

**“Promote Human Rights, Act against Rape!”**  
**10 December 2013, 14.30-16.30h, European Parliament, Strasbourg**  
**Venue: Room Louise Weiss S2.1**



On the occasion of the International Human Rights Day (10 December), and in the framework of the Joint project with the Council of Europe “*Act against Rape! Use the Istanbul Convention!*”, the European Women’s Lobby (EWL) is organising a round-table, co-hosted by MEPs Mikael Gustafsson and Antonia Parvanova.

The purpose of this event is to present Europe-wide challenges in responding to sexual violence in any area – legislation, policies, services, practices of professionals – and highlight the positive changes that the Istanbul Convention can bring in this field. This will be an opportunity to reassert that women’s rights are human rights and bring to the attention of members of the European Parliament that rape is a persistent violation of women’s rights, while demanding justice and support for victims of rape.

**Video Clip: Act against Rape**

**Round-table discussions in 2 parts:**

***Mobilising Europe – facilitator: Colette De Troy, EWL***

- Mikael Gustafsson, MEP, Chair of the EP Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Committee (GUE, Sweden)
- Antonia Parvanova, MEP, Rapporteur of the EP own-initiative report on violence against women (ALDE, Bulgaria)
- Teresa Jimenez-Becerril, MEP EPP Shadow Rapporteur EP report on violence against women, (EPP, Spain)
- Zita Gurmai, MEP, President of PES Women, (PES, Hungary)
- Ismeta Dervoz, Member of the Parliamentary Network “Women Free from Violence”, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele, Head of Division Gender Equality and Violence against Women, Council of Europe

Questions and exchange

Joint EWL project with the Council of Europe  
With the financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland



***Working in partnership – facilitator: Raluca Popa, Council of Europe***

- Hilary Fisher, Director of Policy, Voice and Membership, Women's Aid Federation England.
- Nora Kiss, PPDM (Portugese Platform for Women's Rights), Portugal
- Colette De Troy, Director EWL Observatory on Violence against Women, and Irene Rosales, EWL

**Photos MEPs with main messages:** sign/ratify/implement the Istanbul Convention

The event is closing the **16 Days of Activism against violence against women** (25 November – 10 December). During this period, EWL members and experts are organising a series of events and actions in 30 countries, to raise awareness on rape and promote the Istanbul Convention as a tool of change. An overview of these events and their outcomes will be presented and analysed as the basis for future actions.

Joint EWL project with the Council of Europe  
With the financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland