

Women contributing to the Economy

Intended outcome:

Women feel more confident in participating in political economy discussions.

INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP EXERCISES

Exercise 1

Locating ourselves within the economy



1. Think about the course of your life.

Think about all the moments in your life that you contributed to the economy of the country. Now draw a river starting from when you were born.



2. Think about all the moments you felt you made a contribution to the economy of the country and the time when this was taking place.



Give these moments a name e.g. started baking cake to sell when I was 16 years old. Write these moments on your river.

Share your River of Economic Life and explain why you have chosen these particular moments to highlight.

Exercise 2

The Life of a woman doing casual work

Eunice works as a casual worker for a local construction company. She is part of the clean-up crew.

You meet Eunice in a taxi on her way to work. In the union you are discussing how to recruit women like Eunice who are employed as casuals. You ask her to tell you what her life is like as a single mother working for the clean-up crew of the local construction company.

Eunice starts to tell you what her day is like when she wakes up at 05.00am and gets to bed at 23.00pm.

Please write down what Eunice has told you so that you can share this with your colleagues in the union.



Eunice's experience is not unique. Women who are engaged in productive work are generally still expected to fulfil reproductive work – leading to one of the most difficult challenges many women face: **TIME POVERTY**

Exercise 3

The Life of a woman doing casual work

In this exercise we discuss how Eunice as a single mother working as a cleaner contributes to the economy.

Think back to the exercise where you were speaking to Eunice about her life as a single mother and casual worker, cleaning for a construction company.



In small groups discuss where and how you think Eunice contributes to the economy of the country

Exercise 4

Women rendered cheap labour – join the discussion

In this exercise we explore different explanations for the increasing number of women entering the labour market.

Please join our discussion.



Make your voice heard by adding more speech bubbles



Ask questions to the existing speech bubbles



Challenge the ideas in the speech bubbles

More women are working but in part time, temporary and casual work.

Women have always been trapped in domestic and homebased work. Now they are more free to go out into the public and get paid work

Women are happy to be going to work and coming home to care for the family.

Companies prefer to employ women as they are prepared to work for less and do not complain or agitate about their exploitation at work.

Employers believe that women are more loyal than men

The reason more women are being brought into the labour market is that bosses want more cheap labour.

Employers believe that women are unaware of their labour rights because of their limited education.