

From idealization to reality: family reunification of Latin-American migrant women with their children

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'I brought my daughters to this country to offer them a better life, but the only thing I'm giving them is suffering.' It is a common complaint of Latin-American migrant women living abroad. In my presentation, I will elaborate on the most frequent problems related to family reunification which I observe in my work as intercultural psychologist in Belgium, including:

- the idealization of the migrants' ideas about the reunification with their children,
- the disillusionments they are confronted with once the family is reunited and
- the social-emotional problems and conflicts between the family members, and between the family and their host society.

We will discuss the opportunities and challenges for the migrants' host countries and social services to elaborate programmes taking into account the specific needs and problems related to family reunification and how migrants can be prepared and well informed.