



Migrant Women Press Impact Report

January 2026

Led by migrant women, told by migrant women

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About Migrant Women Press

Who We Are

Migrant Women Press CIC is a non-profit, independent media platform led by migrant and racialised women. We amplify underrepresented voices through journalism and storytelling, using an intersectional lens to build a more inclusive and representative media landscape.

We create and publish original journalism and opinion pieces by migrant and racialised women, sharing perspectives and experiences that are often absent from mainstream media. Through training initiatives and mentorship, we equip participants with the skills and confidence to tell their own stories. Our work also nurtures a growing network of women dedicated to transforming media narratives and challenging stereotypes about migrant and racialised communities.

Our Vision

A world where migrant women are at the forefront, building fair and humanised discussions around migration and bringing diversity to the media.

Our Mission

To provide a sustainable media platform, publish original journalism content produced by migrant women, offer training and opportunities in the media, and build a community to foster a sense of belonging.

**Led by migrant
women,
told by migrant
women**

Our Values



Diversity:

We value every migrant woman's story

Diversity is the heartbeat of our collective journey. By embracing the multitude of backgrounds, perspectives, and identities within our communities, we strive to create a more inclusive and equitable world. By amplifying the diverse voices of women in the media, we ensure that every story is valued and heard.



Equity:

We respect and recognise individual journeys

We commit to cultivating an inclusive community that respects and recognises every individual's unique journey and ensures equitable access to rights and opportunities regardless of identity.



Fairness:

We foster understanding and empathy in discussions around migration

We advocate for a fair, balanced, and humanised discussion about migration. We ensure that diverse perspectives are valued and heard without bias or discrimination, fostering understanding and empathy in our conversations.



Collaboration:

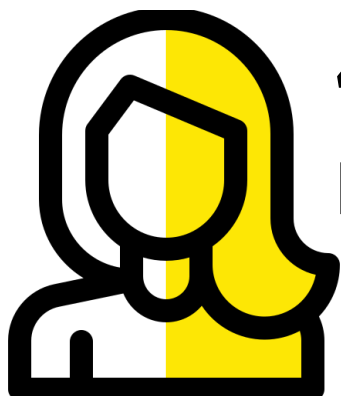
We build collective efforts to amplify migrant women's voices

We believe in the power of collaboration to amplify the voices of migrant women. Through partnerships and collective efforts, we strive to shed light on their stories, experiences, and challenges, nurturing empathy, understanding, and positive change in our communities.

Why What We Do Matters

Migrant women make up nearly half of the global migrant population

International migration remains a defining feature of global demographics:

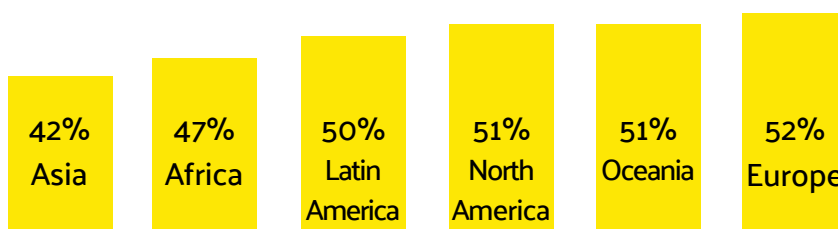


48% of all international migrants are women

1 in 27 people worldwide are international migrants. In 2024, 146 million out of a total of 304 million international migrants were women.¹

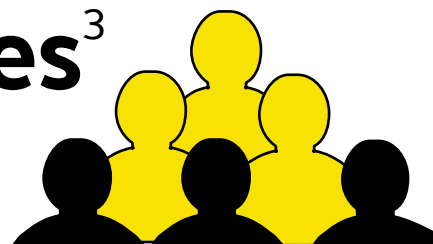
The proportion of women among migrants varies across regions, being lowest in Asia and highest in Europe.²

Proportion of migrant women:

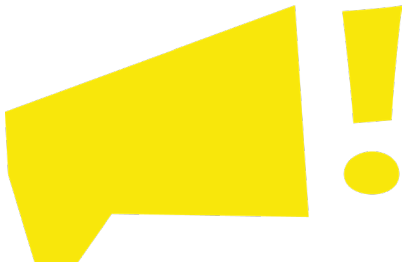


53% of the foreign-born UK population are females³

In the UK, around 16% of people (10.7 million) are born abroad.⁴



1. Migration Data Portal, data as at 2024.
2. UN DESA, data as at 2025.
3. Migration Observatory - Migration and gender in the UK - 2025
4. Migration Observatory, UK Census data as at 2021/2022.



Across the UK and Europe, immigration debates are driven by biased narratives that misrepresent and dehumanise migrants

As anti-immigrant sentiment grows, racial injustice deepens, and gender inequalities persist, trusted public-interest journalism has never been more essential. Yet, these voices are still underrepresented – or misrepresented – by mainstream media.

According to research by the Oxford Migration Observatory, the most common term used to describe immigrants in newspapers is “illegal”.

This dehumanising term fosters hostility towards migrant communities and wrongly suggests they are undeserving of rights. It also diverts attention from government failures to address societal issues. At the same time, the lack of safe migration pathways creates significant challenges for migrant communities.

Invisibility and exclusion: women and racialised communities remain underrepresented in the UK news industry

Data from the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) shows that, as of 2022, 87% of journalists come from white backgrounds. While 14% of journalists and reporters are from non-white backgrounds, this figure falls to just 10% at editor level, highlighting a clear decline in diversity within senior and decision-making roles. In addition, 91% of journalists were born in the UK, with only 9% originating from outside the country.

Inequalities also extend across class and education. Research from the Reuters Institute and the University of Oxford indicates that around 94% of journalists in the UK are white and 91% are university educated, while only 12% come from working-class backgrounds. These structural barriers limit who can access journalism as a profession and who is able to progress within it.

Gender and race further compound exclusion. Findings from AKAS show that women are consistently underrepresented in editorial leadership roles and news coverage, with their voices often marginalised in a media industry dominated by men. In the UK, women of colour are almost entirely absent from mainstream journalism, resulting in a serious lack of visibility, representation, and influence.

These inequalities are reinforced by structural conditions within the media sector. The Media Reform Coalition reports that 90% of national daily newspapers in the UK are controlled by just three companies, concentrating power and limiting plurality. Despite the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) identifying women and the media as a critical area for reform, evidence from the Global Media Monitoring Project and international research shows that progress remains limited, underscoring the urgent

Our Achievements in Numbers

107 female

writers featured, from across 38 countries

200 stories
published

48,000 readers engaged in our content (combined social channels and website users)

97%
migrant
women from
ethnically
diverse
backgrounds

94%
identify as
female

76% identify
as straight/
heterosexual

42% aged
24-35 years

8 projects
completed

13 events
held 2 in-person, 11 online

£36,613

funds raised to date



Letter From Our Founder

“Migrant Women Press exists to provide a space in the media where migrant and racialised women can tell their stories on their own terms.”

Juliana da Penha, Founding Editor and Director



I founded Migrant Women Press for three main reasons. The first was deeply personal: to reclaim my voice in journalism. After nearly a decade of experience in my home country, I encountered major barriers to entering the European media landscape, barriers that silenced me for almost ten years from the profession I love.

Secondly, while working in other fields to support myself and adapt to a new system, I realised that many other women were facing the same struggles. This inspired me to create a platform that fosters connection and amplifies our collective voices. Finally, I founded Migrant Women Press to challenge dominant migration narratives and ensure that diverse voices are heard in the media.

Although migration dominates news coverage in Europe, fair and compassionate discussions remain largely absent. Migrants' experiences are often oversimplified and portrayed through hostile, biased, and stereotyped narratives.

Migrant Women Press exists to provide a space in the media for migrant and racialised women to tell their stories on their own terms. Our impact in journalism is reflected in the hundreds of articles we have published on issues often misrepresented or overlooked by mainstream media.

We are also making a meaningful difference in women's lives. Through their involvement in our small newsroom and community, many have found renewed hope and direction despite the challenges they face.

It has been a long and uncertain journey, one we continue to navigate with many challenges because nothing is guaranteed for an independent media platform dedicated to women from marginalised backgrounds. Keeping this space alive is an uphill battle.

However, I am determined to transform Migrant Women Press into a sustainable, independent media platform, one that is resilient and firmly grounded, capable of producing impactful journalism for generations to come.

Our Team

Migrant Women Press is driven by a small but dedicated team of passionate women from migrant and racialised backgrounds. Our team members are from different ethnic groups, countries, ages, and experiences.



Migrant Women Press is supported by:



“We come from countries where opportunities are scarce and competition fierce. With the right-wing government’s censorship, giving space to such stories becomes hopeful. For me, MWP came at a time when I was feeling low and on the verge of quitting journalism. But sometimes, you need a saving grace that reminds you why you decided to pursue this.”

Nikita Jain, Editor

“I joined MWP because I believe in the importance of creating spaces where migrant women can share their lived experiences on their own terms. I wanted to contribute to a movement that amplifies underrepresented voices and sheds light on the complex realities of migration, identity, and resilience.”

Laura Ndanuko, Community Engagement and Development Lead





“Working at MWP has been a delight. Not only do I get to work with a brilliant team, but I also get to use my design practice for a good cause. Everyone involved is extremely understanding and helpful. It feels like being part of a community that promotes togetherness beyond just ‘work’.”

Medha Kulshreshta, Social Media & Graphic Design Executive

“MWP is a safe space in online news where migrant women’s stories are respected, heard, and valued. It gives women agency to own their narratives and goes beyond journalism by uplifting, training, and preparing them for sustainable, ethical storytelling.”

Diane Bou Khalil, Newsletter Editor



**Amplify your
voice.
Own your
story.**

Board of Directors

Our organisation is supported by a Board of Directors that guides our strategy.

Laura Rodriguez-Davis



Laura Rodriguez-Davis is an American-born writer and artist of Puerto Rican descent. She holds a M.Phil. in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation from Trinity College Dublin and a mediation accreditation from UK Mediation. Laura's research on using the arts for trauma healing and conflict transformation was recently published in the Irish Journal of Arts Management and Cultural Policy. She previously served as the Literature Editor at MWP. Her writing can also be found at Media Diversity Institute, Shared Future News, Heroica, and Yuvoice. Laura currently lives in Belfast, Northern Ireland with her husband and dog and works at the Lyric Theatre.

"MWP not only offers migrant women a medium for sharing their stories, following relevant headlines, and reclaiming media narratives, but actively invests in and promotes migrant women writers and journalists. In a media landscape that is often hostile to migrants as anti-immigrant sentiment grows, MWP serves as a key resource for pushing back against harmful narratives and misinformation."

Beth Pearson began her career as a features journalist at The Herald (Scotland) before freelancing for several years. She completed an MSc Human Rights & Global Politics then a PhD, focusing on media democratisation and the representation of transitional justice campaigns in Uruguay. She has since published research in journals including Journalism Studies and Social Movement Studies, and co-edited the award-winning Media Capture in Africa and Latin America: Power and Resistance (Palgrave) with Hayes Mabweazara. She is currently a Research Fellow at City St George's, University of London, based on an international project investigating independent journalism. She has continued to include journalism practice in her research, as well as through volunteer roles such as editing elsewhere, the journal of the Outdoor Swimming Society, for several years.

Beth Pearson



"Migrant Women Press represents a distinctive and bold intervention in so many ways. At a time when independent journalism is under serious threat around the world, it sets out to demonstrate why it is more needed than ever. In the context of persistent false narratives about migrants and migration, it not only tackles these head on by supporting migrants to tell their own stories, but also focuses on the stories of women, who are virtually absent in mainstream representation of migrants in the UK."

Our Journey Over the Years

2025

Launched our first print magazine

- Launched the Migrant Women Press Fellowship after an award from the National Lottery Community fund and other small grants and donations
- Launched stories as part of the cross-border investigation revealing how Europe's child protection systems work for migrant and racialised communities, with the support of Journalismfund Europe
- Partnered with JustRight Scotland to shine a light on the rights of migrants and asylum seekers
- Presented a panel at the Women's Communication Rights in the Digital Era: the Beijing Platform for Action 10 Years On conference in Lisbon, Portugal
- Winner of Best Feature category at the 2025 Write to End Violence Against Women Awards
- Finalist at the National Diversity Awards
- Articles featured as reference and teaching materials at both Oxford University and The Open University, highlighting the growing academic impact of our work
- Participated at the Social Enterprise Challenge: Grant to Growth (Transition Plan) in collaboration with Glasgow Social Enterprise Network, Edinburgh Social Enterprise Network, University of Glasgow, and Queen Margaret University to co-develop a financially sustainable road map for Migrant Women Press
- Became a Fellow of the School for Social Entrepreneurs after completing the Black Social Entrepreneurs Programme in partnership with PwC
- Launched a crowdfunding campaign to support the MWP Fellowship at our first in-person event in Glasgow, on World Press Freedom Day

2024

- Launched the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign in partnership with 10 leading migrant women's rights and grassroots organisations, providing training and publication opportunities for 16 women
- Presented a panel at the African Women in Media's annual conference on Media and Sustainability in Dakar, Senegal

2023

- Launched Migrant Voices project in partnership with The Chritical to challenge stereotypes about migrant women
- Finalist for Best Feature Article at the Scottish Refugee Council Media Awards
- Finalist at the Scottish Refugee Council Media Awards for best feature article
- Joined the Accelerate Programme with Community Enterprise to enhance our organisation's sustainability and entrepreneurial capacity
- Became a regulated member of IMPRESS, the UK's independent press regulator
- Joined the Independent Media Association, strengthening our ties within the UK independent journalism community
- Joined the Scottish Beacon, a collaborative network that brings independently run, community-based publications across Scotland

2022

- Launched The State of Migrant Women's Mental Health in partnership with Women Refugee Connect to publish a series of articles raising awareness about how migration and displacement impact migrant women's mental health

2021

- Leveraged social media to unite migrant women globally and amplify stories overlooked by mainstream media, with contributions from across Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas

2020

- Established Migrant Women Press without any financial backing

Featured Projects

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign

From 25 November to 10 December 2024, we dedicated efforts to raise awareness about the specific and often overlooked challenges faced by migrant and ethnically diverse women victims/survivors of gender-based violence.

How we contributed

1. Amplified marginalised perspectives through journalism and storytelling

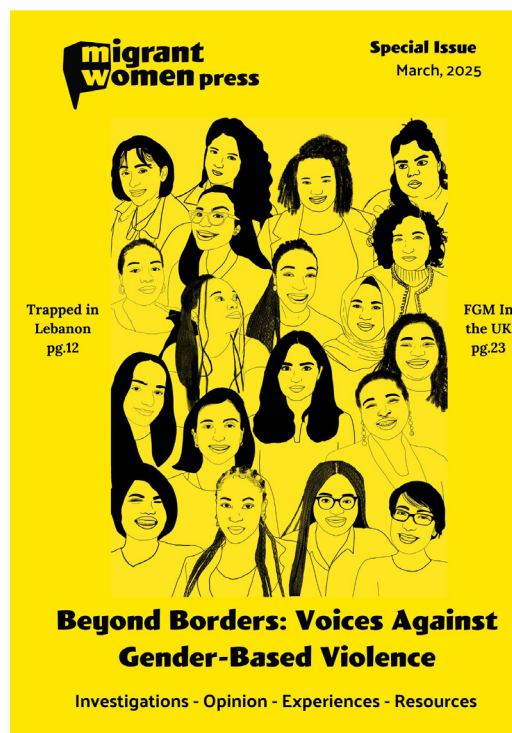
We selected and commissioned 16 stories authored by migrant and ethnically diverse women journalists, publishing one on each day of the campaign. Each piece highlights how factors like class, race, gender, immigration status, disability, and nationality intersect to increase these women's vulnerability to violence. Additionally, the stories highlight prevention strategies and propose solutions for combating gender-based violence. One of the stories won Best Feature category at the Write to End Violence Against Women Awards.

The stories can be found [here](#).

2. Offered skills development training and support

To support the participating journalists and writers, we offered a series of workshops that delved into critical areas of trauma-informed reporting and how to cover gender-based violence responsibly, in partnership with leading organisations such as Zero Tolerance, JustRight Scotland, Shakti Women's Aid, Scottish Women's Aid, End Violence Against Women Coalition, Engender, Kairos Women+, Project Esperanza and KWISA Women of African Heritage to name a few. Focusing on migrant and ethnic minority women's needs, the sessions were designed to equip participants with the tools needed to handle these sensitive topics responsibly. They were conducted by experts in gender-based violence and trauma reporting.

Read more about our efforts [here](#).



Cross-border Investigation: How Europe's Child Protection Systems Work for Migrant and Racialised Communities

What makes a mother fit to look after her children in the eyes of the authorities? And are these assessments shaped by systemic discrimination rooted in cultural and racial biases, particularly against racialised and migrant communities? These are the central questions that guided our investigation, focusing specifically on Roma and Black migrant families.

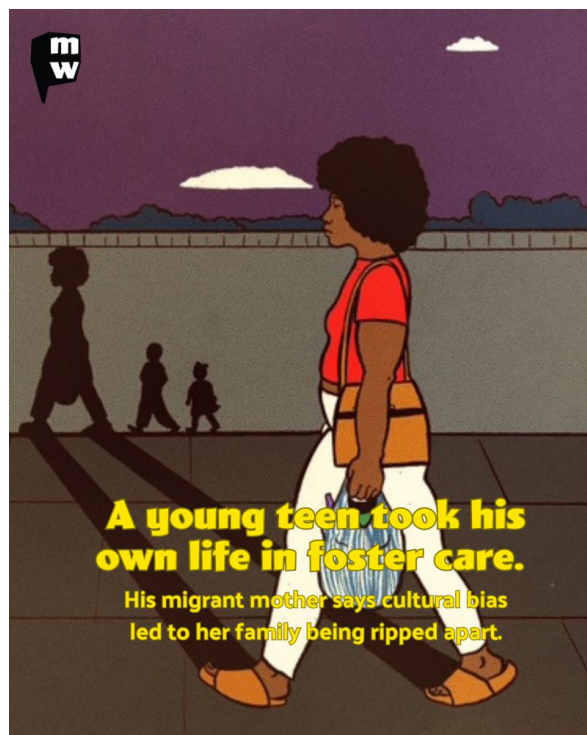
Our research examines this issue across three countries: Scotland and Italy, where immigration is a key feature of the social fabric, and Romania, where Roma communities represent a significant ethnic minority. Across these contexts, Roma and Black migrant families face distinct but overlapping forms of marginalisation, making them critical case studies for understanding how state interventions affect vulnerable populations across Europe.

In Scotland, we have investigated how immigration enforcement intersects with child welfare systems. We've spent time with grassroots organisations in Scotland and London, hearing from them about how the lack of support at an early stage and an overly interventionist approach sees migrant children removed from their homes.

We investigated the case of Nina, a mother from Southeast Africa whose children were first taken into care while she was detained on immigration grounds, with four of her children eventually going into the care system. However, a detailed assessment later found that concerns that led to their removal stemmed in part from cultural misunderstandings and discrimination. Years later, her son died by suicide, laying bare the high stakes involved.

Organisations claim her story has echoes of the stories of many racialised and migrant mothers who lose custody of their children due to a combination of their unfamiliarity with local laws and a lack of cultural understanding in Scotland's child protection system.

This investigation was produced in partnership with *The Ferret* and supported by Journalismfund Europe. Read the stories from this project [here](#).



Migrant Women Press Fellowship

In this pilot project, we are supporting 10 women from migrant and racialised backgrounds – recent graduates, freelancers, and aspiring journalists – through a holistic six-month pilot programme, providing an opportunity for participants to explore journalism as a tool for change. We aim for this project to become an annual opportunity for migrant and racialised women to break into the media industry.

Included in the programme:

- One-on-one monthly mentorship sessions and editorial support with experienced journalists
- Robust training on reporting/storytelling skills: fact-checking, trauma-informed reporting, carbon literacy for journalists, solutions journalism, the use of AI in journalism, and how to pitch your stories
- Paid publication opportunities for original, public-interest reporting
- A culminating print edition featuring the fellows' stories

Key goals:

1. 10 women will receive training in media skills and be mentored by a professional journalist/editor, increasing knowledge, skills, and confidence.
2. Fellows will be more confident and prepared to write about critical issues affecting women, migrant, and racialised communities.
3. Fellows will be better prepared to transition into media employment or further education.
4. Readers from migrant and racialised communities will have increased access to information about shared experiences, rights, and responsibilities.
5. Readers will be inspired to take positive action to improve the spaces and places that matter most to them.

This year's fellowship runs from September 2025 to March 2026. Learn more about our first fellowship cohort [here](#).

[Subscribe here](#) to be informed of future application opportunities.



Fellowship

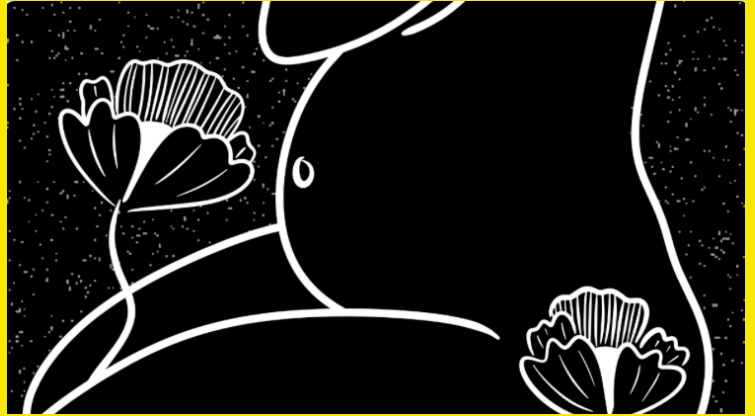


Get support to tell the stories that matter and build a fair and inclusive media space

Top Stories

Memories of Motherhood Between Two Worlds: Gaza and Scotland

Motherhood is never only personal when war shapes your homeland. From a maternity ward in Glasgow to memories of Gaza's scarred hospitals, Azza Ahmad traces the intimate and political threads of giving life between two worlds.

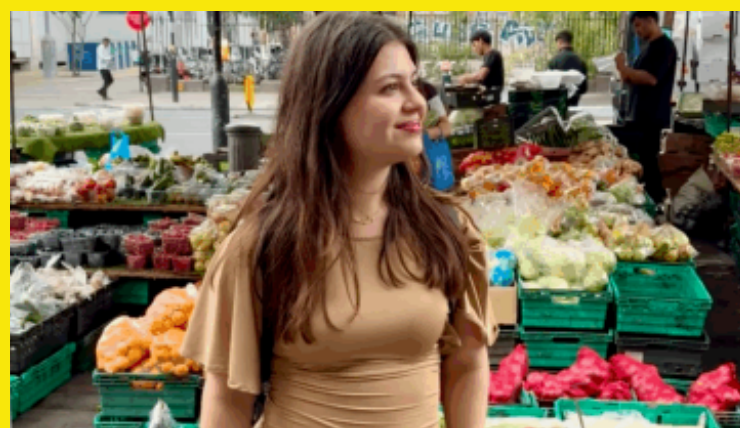


Education for All: The Right For Asylum Seekers To Access Education in Scotland

In collaboration with JustRight Scotland, we're shining a light on the rights of migrants and asylum seekers. We begin by examining the barriers blocking asylum seekers' access to education and the struggle to secure it in Scotland.

Black Women Shaping Glasgow: A Celebration of Strength and Solidarity

The Women Integration Network's Black History Month celebration in Glasgow brought together women from diverse backgrounds to celebrate culture, resilience, and community.



Travelling the World Without Leaving London: The TikToker Fighting Discourse on Immigration

Meet Sama, a TikTok creator who is travelling the world without leaving London to counteract negative media portrayals of immigrants.

Forging the Path: Delving Into the Rise of Black Migrant Women Entrepreneurs in Scotland

An in-depth discussion with entrepreneurs and experts in workplace Diversity, Equality and Inclusion sheds light on the challenges Black migrant women encounter in traditional employment settings and the entrepreneurial paths they forge in response.



Women's Rights Organisations Warn New UK Immigration Policies Put Migrant Women's Safety at Risk

Violence against women and girls organisations and migrant justice organisations are urging the government to withdraw its proposed Immigration White Paper, warning it could endanger migrant women, deepen racial inequality, and weaken protections for survivors of gender-based violence.

"It Consumes Your Life": Single Mother Migrant Workers in the UK's Health and Social Care Workforce Separated From Their Children

Over 2,000 single mothers who came to the UK as health and care workers have been denied visas for their children, a report by Women of Zimbabwe, ACTSA, and the University of Liverpool reveals. It highlights discrimination, inconsistent Home Office decisions, and serious personal impacts.



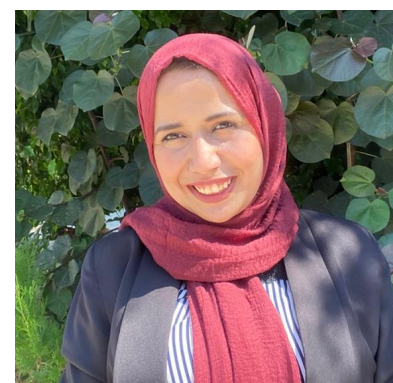
Voices From Our Community

Freelancers

“Connecting with migrant and ethnically diverse women to tell their stories felt like a privilege, reinforcing my commitment to advocacy through journalism. The sense of solidarity built among contributors and the chance to spark real conversations about gender-based violence made every moment worthwhile, leaving me eager to continue this work.” **Akansha Deshmukh**, author of “Strangers In A Strange Land: The Silent Struggles Of South Asian Immigrant Wives In The UK” for the 16 Days Of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign



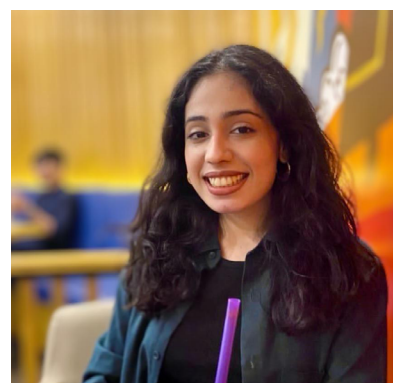
“One word to describe my fellowship experience so far: empowering. When I think about my fellowship community, I feel supported, understood, connected.” **Azza Abumandeeel** (2025 Migrant Women Press Fellow)



“Collaborating with Migrant Women Press enabled me to embrace my authenticity within my writing. It provided me with a true sense of belonging as a Black migrant woman. My voice was welcomed, supported, and truly understood. Migrant Women Press is more than a platform; it’s a community where migrant and racialised women’s voices and stories matter. I would strongly encourage working with Migrant Women Press if you want a safe space to express yourself and share your work.” **Char-Lee Lewis**, author of “Femicide In The UK: A Decolonial Feminist Examination Through Race, Class And Migration”



“This collaboration meant being able to tell stories about migrant and displaced women that rarely get the attention they deserve. Having the space to report on issues I genuinely care about, and being supported so thoughtfully through the process, made it genuinely rewarding and impactful. The editorial support is exceptional. You feel heard, supported, and valued. Every story is treated with a level of care and personal investment that makes the entire experience incredibly positive.” **Ayesha Mirza**, author of “Afghan Women Caught In Pakistan’s Deportations” and “Unseen Victims: The Gendered Toll Of Pakistan’s Climate Crisis”





Readers



“Migrant Women Press is a powerful and necessary platform to amplify the voices of our diverse global majority. The lived experiences shared on it shows the importance of reading stories from different perspectives to better understand topics that are relevant, but not necessarily easy, around women and migration. I always recommend Migrant Women Press to anyone living in the UK and beyond. Unfortunately we live in a world with so many negative stereotypes related to migrant women. As a migrant and journalist it is important for us to have a platform where we can be seen and where we can share our stories from our own perspectives and lived experiences.”

Livia Barreira, a Brazilian-British journalist and author of Living in Sheffield: Our Journeys as Migrant Women, community engagement and communications strategist. She runs an online platform called Living in Sheffield, where she celebrates and promotes the Global Community.



“Migrant Women Press is a respected independent media outlet run by migrant women for everyone. They emphasise perspectives that are often overlooked. Currently, I notice that my migrant experience is underrepresented. A media platform created by and for migrant racialised women provides a reliable space that highlights genuine portrayals of diverse communities. Through outlets like Migrant Women Press, I can access accurate and relevant international news that many mainstream publications tend to overlook, alongside community features!”

Ndapanda Ngairo, Private Chef and Events Coordinator @ kitchen.264



“Migrant Women Press highlights voices that are not often heard, especially in mainstream media. It is very authentic — you can read stories that are truly unique — but also thorough in its research. The quality of writing is also excellent. It is simply unique in the landscapes of media that we know today. It is important because it allows readers to discover stories and perspectives they would have never heard about.”

Aurélia Gervasoni is a Belgian poet and multidisciplinary artist. In her work, she addresses questions of gender and intimate relationships.



“Migrant Women Press is a beautiful collective of journalism projects led by migrant women who share the realities of migration through a gender lens. The stories are inspiring, informative, and call everyone to take action for change as they delve into real-time issues faced by migrant women and girls all over the world. It is a needed platform; we need journalism and stories told by people who are living these realities. Migrant Women Press captures these realities and stories often neglected by mainstream media outlets.”

Amaka Felly Obioji, Author, Founder & Editor of Diaspora Africa

Statement Of Financial Position

Migrant Women Press CIC (SC775168)

Statement of Financial Position 31 July 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Current assets	3,538	1,099
Net current assets	3,538	1,099
Accruals and deferred income	(3,715)	(1,968)
Net liabilities	(177)	(869)
Capital and reserves	(177)	(869)

Total funds raised to date: £36,613

National Lottery: £16,460

Firstport: £5,000

FunderBirds: £5,000

Journalismfund Europe: £2,432

Edge Fund: £2,000

General donation: £2,125

Crowdfunding campaign: £1,096

National Union of Journalists (Glasgow branch): £500

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign: £2,000

Our Supporters

Funders

We are grateful for the financial support of our funders and individual supporters, whose contributions make Migrant Women Press' work possible.



Partners

We extend our sincere thanks to our partners, whose collaboration, expertise, and continued commitment play a vital role in advancing the work of Migrant Women Press.



We are regulated by Impress



We are a member of Independent Media Association and The Scottish Beacon



Getting Involved

Do you want to contribute to the success of Migrant Women Press?
Let's amplify our impact through collaboration!

Get in touch with us in any of the following ways:



Website: migrantwomenpress.com/contact



Email: migrantwomenpress@gmail.com



LinkedIn: migrant-women-press/



Instagram: [@migrantwomenpress](https://www.instagram.com/migrantwomenpress)



Facebook: [migrantwomenpress](https://www.facebook.com/migrantwomenpress)



Phone number: [07514780995](tel:07514780995) (Juliana da Penha)



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amplifying

migrant women's

voices



Support Independent Media. Empower Migrant Women's Voices!

If you believe in independent media that reflects our realities, please consider supporting us. Your contribution keeps this work alive and helps us grow stronger for the years ahead.



Donate [here](#)



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