

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



**Name of Organisation:** Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC), Lebanon, 1994

**Website of Organisation:** <http://english.caritasmigrant.org.lb/>

**Facebook of Organisation:**

<https://www.facebook.com/CaritasLebanonMigrantCenter/?fref=ts>

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

*“Working towards a society whereby the rights of all refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in Lebanon are recognized, protected and respected in accordance with universal Declaration of Human rights and all other relevant conventions.”*

Caritas is one of the largest NGOs in Lebanon. Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC) was established by Caritas in response to the rapid increase in migrants coming to Lebanon from the 1980s – many of them as female domestic workers. These female domestic workers were particularly vulnerable to a range of abuses – including non-payment of wages, lack of freedom of movement, physical and sexual assault, racism and xenophobia and detention without trial. Far from home, there were no services to meet their needs or to assert their rights. CLMC was established to address this gap. More recently CLMC has responded to the refugee crisis resulting from the conflicts in Iraq and Syria.

CLMC offers a wide variety of social services on the national level to all people regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity or political beliefs. CLMC has so far helped more than 1 million migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. The main beneficiaries are migrant workers from Asia and Africa (Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Philippines, Bangladesh, Nepal, Kenya, Cameroon and other countries). Further, other beneficiaries include refugees and asylum seekers from Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Sudan and other countries.

CLMC provides services and intervention that are both direct and indirect towards migrant workers. Direct intervention includes legal assistance such as counseling and representation in courts, safe house for victims of human trafficking, shelters for migrant and refugee women in distress, mediation with employers, recruitment agencies and the police (*General Security*), training in capacity building, vocational training and reintegration programs, and much more. Additionally, the main areas of indirect intervention consists of, advocacy and lobbying to reform and change policy, coordination with relevant stakeholders including law enforcement and judiciary, implementation of and participation in awareness campaigns, training for CLMC personnel on migrant and refugee issues and cooperation with countries of origin for the protection of migrant workers.

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**Website:** <http://english.caritasmigrant.org.lb/>

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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 and human rights more broadly.

*Profile written August 2016*