



**[PRESS RELEASE]**

**25 May 2010  
For immediate release**

**AkiDwa launches Information Booklet on Access to Employment and Education for Migrants.**

AKIDWA LAUNCHED ITS **Information Booklet on Access to Employment and Education for Migrants** at Kiltalown Village Centre, Fortunestown Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24 on the 25 May 2010 as part of the Africa Day Learning Fair.

As the migrant women's network in Ireland, AkiDwa believes that the areas of employment and education equality need to be addressed urgently. As a response to the high levels of discrimination experienced by migrant women in Ireland, AkiDwa has produced an informational booklet on employment and educational opportunities for migrant women living in Ireland. AkiDwa members often report that there can be a lot of confusion and a lack of migrant-specific information about access to these opportunities.

The booklet gives a migrant perspective on accessing employment and education in Ireland. Main barriers to employment include discrimination in the recruitment process, a lack of Irish work experience, and difficulties in getting qualifications recognised in Ireland. Main barriers to education include unequal access to higher education and financial supports for higher education, especially for parents of Irish citizen children.

The booklet provides information with regard to the role of FÁS and the Local Employment Service, options for those dependent on social welfare who wish to move to employment, self employment, volunteering, employment rights, the National Framework of Qualifications, qualifications recognition and further and higher education.

AkiDwa feels that the availability of this migrant-specific informational resource will help migrant women to assess their options in a more complete way and gain better access to suitable and meaningful employment and education in Ireland.

**[ENDS]**

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