

WOMEN WORKING WITH IMMIGRANT WOMEN POLICY ON RACISM

Most immigrant women are faced with oppression and discrimination because we are immigrants. We are subject to different forms and degrees of oppression based on language, race, culture etc. Those of us who are women of colour are subject to a very particular oppression because of racism.

Due to our immigration status, we are for the most part in the lower level of the economic ladder. Immigrant women are brought here to serve the labour needs of the economic system. Immigrant women serve a very particular purpose within this structure, and women of colour experience an even more disadvantaged situation; confined to low paying jobs, as domestics, hotel workers, cleaners, garment workers. There is racial harrassment and stereotyping. Women of colour are the last hired and first fired, making half of what white men are paid, and about two thirds of what white women make.

Racism must be fought. It is an integral part of the political, social and economic structures under which we live, and anti-racism must be a very specific focus in our work and our programs.