



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES



European Women's
Lobby



@EuropeanWomen
#EuropeanWomensVoice



www.womenlobby.org

The European Women's Lobby explained to Members of the European Parliament

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against women is the most widespread violation of women's human rights in Europe. Its persistence and high prevalence demonstrate that our societies are still built on, vehicle and perpetuate patriarchal values and male domination.

In the European Union...

1 in 3
women has
experienced
**physical
and/or
sexual violence**

Every second
woman has been
confronted with
**one or more forms
of sexual
harassment**

1 in 5
women has
experienced
stalking

95%
of victims of
trafficking in human
beings for the purpose
of sexual exploitation
are women

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

The EU **has no legally binding instrument** providing a comprehensive framework to end and prevent violence against women and girls in all Member States. EU Member States tackle violence in widely differing ways. **Women and girls are not equally protected in the EU**, and the absence of harmonised European legislative and policy framework has important consequences on the ability of women to resist and survive male violence.

Over the last two years, the EU has adopted **new tools** which can be used by women to gain protection and support: the European Protection Order (guaranteeing women's protection when they travel in the EU) and the victims' rights directive (including a gender perspective). The **two EU agencies** dedicated to fundamental rights and gender equality worked on establishing and delivering data, a key milestone to get a better understanding of the scope of violence against women and girls in Europe (FRA survey, EIGE studies).

However, despite promises from the European Commission to come up with a Strategy to end violence against women in 2010, and despite statements of the Council to adopt such a strategy, ratify the Istanbul Convention and develop more policies and tools, **the EU is not yet taking the necessary steps to protect all women and girls in Europe from violence.**

Contact at the European Women's Lobby for questions related to violence against women:

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A EUROPE FREE FROM VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The European Women's Lobby Manifesto for the 2014 EP elections "**Act now for her future, commit to gender equality!**" formulates concrete demands for the realisation of gender equality in Europe.

- ◆ **Establish 2016 as the EU Year to End violence against women, with substantial resources to raise awareness and support actions at all levels**
By establishing a **European Year to end violence against women and girls**, the EU would play a leading role in raising awareness on violence against women, and at the same time propose concrete measures to act against the perpetuation of violence against women. **Adequate and substantial resources** must be allocated to allow the development of awareness raising at European, national and local levels.
- ◆ **Adopt and implement an EU Strategy to end all forms of violence against women in Europe, including prostitution, to end impunity, protect all women and give them access to justice**
The Strategy has to be comprehensive and **address prevention, protection and prosecution measures** as well as measures to enhance **data collection systems**. The EU Strategy must **address all forms of violence against women** as defined by the EP in its 2014 resolutions (Parvanova and Honeyball resolutions).
- ◆ **Guarantee universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights**
Preventing women from accessing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) must also be considered as a form of violence against women: **violation of sexual and reproductive rights breaches the rights to equality, non-discrimination, dignity, health and freedom from inhumane and degrading treatment**. Access to contraception, sexuality education and voluntary family planning empowers women to decide the number of children they have and reduces teenage pregnancies. In turn, this enables them to re-enter the labour market and increases their financial stability.

TAKE ACTION: add your footprint to European policies!

Over its last term, the European Parliament has actively pushed for an **EU strategy to end all forms of violence against women**. 2014 saw the adoption of **strong resolutions** calling for: A European law to tackle violence against women; The ratification by the EU of the Istanbul Convention; The recognition of prostitution as an obstacle to equality between women and men, and the adoption of the Nordic (abolitionist) model in the EU; More data on all forms of violence against women; Support services to women victims, and prevention measures.

As Member of the European Parliament, **you have the power to make a Europe free from violence against women a reality**. We need your support in bringing our demands on the EP agenda.

- Push the European Commission to establish 2016 as the **EU Year to End violence against women**; work with your colleagues and all EP Committees, and with the Council to deliver strong calls to the European Commission.
- Follow up on the **Parvanova resolution on violence against women** and demand the **ratification of the Istanbul Convention by the EU**. Push your member state to ratify the Convention too. Push for violence against women to be taken into account in the implementation of the victims' directive.
- Follow up on the **Honeyball resolution on sexual exploitation, support the work of the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator**, call for an acknowledgment of the links between trafficking and prostitution.
- **Meet with women's organisations supporting victims of violence**, through EWL membership.

EWL TOOLS

- Join the 53 Members of the European Parliament who signed **the Brussels' Call "Together for a Europe free from prostitution"**!
- Join the 3800 supporters of a **European Year to end Violence against Women and Girls** by signing our e-petition!
- Read **EWL '18 myths on prostitution'**.
- Watch the **video clip of the Brussels' Call**.
- Read **EWL Barometer on rape**.
- Watch **EWL video clip on the Istanbul Convention**.

**MAKE
MY
YEAR!**

**Act now to
end violence
against women
in Europe.**

