

The São Toméan Female Associations in Lisbon: The Perception of Gender in a Migratory Context

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In this paper, we propose to analyze the efforts to build the feminine associations of Sao Tome. Still nascent, the association of women of São Tomé and Príncipe results of the efforts of women of São Tomé in order to improve their lives of. The voluntary cooperation of women Sao Tomé is traced by reference to the common origin and the stories of difficulties experienced in the Lisbon region.

Part of theirs lives is made daily, namely from adjustments to the difficulties and constraints affixed to the integration of immigrants. But it is also based on a consideration of the possibilities of returning to homeland. For some women, the idealization of the homeland conflicts with the perception (not always verbalized) of the disadvantages of the return to homeland in terms of gender relations. This weighs on the decision not to return to the archipelago and to continue living in Lisbon. Here, living conditions are difficult, nevertheless appear less uncertain with regard to the longevity of the projects of family life.

Based on interviews, this communication aims to increase knowledge of the opportunities that women face in the associations for mutual help and for the (small) modeling of gender relations between São Toméans individual, easier in Lisbon than in São Tomé and Príncipe.