

After having had been working at the Korean Embassy to Finland for over eight years I felt that I needed a change in my life, luckily enough I was accepted to participate in the European Master's Degree Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation 07/08. The autumn term I studied hard in the picturesque Venice within the inspiring group of colleagues and experts from all around of Europe.

Personally I was extremely interested especially in the women's law and in different sorts of inequalities which women face all around the world on a daily basis, even in Europe. Friends of mine were little bit suspicious about this interest of mine, since they were afraid that I would marginalise myself in the field of study, as well as in the labour market. I saw the picture completely other way round: if 50 % of the world's population are women and they own less than 1% of the global property and earn 10% of the global incomes but 70% of the poor of the world are women, how on earth the question of women and their rights could be a marginal one? Quite on the contrary, I saw that women did not have even control over their own bodies nor reproductive capabilities in Europe, therefore I ended up to write my thesis at Universidade Nova de Lisboa under the excellent supervision of Professor Teresa Pizarro Beleza on Gender and Reproductive Autonomy in the Light of the Case-Law of the European Court of Human Rights.

Obviously, I was not so wrong after all, since I will start to work as Gender Advisor for the Finnish Defence Forces on European Union Training Mission to Uganda at the end of April. This is a historical event in that respect that the Finnish Peace Keepers have never had before this kind of position on any operation. I will start my duties with humble hearts knowing that I will be working in extremely challenging circumstances and living in a military camp at least for next six months. However, I am truly looking forward to utilising my academic skills in the field with great excitement and anticipation.

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