



# Member Initiated Taskforces and Projects

## Final Report of the INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY Task Force

### SHORT OVERVIEW

In a more and more economically connected and globalized world, the number of expatriates is in constant rise.

Going abroad to pursue a professional career, follow a spouse or upgrade a diploma can sometimes be a motivating challenge, most of the time very enriching and always a valuable experience.

But it stays a real challenge!

**The aim of the INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY Task Force is to make known the expatriation issues and recurrent risks to BPW members all over the world.**

- ☞ information help during the **preparation of an expatriation** project (challenges, benefits and minimization of the risks associated with expatriation)
- ☞ strengthening the support to **expatriate women** during expatriation (psychologist aspect, information about laws, visas etc.)
- ☞ improving women integration when they come **back from expatriation**

### RESULTS

The Task Force worked through online meetings and e-mails with people all over the world and was able to:

- ☞ Better know the laws and collect information about international mobility and counseling members and share them with





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members; The ladies participate to the "ONLINE MEETINGS" TaskForce in order to exchange with others BPW members in the same situation.

Observation: many of our **BPW leaders** made their career abroad and realize that BPW need to help women as expat. If not, we often loose expat's subscription.

- ☞ The concept of this Task Force is key in the empowerment of expatriated women and was already efficient and worked through the club BPW Nice INTERCONTINENTAL; female expatriates are in great demand for support since there is no existing framework nor official procedures as of now.
- ☞ Identify possibilities offered to women in expatriation, especially the possibility for them to get a job when accompanying their spouse;
- ☞ Connect women with the country/regional federation: this was very helpful for example for a member who reach her new job and realized that none of the financial agreement taken before leaving didn't work, and she would have slept in the street if we did not connect her with the BPW Club in her new working country.
- ☞ Inform/guide women towards institutions which can accompany them regardless of the host country (equivalence of diplomas, recognition and assessment of work experience and skills): a women could be taken straight to jail because she did not know that driving in her host country is forbidden for women.
- ☞ support BPW students to create BPW units in all over the world Universities's campus

## **GOALS FOR NEXT PERIOD**

The concept worked as a club (BPW Nice INTERCONTINENTAL) since 4/5 years and benefited consequently from its leader's position (as "president of a club") during all this period.

As a Task Force, the concept needs another way of communication.

- ☞ May be a space provided dedicated on the international web site?

Moreover, the feedback we received from women who benefited from our experiences lead us to identify the following activities as crucial for the next months:

- ☞ Establish a data base on international mobility and share it with all BPW federations:



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✚ This has already started thanks to our monthly conference calls with BPW Presidents throughout the world.

✚ Concretely connect BPW worldwide members:

✚ Via the web site *hubtobee*, which is an online platform for connecting members of the organization all over the world through a map; it allows each of us to know all members of BPW network and get in touch with them, see who is coming in your city, plan a meeting with them, identify the locals members and the travelling members who will be at the same time and in the same place as you, etc.



✚ To set up a network and create a special group in each federation dedicated to international mobility and intercultural understanding (helping women's social rights abroad and empowering them to pursuit and foster their professional career in a changing society and world of global immigration; advocacy for equivalence of diplomas, rights in terms of maternity leave, divorce, children's education and school benefits; work permit for spouses, duration of visas, pensions etc.

✚ To spread the topics about international mobility: It would be great to think together about a team devoted to in BPW Africa, BPW Asia-Pacific, BPW Europe, BPW South-america and BPW North-america because laws are so different and also mentalities... We could coordinate these teams to improve our datas and efficiency. It would easier and more feasible.

✚ To raise awareness among all BPW members: so we can efficiently lend a hand to any woman facing international mobility issue in their country.

## **SPONSORS AND SUPPORTS**

BPW federations' presidents and also, UN representatives support our Task Force.

## **CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES**

### **1- Hoping to get to understand BPW members the issues of this concept:**

Indeed, only those who had to face expatriation at least once in their life can understand how it can be challenging, and also measure the actual difficulties encountered by women and men when they are confronted with another mode of life, whether for professional or family reasons.

Hopefully, the International Mobility Task Force will help contact/connect the most of women and share experience to call to mind all the issues of living abroad

✚ Live a motivating, exciting and rewarding challenge that makes us grow up



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**2- students and young BPW:**

We want to help students who are in a situation of International Mobility to create BPW unit on University campus all around the world.

It is a mean to let BPW known through the international young community and to really help women to promote women empowerment and to make sense to launch their careers with a real strategy.



## **CONCLUSION**

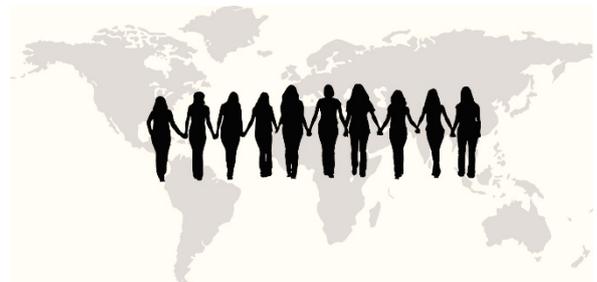
The International Mobility Task Force is a new one, which works since August 2016.

However, we worked to gather BPW expat members all over the world since march 2012 through BPW Nice INTERCONTINENTAL's concept in a form of a virtual BPW club.

We've been able to reach several women throughout the world to alert to the problematic of women in situation of expatriation. Through experience sharing and discussion, we have collected information and are establishing a database for the use of all BPW members.

We hope to get the support of all BPW federations in the world to enrich this database and, thus, help us avoid administrative or legal risks, fight against seclusion (linking women in the same situation to prevent psychosocial risks, i.e. problems related to loneliness and sometimes family remoteness), solve the problematic of diplomas' correspondence, and transcend the cultural brakes for women living far from their native country.

It is only united around this problematic that we'll overcome its issues.



### **International mobility is a threefold issue**

- ⇒ **Helping women and providing information linked to expatriation (opportunities, advantages and risks)**
- ⇒ **Gathering support for expatriated women**
- ⇒ **Improving integration of female expatriates on their return home**
- ⇒ **advocating for female expatriates 'rights and facilitate their integration**