groups: a first group of 50 women trained in 2022, and another 200 in 2023
    - The project is scheduled to last 36 months, until October 2024
- **Funding of NGO Projects** ([Report on Compact for Migration](#), p. 31, 53, 60)
  - Central and North America
    - Spain funds NGO projects in the area
    - E.g., in order to cover basic needs and protection of migrant women and children at risk of displacement in Honduras



- Morocco
  - Spanish-Moroccan project “Living together without Discrimination”
    - Objective of strengthening public instruments and policies aimed at preventing racism and xenophobia towards migrant women and men in Morocco
    - Promotion of respect for human rights and fight against discrimination, taking into account the gender dimension
- North Africa, Sahelian and West African countries
  - “InclusiFi initiative”
    - Financed by the EU External Investment Plan (EIP) since 2020, proposed by Spanish and Italian Agencies
    - Seeks to support local entrepreneurship, preferably of women and young people, by increasing access to financial services
    - Aims to improve the channelling of migrant remittances and the investment by diaspora communities based in Europe

### Challenges

- **Social Integration**
  - No specification of gender in integration programs targeted at vulnerable groups
- No specific programs targeted at **LGBTQI persons**

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# Sweden

## Domestic Policies

- **Asylum Law**
  - Gender-based Asylum claims
    - Refugees are defined as a person who, “owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, sex, sexual orientation or membership of a particular social group or political opinion...” ([Tahirih Justice Center - Gender-Based Asylum](#))
  - Afghan women ([Afghanistan Women Asylum in Sweden](#))
    - 2022: Swedish Migration Agency estimates that life as a woman in Afghanistan has now become so difficult that it counts as persecution on the basis of gender
    - Afghan women and girls seeking protection in Sweden will therefore be considered refugees and will be granted a residence permit
      - This simplifies the asylum application and improves chances for disadvantaged women from Afghanistan
- **Asylum Procedure:** no data found
- **Accommodation/Housing:** no data found
- **Social Integration:** no data found
- **Economic Integration:** no data found
- **Language Education:** no data found
- **Healthcare:** no data found
- **SGBV:** no data found
- **Protection of LGBTQI Persons:** no data found
- **Data Collection/Provision:** no data found

## Foreign Programs Related to Migration

- **SGBV** ([NAP 1325 2016](#), p. 13)
  - Combat impunity for (conflict-related) SGBV and contribute to strengthen cooperation between local actors, states and international actors
  - Focus on survivors’ right to truth, reparations, access to justice, adequate healthcare, trauma counselling and services
- **Protection of Women Human Rights Defenders** ([NAP 1325 2016](#), p. 13)
  - In conflict and post-conflict countries, support women’s human rights defenders and women leaders who are particularly exposed to violence and threats due to their function in the community
  - Highlight the importance of adequate protection mechanisms and support the creation of these
- **Data Collection/Provision** ([NAP 1325 2016](#), p. 13)
  - Improve data collection and gender-specific statistics on how armed violence affects women, men, girls and boys in different ways

## Challenges

- **Asylum Law**

- 2016: Adoption of the new temporary legislation on asylum rules, which essentially makes it impossible for persons who have received asylum in Sweden to reunite with their families ([CONCORN – Sweden’s feminist foreign policy](#), p. 5)
  - Results in women and children being left behind in conflict areas, in refugee camps or being forced out on transit routes
  - Government includes “strengthening the human rights for women and girls who are refugees and migrants” as a prioritized area, however, the new legislation on asylum rules the Government is actively obstructing this goal
- **Asylum Procedure**
  - Sweden’s migration policy is increasingly focused on reducing the number of migrants coming irregularly to Sweden and expulsion of those who have no legal grounds for protection ([Sweden’s new migration policy](#))
- **Social/Economic Integration, Language Education, Healthcare**
  - Lack of specification of assistance and programs that support migrant women in relation to these and further issues, especially domestically

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# The United Kingdom

## Domestic Policies

- **Asylum Law**
  - Focus on provision of “safe and legal routes” ([New Plan for Immigration 2022](#))
    - No room for refugees or migrants who enter the UK “illegally”
    - 2015-2019: around 25.00 refugees resettled through orderly migration path
    - Aim to ensure resettlement offer properly reflects minority groups that are systematically persecuted for their gender, religion or belief
  - Family reunion ([New Plan for Immigration 2022](#))
    - 29.00 close relatives were allowed to join through refugee family reunion in the last 5 years
    - There are strict rules in place on who are close family members
  - Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy ([Report on NAP 1325 2021](#), p. 17)
    - April to December 2021; around 7,900 Afghans were brought to the UK, around 1,000 further Afghans particularly at risk, including women’s rights activists, judges (including female judges), journalists, and members of the LGBTQ community
- **Asylum Procedure:** no data found
- **Housing/Accommodation:** no data found
- **Social/Economic Integration and Language Education** ([New Plan for Immigration 2022](#))
  - Orderly Refugee Resettlement will include package of tailored support such as language training, skills development and work placements
  - No specific measures/offers for women, girls or LGBTQI persons
- **Healthcare** ([Migrant Health Guide](#))
  - Government puts out guidelines for healthcare practitioners on how to best provide healthcare for migrant women (awareness, e.g., for religious and cultural sensitives, language barriers, possible trafficking, trauma and experiences of violence, mental health)
  - Free services for all individuals regardless of immigration status, includes;
    - Routine screening, diagnosis, treatment and vaccination for sexually transmitted infections
    - Family planning services, including contraceptive services (does not include termination of pregnancy or infertility treatment)
    - Services for treating a physical or mental condition caused by torture, female genital mutilation, domestic violence or sexual violence (as long as the individual did not travel to the UK for the purpose of seeking this treatment)
    - Maternity services (antenatal, perinatal and postpartum treatment) needed as a consequence of sexual violence or female genital mutilation
  - Charges may apply for some migrants, but maternity care should always be provided and should not be denied or delayed on the basis of immigration status or ability to pay
- **SGBV**
  - Funding of the ‘Support for Migrant Victims Scheme’ which provides accommodation and wrap around support for migrant victims of domestic abuse with insecure immigration status ([NAP 1325 V 2023](#), p. 41)

- UK will quadruple its domestic victim support funding by 2024/25 ([NAP 1325 V 2023](#), p. 41)
- UK offers services for treating a physical or mental condition caused by torture, female genital mutilation, domestic violence or sexual violence (as long as the individual did not travel to the UK for the purpose of seeking this treatment) ([Migrant Health Guide](#))
- **Protection of LGBTQI Persons:** no data found
- **Data Collection/Provision:** no data found

### **Foreign Programs Related to Migration**

- **GBV** ([Report on NAP 1325 2021](#), p. 17, 22)
  - Afghanistan
    - UK provides over 320.000 Pounds to the UNFPA to support GBV services (first half of 2021) and to integrate these in the national health system
  - Iraq
    - The British Embassy in Baghdad implemented two PSVI projects in 2021
    - Funding of £80,000 to provide technical and practical implementation of the Yazidi Survivors Law, which will provide reparations for minority females, including Yazidi women who suffered from Daesh atrocities and CRSV
- **Facilitating Orderly and Safe Migration Channels** ([New Plan for Immigration 2022](#))

### **Challenges**

- **Asylum Law**
  - No clarification on gender-based Asylum claims
  - Rejection of refugees who come to the UK “illegally” and not through an orderly migration route provided by the UK significantly limits the amount of people in need who are granted asylum and get access to services such as healthcare ([New Plan for Immigration 2022](#))
  - Post-Brexit Immigration Rules ([UK’s New Immigration rules 2020](#))
    - In place since January 2021
    - Migrant women are disproportionately affected by new immigration rules
    - Applicants will be required to receive a job offer with a salary of at least 25,600 pounds; requirement will work against women, who are more likely to work in sectors like home and senior care that are relatively poorly compensated
- **Social/Economic Integration and Language Education**
  - No measures specifically targeting/taking into account the needs of women, girls and LGBTQI persons
- **Healthcare**
  - While some migrants have access to healthcare in the UK, the majority receive no support ([Migrant Health Guide](#))

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Yeginsu, Ceylan. "Women will be hit hard by [UK's New Immigration rules](#), experts warn." The New York Times, published February 20, 2020.

Officer for Health Improvement and Disparities. "[Women's Health: Migrant Health Guide](#)." Last updated 21 September 2021.

Home Office. "[New Plan for Immigration: Policy Statement](#)." Last updated March 29, 2022.

# The United States of America

## Domestic Policies

- **Asylum Law**
  - Gender-based Asylum claims ([Clifford - Women and US Immigration Policies](#), p. 2)
    - 1996: For the first time the Board of Immigration Appeals granted asylum based on gender as a category
    - Since then, women are recognised as a 'particular social group' for the purposes of gaining asylum
  - Sexuality-based Asylum claims ([Clifford - Women and US Immigration Policies](#), p. 2)
    - Since 1994: Asylum-seekers from countries where gays and lesbians are routinely penalized and tortured due to their sexual orientation have had the right to claim asylum in the U.S.
    - Gays and lesbians in this category must file their asylum claims within one year of entry into the U.S.
      - This complicates the procedure since there is a lack of information in refugee communities
  - SGBV-based Asylum claims ([Bush Center - US Immigration Policy](#))
    - Being a victim of GBV does not guarantee protection under current refugee and asylum law
  - Trafficking-based Asylum claim; T Visa ([Clifford - Women and US Immigration Policies](#), p. 3)
    - Temporary residency status that may be adjusted to a permanent residency status
    - The T Visa is available to those who have been subject to severe forms of trafficking who agree to help investigations against traffickers and who show that they would suffer harm if they were removed from the U.S
  - Family sponsorship ([Bush Center - US Immigration Policy](#))
    - Immigrants who have a family member in the US can be sponsored by them, but often wait years or decades for their official recognition
- **Asylum Procedure:** no data found
- **Accommodation/Housing:** no data found
- **Social Integration:** no data found
- **Economic Integration:** no data found
- **Language Education:** no data found
- **Healthcare:** no data found
- **SGBV:** no data found
- **Protection of LGBTQI Persons:** no data found
- **Data Collection/Provision:** no data found

## Foreign Programs Related to Migration

- **SGBV**
  - Departments and agencies will support countries' local and regional efforts to ensure women and girls are protected from all forms of violence ([Strategy 1325 2019](#), p. 9)
  - Humanitarian-assistance programs are supported to reduce risks faced by women and girls in crisis and conflict, and to meet the specific needs of women and girls who

have experienced or are at risk of violence, exploitation, and abuse ([Strategy 1325 2019](#), p. 10)

- The Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) allocates specific funding to complement ongoing efforts in regional responses to address GBV (research institutions, IOs, and NGOs) ([State Department - Gender-Based Violence](#))

## **Challenges**

- **Asylum Procedure**
  - Refugee settlement for Afghan women and girls ([Bush Center - US Immigration Policy](#))
    - Those who managed to leave Afghanistan during the evacuation are stuck in third countries waiting for their refugee status
    - Others don't qualify for U.S. resettlement despite their contributions to the U.S. institutions who were in Afghanistan for decades
    - Those stuck in Afghanistan with a pathway to the U.S. have extreme difficulty accessing immigration processing because the U.S. does not have a diplomatic presence in Afghanistan
  - Detention and Deportation ([Bush Center - US Immigration Policy](#))
    - Reports on gender-specific experiences of detention and deportation include
      - Women's separation from children
      - Gender-related harassment such as removing headscarves
      - Sexual assault
- **Economic Integration** ([Bush Center - US Immigration Policy](#))
  - Few employment-based green cards; only 10,000 available for workers without a bachelor's degree
  - Many of the jobs that employ primarily female workers are not covered by U.S. temporary worker visa categories
- **SGBV**
  - Substantial involvement abroad, no clear strategy on how survivors are supported domestically

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