



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES

Ms Reem Alsaleem
UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against women

Brussels, 9 June 2024

Dear Ms Reem Alsaleem,

Re: Invitation to exchange with the European Women's Lobby and the Brussels Call abolitionist coalition on 22 July 2024

On behalf of European women's lobby (EWL), the largest women's organisation in Europe, we would like to congratulate you on your efforts and express our full support regarding your work on the UN report presented last month in Geneva. We are delighted to see bravery and honesty within the topics the report tackles and have no doubt the impact this report will have will mirror that bravery and turn into political decisions.

As abolitionist organisation, we applaud you on your outstanding work in your report "Prostitution and violence against women and girls" that recognises prostitution for what it really is - a horrendous form of violence against women and a violation of women's human rights. For the EWL it is clear: considering the inherent violent nature of prostitution, it cannot be trivialised with the "sex work" vocabulary. Women and girls are the most affected by prostitution as they represent 90% of persons in prostitution while 97% of so-called "sex-buyers" are men.

The EWL stands with survivors because prostitution is inherently violent, racist and sexist and labelling it as sex-work does not soften its harsh reality. We are seeking the introduction and implementation of the Equality Model in all EU Member States, and by the European Union as a whole – to support all women and girls, towards a Europe Free from Prostitution. We strongly believe that your words in the UN will make a difference and we intend to amplify them through our platform as EWL and as founding members of the Brussels' Call abolitionist coalition.

We understand that you will be in Brussels on the week of 22 July and would be most honoured if we could have a meeting with you in the afternoon of 22nd. We would like to combine this meeting with a webinar for our members and those part of the Brussels Call abolitionist coalition to enable them to exchange directly with you.

Thank you for your bravery, strength and resilience.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Collins

Secretary General

