
Finding the voice
Into 2010, The European Year Against
Poverty

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The Old Town Hall Stratford



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EAPN Europe is a network of 27 national anti poverty networks which lobbies and campaigns to combat poverty and social exclusion in the European Union

MRC works with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and in partnership with others to effect social justice and change, enabling migrants and refugees to fully participate in the society



MRC Media and Policy Project

- Is the Centre's programme of inclusion, participation and representation of migrants and refugees in the media and at a policy and strategic level
- The project empowers migrants and refugees in London to have a voice in the media and at a policy and strategic level to break some of the barriers to inclusion and equality



Role of EAPN in our work

- EAPN, European and National Processes and Platforms for participation
- National Action Plans for Social Inclusion – ‘Get Heard’ project – ‘A Stronger Voice’ report
- European Meetings of People Experiencing Poverty

Role of EAPN in our work

(continued)

‘You listen to and hear someone better when you can look them in the eye’

Brigitte Weinandy, SPC for Luxembourg



Why do we need to have a voice?

Lack of voice/dialogue and understanding as a direct link:

- Poverty
- Discrimination
- Social Exclusion

The Missing Voice in the Media

Migrants in the British media

- A British journalist: “where are they?”
- A British audience: “get them out of here”
- A Migrant (asylum seeker): “how can they hate us so much when they don’t even know us?”

The Missing Voice in the Public Domain

Migrants in the Public Domain

- A Politician: “migrants need to learn English, adopt the British way of life and culture, integrate in the society...”
- A Migrant: “I like to feel part of this society but the people here are not open to us”
- A Migrant: “no one ever asked me my views on the policies that have direct impact on my life”



Developing the media strategy

- Building migrants' confidence and skills
- Working with participants on user led agenda
- Building contact and trust with the media
- Exploring and seizing opportunities
- Producing own work and leading on initiating the dialogue
- Partnership building
- Innovating

Innovation in making our voice heard

- Getting started and building the confidence in initiating the dialogue – early work – ‘Seeking Asylum’ report and film
- Facilitating an intelligent dialogue – a dialogue with a clear, specific, strategic and ambitious aims: ‘The New Londoners’
- Creating equal grounds for dialogue – initiating the dialogue and using the ‘same language’
- Ensuring a voice in important ongoing debates – ‘Integration Debate: Migrant perspectives’ report

The New Londoners – A platform for migrant voices

- Why The New Londoners? Nazek
- My experience with The New Londoners-
Mariam
- What does The New Londoners mean to me?
Effat
- What can we share with you from our
experience? Anne



Conclusion

**Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers
are the best representatives
for their own voice and issues**



Thank You



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