



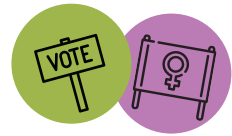
# Women for Europe Europe for Women

A NEW KIND OF LEADERSHIP FOR THE 21ST CENTURY  
European Women's Lobby Manifesto for the 2019 European elections



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S  
**LOBBY**  
EUROPÉEN DES FEMMES

# Our Future starts Now!



## TRANSFORMING OUR POLITICAL AND DECISION-MAKING INSTITUTIONS

Our priorities for the coming European term (2019-2024) recognise the reality of women and girls' lives in Europe today and bring together the perspectives of women and girls and our membership across Europe. These priorities reflect the unfinished business of implementing international human rights instruments to advance women's rights over the past three decades. Ensuring equality between women and men and integrating a gender perspective in all policy and financial frameworks is an obligation of the European Union as per the EU Treaties. Therefore we call for:

### **A Europe that realises women's equality in political decision-making**

Women are still seriously underrepresented in all European Institutions and across all EU Member States when it comes to political decision-making. This means that half the population are missing from the rooms and corridors where decisions are made about all of our lives. Equal representation of women and men, reflecting the diversity of the whole European population must be guaranteed and needs to be fought for by all, as an essential part of transforming our political institutions to put people and the planet at the centre.

### **A Europe that guarantees all women's equal economic independence**

Women's economic independence, on an equal footing with men is crucial to women's equality and freedom, yet has not been realised in any European country. We must turn our backs on austerity economics and invest in reversing the feminization of poverty that especially impacts women already marginalized due to their experience of several forms of discrimination (such as racism, ableism, homophobia...). Concrete measures need to be introduced to tackle unemployment and lack of decent, quality work that particularly impacts women, to address the unequal distribution of unpaid care work and the persistent gaps in pay, life-long-earning and pensions. We must work to ensure women and men become equal-earners-equal-carers throughout their lives.

### **A Europe free from violence against women**

Male violence is a daily reality for many women and girls across Europe and is a visceral expression of structural inequalities between women and men; yet it remains under-estimated, under-prosecuted and de-politicised. Eliminating violence against women is an integral part of achieving equality in society. Together we must act to put an end to all forms of violence against women and girls and promote a society of peace and safety. All women and girls deserve a life free from violence and free from the fear of violence.

### **A Europe that provides peace, human security and dignity for all women and girls**

Whether it be through sexual exploitation, a denial of sexual and reproductive health and rights or oppressive prioritisation of racist and nationalist viewpoints, millions of women and girls' health, well-being and safety are unnecessarily put at risk on a daily basis. We demand a better future for everyone across Europe and must work together so that all women and girls can fulfil their potential in a secure and supportive environment.

### **A Europe that channels resources for women's human rights**

Financial decisions and investments mirror political priorities. Therefore, sustainable funding mechanisms and resources reflect the true extent of political commitments to women's rights and gender equality. We call for sustainable funding for women's rights organisations to enable a sustainable women's movement and urge decision makers to allocate and implement gender responsive budgets to realise women's rights and equality at all levels.



## A EUROPE THAT REALISES WOMEN'S EQUALITY IN POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING

### Our calls to Europe:

- » Ensure **equal representation** of women and men in political decision-making as a 50/50 representation of each sex in any EU decision-making body, including the EU "top jobs";
- » A **robust political strategy** on Equality between women and men – covering the span of the European political mandate 2019 – 2024, and reflecting the EU's obligation to ensure equality between women and men;
- » Appoint an EU Commissioner with **sole responsibility** for Women's Rights and Equality between Women and Men and for the articulation with all other Commissioners for the enforcement of gender mainstreaming in all portfolio areas;
- » Adopt a **zero tolerance policy** towards discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation in all the institutions and Parliaments in Europe.

### Our calls to Member States:

- » Political parties must ensure **equal representation and ranking** of women and men on their electoral lists;
- » Political parties must **include equality between women and men as a priority** in their programmes for the elections;
- » National governments to **propose candidates** as Commissioners in a way that equal representation of women and men among members of the European Commission is ensured.

"Europe as we know it is changing. Women and girls, representing half of the population, will seize this unique democratic moment to drive forward the longstanding European values for an equal, inclusive, diverse and democratic Europe where no one is left behind. We need to shape the future together and stand-up for our values at the EU elections in 2019. The rise of anti-feminist populism and isolationist nationalism has drastically changed the political landscape in recent years and we refuse to be defeated by these forces. The resurgent women's movement is growing in huge strides, demanding equality between all women and men in and across borders. We still must take into account that change is happening at a different pace in different corners of Europe. Therefore, we call on all progressive political candidates to join us in shaping and safeguarding the Europe we want; to ensure that all women and girls in Europe have and enjoy equal rights: #Women for Europe – Europe for Women."

Gwendoline Lefebvre, President of the European Women's Lobby





## A EUROPE THAT GUARANTEES ALL WOMEN'S EQUAL ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

### Our calls to Europe:

» Guarantee all women's economic independence, including **individual rights** to social protection, taxation and address in-work poverty, increasing precarious work; value and improve the working conditions in sectors where women workers are predominant by strengthening, monitoring, and revising existing EU legislation;

» Adopt a '**care guarantee**' to address care needs throughout the life-cycle, as a valuable part of the functioning of society and **invest in the care economy** by directing investments in the **EU budget** in this area. Implement **gender budgeting** as a tool of gender mainstreaming to ensure that all EU money is delivering on equality between women and men;

» Ensure that the **macro economic framework**, including the post Europe 2020 Strategy and European Semester architecture, specifically seek to progress equality between women and men and in particular women's economic independence, in carrying out gender impact assessments of macro-economic policies prior to issuing country-specific recommendations;

» Adopt **European targets for care infrastructures** for dependent, elderly and disabled persons;

» All measures must address the **multiple and intersecting discrimination** faced by women with disabilities, from ethnic minorities, of different socio-economic and educational background and younger or elderly women, whose access to services, decent work and funding is especially limited, and whose contributions are all too often overlooked.

### Our calls to Member States:

» Guarantee women's and men's **financial security and independence** while they take care of someone else including **paid statutory leave and legal provisions** protecting women and men against any form of discrimination based on maternity/paternity/parental/carers leave;

» Speed up the implementation of the **Barcelona targets** for the availability of affordable, accessible and high quality childcare;

» Introduce a 5-10% annual target to reduce the **gender pay gap** and address the current **gender pension gap**, namely, by introducing 'care credits' to take into account women's contribution to the economy and ensure that for present and future generations, care credits are also provided to men;

» Adopt **equal non-transferable leave** for parents, **safeguarding** the maternity leave women are entitled to;

» Allocate **sufficient funding** to guarantee the quality of care services and the dignity of the work of carers in their professional capacity and as informal carers.



## A EUROPE FREE FROM VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

### Our calls to Europe:

- ▶▶ **Ratify and implement the the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence** and ensure the full integration of the Convention into EU legislation and policy framework;
- ▶▶ A strong EU legal framework on the issue of violence against women, introducing mandatory and standardized rules in all the EU countries. Following the ratification of the the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, **introduce a Directive on Violence against Women**, adopt a comprehensive EU strategy and full implementation of the EU Victims' Rights Directive;
- ▶▶ Ensure effective transposition of the Directive 2011/36/EU to combat trafficking in human beings, with a **special focus on gendered analysis and trafficking for sexual exploitation**.

### Our calls to Member States:

- ▶▶ All EU Member States to **ratify and implement** the the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence without delay and without reservations;
- ▶▶ Ensure adequate **protection from violence for all women and girls**, using the four P framework: Prevention, Integrated Policies, Protection, and Prosecution (end impunity);
- ▶▶ **Adopt the Nordic or 'Equality' Model on prostitution**; decriminalising women in prostitution and provide **health, support and exit services** to those affected while also ensuring the criminalisation and prosecution of traffickers, pimps and buyers.

"We believe in a truly feminist Europe that is underpinned by our core values: equality between women and men, diversity, peace, dignity, justice and respect. There is still a lot of work to do to realise this goal: progress towards gender equality has stalled, leaving women facing significant and enduring barriers in many aspects of life including health, safety, education, employment, work-life balance, power and economics. The 2015 EIGE Gender Equality Index shows that we have stopped progressing in reducing the inequality gap between women and men across the 28 EU Member States. Austerity has been a disaster for women, particularly impacting those experiencing multiple inequalities such as racism, ableism, ageism, migration status and homophobia. As a result, women have been driven into poverty at a higher rate than men. Responding to these challenges requires a collective approach between social movements, concerned citizens and everyone who has the power to make positive change happen in our communities."

Joanna Maycock, Secretary General of the European Women's Lobby





## A EUROPE THAT PROVIDES PEACE, HUMAN SECURITY AND DIGNITY FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

### Our calls to Europe:

▶▶ Ensure that all new and pre-existing asylum procedures comply with the UNHCR Guidelines on International Protection and develop gender expertise in the structure of European Asylum Support Office (EASO), in particular **establish focal points responsible for coordinating gender mainstreaming**;

▶▶ Ensure a humanitarian response is at the core of policy decisions relating to non-EU immigration: **increase spending on humanitarian aid** to tented camps within the EU, **reinstate comprehensive search & rescue operations across the Mediterranean Sea**;

▶▶ Adopt measures to **prohibit and address sexism and gender stereotyping** in the media and education, that particularly affect some groups of women facing multiple discrimination, through the adoption of an EU directive, in line with the equal treatment directive;

▶▶ Within the EU institutions, ensure **codes of conduct** are adopted and acted upon to tackle sexism, sexist communication and behaviours in their work places and work programmes.

### Our calls to Member States:

▶▶ Adopt **comprehensive sexuality education programmes across all age groups** in formal education for all young people, using age-appropriate language and covering consent, relationships, sexual health, information for LGBTQI+ and online safety with regards to cyber-violence and pornography;

▶▶ Deliver on strong, **human rights-based refugee and asylum-seeker relocation and resettlement commitments**, backed up by comprehensive local and national integration strategies with gender-specific measures and provision of regularised independent immigration status application procedures **so that no woman or girl can be controlled** due to her legal status;

▶▶ Ensure gendered-sensitive **healthcare supports are freely accessible to all women and girls** through a **Women's Health Strategy**, regardless of legal and financial status, age, location, religion, ethnicity or lifestyle. This should include sexually-transmitted diseases (STD) checks, access to contraceptives, abortion services, maternity services, with advice and information about healthcare in a simple and accessible language taking into account the diversity of women's backgrounds and with specialised services available for groups identified as 'at risk'.



## A EUROPE THAT CHANNELS RESOURCES FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

### Our calls to Europe:

- ▶ Ensure the **EU budget** is gender-sensitive, environmentally sustainable and promotes social cohesion;
- ▶ A **reinforced financial framework** for Gender Equality, including in the Common Provisions Regulation 2021-2027 for all EU Structural and Cohesion Funds;
- ▶ Introduce Gender Budgeting in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and ensure **specific earmarked funding programmes for women's rights and gender equality**, including gender research.

### Our calls to Member States:

- ▶ Allocate budgets for women's rights and gender equality at all levels, including **gender budgeting** within the national budgets; that addresses the needs and rights of all women in their diversity;
- ▶ Increase **resources designated for support to women's organisations** both inside the EU and in the external actions of the EU.

"Together we must promote a renewed vision of our societies based on caring for each other, and our planet as an equal shared responsibility between women and men. Europe has a duty to build an inclusive society; uphold the values of human rights, equality, democracy and the rule of law. A core principle of the European Union is the promotion of peace and the wellbeing of its citizens: a feminist, caring Europe will benefit all of us. It is crucial to adopt an approach to policies and resources at every level that gives visibility to the reality of women and girls' diverse identities, acknowledging the way in which multiple inequalities that affect us can exponentially reinforce discrimination. Through acknowledging and addressing this, we can work together to realise our vision and positively impact the lived experiences of women and girls across Europe."

Daniela Pichler, Policy and Campaigns Director of the European Women's Lobby



The European Women's Lobby is the largest umbrella organisation of women's non-governmental associations in the EU, representing women from all EU Member States and three accession countries. We call for a transformative agenda defining a clear collective vision for a feminist Europe; challenging stereotypes, sexism and patriarchal values.

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*By voting during the European elections you decide who represents YOU in the European Parliament. The candidates you choose are your supporters for the next five years. They define European politics, take on the present and shape the future of women and girls in Europe! The outcome of the elections will also have an impact on the face of the new European Commission which has key lawmaking powers and can make proposals towards real change for people in Europe.*

**Vote for HER future in the European elections on 23-26 May 2019!**



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#WomenForEurope - Manifesto for the 2019 European elections