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REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT WOMEN: AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE, PART II

Introduction: Refugee and Immigrant Women as Workers

Guida Man

Women all over the world have always worked. From sunrise to sunset, women are always busy working. They are often engaged in the formal labour market, working in factories, hospitals, schools, businesses; and in the informal labour market, doing home sewing, baby-sitting, or bartering; as well as being occupied in household work, cooking for others, feeding their babies, washing clothes, fetching water, cleaning house, caring for the aged and the infirmed, listening to other people's problems. The work that women do are important and indispensable as part of the household strategy for survival, and yet they are often invisible and taken for granted because women are not being recognized as legitimate workers.

This issue of *Refuge* assembles a collection of studies which represent the voices of refugee and immigrant women. In particular, these studies document and analyze the day-to-day, traditional and non-traditional work of these women. From Kenya to Canada, from the isolated remote refugee camps to the

hustle and bustle of cosmopolitan cities, from hauling water for daily subsistence, to providing health care to strangers for pay, these studies explore how refugee and immigrant women do

their work and how they manage their daily lives.

As Jennifer Hydman's article on the daily work of Somali refugee women in the Kenyan camps of Ifo, Hagadera,

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