



**CSOs and NGOs working for the Rights of Migrant Workers<sup>1</sup>**

**Name of Organisation:** Anti-Racism Movement-Migrant Community Center, Lebanon, 2011

**Website of Organisation:** <http://www.antiracismmovement.com/p/about-us.html>

**Facebook of Organisation:** [www.facebook.com/mcchamra](http://www.facebook.com/mcchamra) and [www.facebook.com/ARMLeb/](http://www.facebook.com/ARMLeb/)

**Organisation of DTP Alumni Y/N: Yes**

**About Anti-Racism Movement (ARM):**

ARM is a grassroots movement created by young activists in Lebanon, in collaboration with migrant community leaders. Together they work on documenting, investigating, exposing and fighting racist practices in Lebanon through various initiatives and campaigns.

ARM's current efforts are targeted towards racism (and other discriminatory and exploitative practices), specifically against migrant workers. There are approximately 250,000 migrant workers in Lebanon. For the most part, they are suffering from discriminatory labour laws and practices, such as the sponsorship system, the exclusion of domestic work from labour laws, the lack of monitoring and accountability in recruitment agencies, arbitrary detention, and discriminatory policies imposed in restaurants, banks, airlines, public transportation, tourist resorts and more. One of ARM's functions is to promote cultural presence and unity within the community. Thus ARM opened the first Migrant Community Center (MCC) in September 2011 to meet this goal.

**About Migrant Community Center (MCC):**

MCC's overall goal is to make meaningful improvements to the lives of migrant workers in Lebanon, with a main focus on working with domestic workers. In order to achieve this, MCC engage, enable, empower, and mobilize migrant communities to fight for their rights, and to reduce racist and discriminatory attitudes and behavior among the Lebanese. MCC is managed by a small staff of mostly migrant women, with ARM's oversight and support.

MCC is a community center where migrant workers can come to meet, take classes, socialize, organize, network, discuss issues and hold celebrations and events. MCC is open to all migrant workers, and although one can pay a small fee to become a member and take advantage of certain perks. Most activities and classes are free of charge to all migrant workers. MCC hosts different classes and activities such as English, Arabic, and computer classes, monthly dinner events, workshops, and visits to the markets. Members can suggest new initiatives. The space is also increasingly being used by researchers, journalists, interviewers, and other organizations, who are working or reporting on the plight of migrant workers' in the country and region.

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**Email:** [mccbeirut@gmail.com](mailto:mccbeirut@gmail.com)

**Website:** <http://www.antiracismmovement.com/p/about-us.html>

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/mcchamra](http://www.facebook.com/mcchamra) and [www.facebook.com/ARMLeb/](http://www.facebook.com/ARMLeb/)

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<sup>1</sup> The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is an NGO affiliated with the Faculty of Law at UNSW in Sydney. Since 1990, it has provided training to over 2600 human rights defenders and community advocates. These individuals work for a wide range of organisations working to promote shared values of human rights – in different ways. This profile is part of a series developed by DTP ([www.dtp.unsw.edu.au](http://www.dtp.unsw.edu.au)) to illustrate the richness and diversity of the organisations working to promote the rights of migrant workers more broadly.

*Profile written February 2017*