



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS EXTERNAL CONSULTANT – LEGAL ANALYST

Do you want to do research and draft a legal assessment for a comprehensive EU legal framework on Ending Violence Against Women in Europe? If yes, this research opportunity is for you!

The **European Women's Lobby (EWL)** is the largest umbrella organisation of women's associations in the European Union, gathering over 2000 women's associations. The EWL has members in 26 EU Member States, three Candidate Countries (North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey), the United Kingdom and Iceland, as well as 17 European-wide organisations representing the diversity of women and girls in Europe. Together with our members, the EWL campaigns for a feminist Europe, which promotes women's rights and equality between women and men in the European Union in line with our organisational strategic framework "[Together For A Feminist Europe!](#)".

The EWL is looking for a senior external consultant or team of consultants who are expert(s) in EU law with a specialisation in combatting violence against women and girls (VAWG), to develop a legal assessment for an EU comprehensive framework on addressing the continuum of violence against women and girls. This legal assessment will entail: assessing legal basis, consolidating existing research, analysing current legislation, identifying remaining gaps and opportunities for further legislative developments.

We are looking for an outstanding feminist with excellent knowledge of EU law and European and international standards on ending multiple forms of violence against women and the current state of play for women's rights in Europe; who is aligned with our EWL values and policies (specially on VAWG); and who has high-level writing skills. **We are seeking to build a feminist Europe that represents Europe in all of its diversity. As such, people/women of color and from ethnic minority groups, people with disabilities, people from the LGBT+ community and people coming from marginalized groups are especially encouraged to apply.**

HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates are requested to submit an application to the European Women's Lobby via email to rosales@womenlobby.org along with a

- one-page cover letter explaining your motivation, alignment with our research needs and how you would intend to develop this assessment;
- copy of your CV(s)

Please include in the e-mail subject line: **"Application for Research Consultant: EWL legal assessment for a comprehensive EU legal framework on ending VAWG in Europe, and YOUR NAME"**.

Closing date for applications is **2 July 2020** at midnight CET.

Total fees for the researcher's work will not exceed 15.000 euros in total, this amount should include all the taxes and administrative costs eventually required in the country they are based in or where their consultancy is registered. EWL will pay all administrative costs and taxes (VAT) incurred in Belgium which is 21% of the net value of this contract (3.150 EUR).

We encourage applicants to carefully take note of our guidelines and instructions to ensure your application will be considered.

Selection is anticipated to be on the basis of the written application provided. Interviews of shortlisted candidates will be held on the **8 July 2020**. Interviews will be held online. The ideal candidate should be able to start as soon as possible.

1. Background

The European Women's Lobby is working towards a Europe free from all forms of violence against women and girls: a widespread human rights violation in Europe which calls on European level action and prioritisation.

Ending violence against women and girls has been a cornerstone of the work of the EWL for decades, working with our members to produce monitoring publications and lobbying materials on various aspects of violence against women in Europe, with support of the experts of the EWL Observatory on violence against women. EWL work on violence against women is in line with the [EWL Charter of Principles](#) adopted in 2007, reiterated in [EWL 2016 factsheet on violence against women](#), and aligned with the EWL Position paper "[Towards a Europe Free from All Forms of Male Violence against Women](#)" adopted in 2010.

The EWL calls on the European Union to persistently work on the adoption a comprehensive EU-wide policy and legal framework on disrupting the continuum of violence against women, aiming at putting an end to all forms of violence against women and providing peace and security for all women and girls in Europe.

The **new Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025**, launched in March by the European Commission, has reiterated that ending violence against women and girls is a top EU priority. It is stressed that the EU's accession to the to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, the Istanbul Convention, remains high on the agenda of the **European Commission**. If the accession remains blocked, the Commission "intends to propose in 2021 measures, within the limits of EU Competence, to achieve the same objective as the Istanbul Convention". In its Strategy, the Commission also announces the intention to "present an initiative with a view of extending the areas of (...) crimes to specific forms of gender based violence in Article 83.1, the so-called Eurocrimes".

Within this context, the European Women's Lobby is urgently calling the European Commission to develop an Action plan to ensure the adoption of an EU wide comprehensive legal framework and a Directive on disrupting the full continuum of violence against women and girls, as further detailed below. Our concrete organisational priorities can be found in the [EWL submission](#) for the development of the recent European Commission Gender Equality Strategy, on our [EWL recommendations](#) to the European Parliament and Member States on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy, and our paper on [the effects of COVID-19 on women and girls](#).

2. Purpose, Focus and Task

This legal review project will further strengthen our call for the EU to develop a comprehensive EU-wide legal and policy framework on disrupting the continuum of violence against women, aiming at putting an end to all forms of violence against women and providing peace and security for all women and girls in Europe. Our goal is to realise an EU Directive on preventing and combating all forms of violence against women and girls, to align current relevant EU legislation and strengthen measures to disrupt the full continuum of violence. The Directive should be coherent and complementary to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, the Istanbul Convention. It should address all forms of violence against women in all spheres of life, including online.

This assignment is to support these efforts through the production of an 'EWL **legal assessment for a comprehensive EU legal framework on Ending Violence Against Women in Europe**'. The consultant will provide an expert legal assessment on the gaps in European legislation in this area and a proposal for advancing legislation to comprehensively tackle the full system of VAWG, meeting the aims of the Istanbul Convention and going further to holistically tackle all forms of male violence. This legal assessment will entail: assessing legal basis, consolidating existing research, analysing current legislation, identify remaining gaps and opportunities for further legislative developments, thus setting the vision a European legal frameworks to disrupt the continuum of violence against women and girls.

3. Scope of Work, Methodology

The selected Consultant shall:

1. Consult with EWL staff members regarding existing priorities and needs in the violence against women (VAW) team, existing work and project deadlines;
2. Get acquainted with EWL policies and briefs relevant to the project on developing a comprehensive legal framework on violence against women.
3. Have regular monitoring and consultation moments with identified EWL staff;
4. Deliver briefings on the 3 pieces of analysis detailed at section 4 below.

4. Results and Deliverables

Delivery of a set of detailed briefing papers with the following pieces of analysis:

1. **Exploration of possible EU legal basis in the TFEU for legislation on violence against women:** This analysis will also include exploration of legal EU basis for concrete forms of violence against women to be defined in the Terms of reference.
2. **Building a list of legal definitions:** Propose legal definitions of violence against women for its inclusion as a Eurocrimes, including legal definitions of specific forms of violence against women, including online, to be defined in the Terms of reference.
3. **EU existing legislation and gaps:** Analysis of all current EU legislation addressing prevention and protection from VAWG and assessing areas already covered and existing gaps, also with regards to relevant European and International Standards.

5. Duration and reporting of the research

The project will have a duration of 4 months and end on 15 of November 2020. Concrete deadlines for each piece of analysis will be defined in the Terms of reference and Monitoring Calendar to be agreed between EWL and the selected consultant.

6. Profile: essential skills, attributes and experiences

A senior consultant who can demonstrate the following skills, attributes and experiences:

Skills and attributes

- ✓ Strong commitment to intersectional feminism and women's rights;
- ✓ Alignment with EWL positions; especially on male violence against women and prostitution as per the EWL position paper "[Towards a Europe Free from all Forms of Male Violence Against Women](#)"; specially when it comes to understanding prostitution as a form of violence against women;
- ✓ Deep respect for diversity, and demonstrated commitment to the promotion of a diverse and inclusive Europe;
- ✓ Ability to work with partners and deliver results within the agreed period of the assignment;
- ✓ Ability to work efficiently and responsively within a multicultural environment; and
- ✓ Ability to do satellite work and utilise online tools for communication and close coordination especially in light of limited movements in this period of COVID19.

Experience

- ✓ High-level legal skills and experience in applying legal demonstration to an advocacy purpose;
- ✓ Excellent knowledge of EU law and policies on violence against women, including the Istanbul Convention and other international standards, and of one or more national legislation on violence against women and girls;
- ✓ Proven experience in application of EU law for feminist or women's rights based work in relation for VAWG;
- ✓ Excellent analysis and writing skills to produce quality work in English and synthesise a range of other research within a deadline; and
- ✓ Experienced communicator and in working virtually.

7. Details of consultant fees and agreements

Total fees for the researcher's work will not exceed 15.000 euros in total, this amount should include all the taxes and administrative costs eventually required in the country they are based in or where their consultancy is registered. EWL will pay all administrative costs and taxes (VAT) incurred in Belgium which is 21% of the net value of this contract (3.150 EUR).

The details for entering into agreement for consultant fees, tasks and responsibilities, accountabilities and binding agreements will be discussed during the application process and are to be entered into contract between the European Women's Lobby and the selected candidate. A detailed set of Terms of Reference (ToR) and Monitoring Calendar will be also agreed and attached to the contract.

With the support of:



Co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme (2014-2020) of the European Union