

# Get Involved: Pray

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## EMBRACE Prayer Group September 2012

*This month we look at the realities of unemployment, especially for those who have come here seeking work. Maeve McKeag is the GEMS Minority Ethnic Employability Support Programme (MEESP) Co-ordinator and a Member of EMBRACE. She writes:*

Depression and isolation are increasing along with the levels of unemployment; this reality is not just for migrant workers, it is a reality for many people here. As people new to our recruitment process, migrants are much more susceptible to abuse by unscrupulous employers and recruitment agencies. With unemployment in Spain among those aged 18-30 being 49% we have seen increasing numbers of young migrants coming here to improve their English and to look for work.

My role in GEMS is to support unemployed minority ethnic people and those from a migrant background and to break down the barriers that stand in the way of them gaining employment. We hope to introduce them to the recruitment process and prepare them for employment here. This is not a quick process and depends greatly on what each person comes with, their qualifications, work experience, level of English and expectations. In addition to employment support, we provide Learning Language for Work, an employability programme that includes ESOL and Living in Belfast training, which is integration training for newly arrived individuals and groups.

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### **This month, we give thanks for...**

- Work that provides not only a source of income, but can also provide a point of connection and purpose in our lives.
- Organisations & programmes such as GEMS NI and MEESP which seek to provide support for those who are new here and are seeking to find work.
- The many churches and individuals who have taken an initiative to offer English language classes where people can learn English and also find connection and friendship.
- Those who come here seeking work, and in return offer a new richness and diversity to the cities and towns in which we live.

### **And we pray for...**

- People we know and those we have yet to meet who are feeling lonely, isolated or depressed because of a lack of work.
- People who are most vulnerable in society and more susceptible to abuse or unjust treatment by employers.
- People who leave their home country and come here seeking better job prospects, and become discouraged at the oftentimes slow process.