**EMPOWER TOPIC GUIDE: MIGRANT WOMEN INTERVIEWS**

**PRE-INTERVIEW QUESTIONS (make sure we have this information before interview commences)**

**SETTLEMENT CONTEXT**

1. How long you have lived in this country?
2. How long have you lived in this neighbourhood?
3. Where did you live before you arrived in this neighbourhood? (list country, city and neighbourhood (if applicable) you have lived in during the last five years).
4. How long have you lived at your current address?
5. What type of housing do you live in? (e.g. house, flat, room in shared house, hostel).
6. What are the financial arrangements under which you have the right to live in your current house or apartment?(for example, public rented, social rented, owned outright etc.)
7. How many bedrooms does your accommodation have?
8. Who else do you live with? (Single? Partner? Family? Friends? Work colleagues? Number of adults and children?)
9. Which individual or individuals provide the main source of income for the family?

**INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:**

**HOUSING / ACCOMMODATION EXPERIENCES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

1. Can you tell me why you came to live in this neighbourhood?

Prompts:

* + What influenced your decision to move into this neighbourhood? (e.g. moving close to family or friends?; the importance of other personal networks?; housing affordability?; access to jobs?, local facilities?; OR do individuals feel that they did not have any choice in moving in?)

2. Can you tell me about how your experiences of finding your current accommodation?

Prompts:

* + At the time of moving into your current accommodation, what other choices, if any, did you have at the time of your move? Probe: Did you consider other neighbourhoods or housing types?
  + Did you or someone else take the final decision on whether you would move to your current accommodation? If someone else, who? (Family member? Friends? Municipal government? Other?)

3. If you have a problem with your accommodation who do you contact?

Prompts:

* + Who usually deals with accommodation problems in your household?
  + How satisfied are you with the way problems are dealt with when you report an issue? (if renting)
  + Why are you satisfied or not satisfied?

4. If you have lived somewhere else in this country, city or neighbourhood, how does your current accommodation compare with those that you have lived in previously?

Prompts:

* Positive/ negative aspects of the current accommodation (e.g. size, space, condition, where it is located – influence of noise and/or pollution)?

5. Are you planning to stay in your current accommodation??

Prompts:

* In terms of your current accommodation, what - if anything - makes you want to stay at your current address?
* If not,
  + where would you like to move to and why? (e.g., somewhere else in the neighbourhood, city, country, other country? etc.).
  + what type of accommodation would you like to move to and why? (e.g., something larger; something with a garden? Etc.).
  + what is stopping you from finding somewhere else to live?

6. How secure do you feel in terms of your right to stay in your current accommodation?

Prompts:

* What type of contract do you have?
* Who is named on the contract?
* Have you experienced or do you worry about increased rents?

7. If you live with other people, how are important decisions reached with those that you live with? (Important decisions could include purchases for your accommodation, holidays, when to have family/friends over, who works and who doesn’t and decisions in relation to children’s education).

8. Is there anything special in your home that positively influences feelings of being settled?

Prompts:

* Do you feel safe when you are in your accommodation? Why? Why not?

**INTEGRATION EXPERIENCES CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

9. Can you tell me what it’s like to live in this neighbourhood?

Prompts:

* What are the positive and negative aspects of living in this neighbourhood?
* Do the amenities and facilities in the neighbourhood meet your daily needs? (for example, shopping, transport, places of worship, day-care, schooling, entertainment/leisure/sports/ open spaces?). If yes, how? If not, why not?
* Where else do you go to meet your daily needs and why? (for example, the use of the internet / goods sent from family / friends elsewhere).

10. Can you think of any examples of things that have made you feel more settled in the neighbourhood?

Prompts:

* Which places? Which spaces? Which people? Which facilities or services?

11. How would you describe community relationships (i.e. relations between different people) in your **neighbourhood generally**?

Prompt:

* How would you describe relationships in the area between people from different ethnic or national groups / different countries of origin?

12. Can you tell me about the relationships **you have** with other people living in the neighbourhood? (Neighbours, colleagues, friends, other networks - formal or informal?)

Prompts:

* Do you feel part of a particular community or group? If so which one/s?
* Do you have friends and family in the area? How many would you call your close friends?
* How would you describe your relationship with your neighbours?
* How often do you socialise with people from outside of your own ethnic/national /language group? (Daily, every day/week/month) If you do socialise with others outside of your own group, where do you do this?

13. Have you ever experienced any problems whilst moving around the neighbourhood or other parts of the city - for example access to particular public spaces/ places in the neighbourhood / elsewhere?

Prompts:

* What spaces and places - if any - do you use in the neighbourhood to meet other people?
* Are there parts of the neighbourhood you feel more comfortable in than others?
* Are there any places/ spaces in the neighbourhood or beyond that you try and avoid? Why?
* Are there any times when you feel unsafe going about your daily routine? Why?
* Overall, how comfortable to you feel expressing your cultural and religious values in the area? (e.g. speaking own language; wearing religious symbols; wearing particular clothes etc.).

14. Do you think women have different experiences of living in the neighbourhood compared to men?

Prompts:

* Do you think women/girls have the same access to services / facilities in the neighbourhood as men/boys? If not, why not?
* Do you think women/girls have the same access to public spaces as men/boys in the neighbourhood?
* If not, which spaces would you consider to be typical male spaces / typical female spaces?
* Are there any spaces which younger or older people are more likely to be found in?
* What changes could be made to make the neighbourhood a better place (for women) to live?

15. Can you tell me about any changes you have noticed in the neighbourhood since living here?

16. How would you say the neighbourhood is described by those living outside (it’s reputation)?

Prompts:

* + Do you think peoples’ perceptions of the neighbourhood have got better or worse over time? Why?

**EMPOWERMENT EXPERIENCES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

17. Are you involved with any local organisations or any local groups in the neighbourhood / city?

Prompts:

* + If so, which ones?
  + Why did you become involved with such organisations / groups?
  + What do you do (what activities do you engage in)?
    1. What does it mean to be involved?
    2. How often do you meet?
    3. How do you contribute?
    4. What was your experience of attending these activities (positive / negative - why?)
    5. Did you get to know other people in this neighbourhood through these activities/ groups?

18. If you have been involved in activities that sought to improve housing or your neighbourhood, what helped you to become involved and who helped you to become involved?

19. Have you ever been asked to contribute to activities that have sought to improve housing or your neighbourhood?

Prompts:

* By whom?
* What made you consider becoming involved?
* What type of contributions were you asked to make? (e.g. give your opinions; develop ideas; taking part in a project, becoming part of the delivery of a project; management of a project? etc.).
* If so, how did this make you feel?
* Have you ever attended any public meetings about housing or neighbourhood issues? (e.g. housing association, housing companies, council,)

20. Would you be interested in getting involved in activities about housing and the future of your neighbourhood? (for example, designing the neighbourhood / outdoor environment; shaping public spaces in the area, developing playgrounds, services, outdoor lighting etc.).

21. Is there anything which stops you from becoming involved / more involved with local organisations / groups /activities /issues either in the neighbourhood or elsewhere in the city which seek to improve housing or your neighbourhood?

**HOUSING AND COVID-19**

22. What impact has COVID-19 had - if any - on your experiences of living in your current accommodation **and** the neighbourhood?

Prompts:

**In terms of your accommodation:**

* Any impact on your relations with landlords and/or those providing support with your accommodation or other support services?
* Any changes to the way you used your accommodation during the pandemic?
* Any problems in relation to on-line working or study from home?
* Was it easy or difficult to work or study if others were around?

**In terms of living in the neighbourhood:**

* Any changes to your daily routine(s) at all and places / spaces used?
* How easy/difficult was it to respond to the need for social distancing?
* Has COVID-19 at all impacted on where would like to live in the future? If so, where and why? If not, why not?

Is there anything else you would like to highlight about living in this area and accommodation?

***Many thanks for contributing to this study!***