

CASE STUDY: **Women's leadership and community activism: Lola Gonzales, Leitrim International Community Group, Ireland**

I'm a migrant from Panama living in rural Ireland. I've had leadership opportunities through the Leitrim International Community where I was Chairperson for two years. It was a great opportunity to develop skills in managing a group to reach its mission. I also got to network a lot and become visible in my local community.



Be open to learning and listen to others who have gone before me. There's a lot we can learn from previous women and men leaders. Don't be afraid of making a mistake as it helps in growth. Always voice your opinion.

In 2020, I applied to be considered a board member for the Leitrim Volunteer Centre and my previous work with the international group helped my CV by demonstrating useful skills for it. I'm now gaining more skill sets to improve my leadership skills.

Furthermore, I just got elected to the Leitrim Local Community Development Committee as Inclusion Chair which is a great opportunity to be seen at a county level in managing funding for organizations. I'll get to increase my network which is invaluable as you grow in a leadership role.

I organized a Women's Empowerment Workshop last year through the Leitrim International Community Group which was very dear to my heart as I want more migrant women to be motivated to be leaders in organizations and politics. Women can do so many things and our voices need to be heard.