



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"Unlocking the Potential of Women Seeking International Protection in Ireland: Call to Reduce Waiting Period for the Right to Work to 3 Months"

Dublin, Ireland - AKIDWA, a leading advocacy organization for migrant women in Ireland, is calling for the reduction of the waiting period for the right to work to three months. The organization emphasizes that this change would significantly benefit the mental health of women seeking international protection, who are often highly qualified and ready to work. The right to work comes with better self-worth and self-esteem, and improved quality of life overall.

In support of this call, AKIDWA's CEO, Dr Salome Mbugua, stated, "I have been amazed by the resilience of these women, the majority of whom are highly qualified in many professional fields, such as legal, social, health, and administration. With many challenges currently facing these women at their accommodation, including their living conditions, they are determined to contribute positively to Irish society. The waiting period for the right to work should be reduced to three months."

AKIDWA's call for the reduction of the waiting period for the right to work is timely, as the organization is set to hold a graduation ceremony this Friday for 34 women who underwent intensive capacity-building training. The training is part of AkiDWA's project with IOM Ireland on 'Responding to the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Needs of Women Seeking International Protection'.

The training covered a range of topics, including effective communication and assertiveness, dealing with conflict, women's safety and security, women's reproductive health, dealing with change, domestic and sexual gender-based violence, parenting, laws, rights and entitlements, personal goal setting and individual planning.

The ceremony will take place on Friday, April 21, 2023, from 10.30 am-1 pm at the office of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, located at 16-22 Green Street Dublin 7.

AKIDWA is committed to supporting migrant women in Ireland and advocating for their rights, including their right to work. This is evidenced in our [2022 research](#) as being crucial for migrant women's wellbeing and integration. The organization hopes that the government will heed their call to reduce the waiting period for the right to work to three months, providing a more hopeful future for women seeking international protection.

For more information about AKINA DADA WA AFRICA (AKIDWA) and its programs, please visit our website at www.akidwa.ie.

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