



MIGRATING AND CARING

Men's migration does not have the same impact than that of women.

Unlike male migration, that of women triggers chain reactions of care chains: while many women who have been made to migrate, to take up exile or are displaced to other cities or countries end up working there in the domestic work sector, filling a void which has traditionally been fulfilled without pay by women in their own families, the shortage of care that is left in their countries or lands of origin after they migrate is handled by other women. It is often grandmothers, aunts, sisters... who are left in charge of babies and other people who depend on them. Sometimes it is other women who have been made to migrate there who alleviate that lack, under conditions even more precarious than those borne by those who are forced to migrate to the global North.

María (Bogotá, Colombia) works as an intern, taking care of an elderly person in Tarragona 24 hours a day, with her head focused on taking care of her father across the Atlantic. That's a responsibility her sister Alejandra took.

Marjori migrated from Trujillo, Peru, to Barcelona sixteen years ago. The children that Marjori has watched grow up close to her are not the ones she imagined having near.

Lucelly (La Sierra, Colombia) is taking care of the daughter of a city family, from the good morning to the good night kiss, while their sons are growing up in the countryside. Nohemi, the younger sister, takes care of her nephew David, as well as her children and parents.

Sofía (Cuisnahuat, El Salvador) works in the capital as a domestic worker. Her two children call their grandmother "mommy", who has taken care of them since they were babies.

Rocío (Lima, Perú) works in the domestic sector and she is a member of Sindhogar, a care and domestic workers union where they organize with other colleagues in the same sector to deal with the abuse and discrimination they suffer.

Care chains exist over a backdrop of an impoverishment and violence filled with Western fingerprints. As transnational and urbanized realities they demonstrate the tension which exists between people's needs and the market's need to accumulate capital. They are a reality which shows how the day to day responsibility of sustaining life, from the sphere of family life to the issue of natural resources, is still far from being at the centre of our politics, of being taken care of collectively.