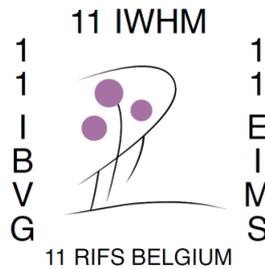




EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES



Ending Violence against Women and Girls & European Union Internal and External Policies: The Way Forward

European Parliament ASP 5G305
Tuesday 20 September 2011, 13.30 - 15.30

Violence against women and girls is the most pervasive violation of women's human rights within Europe and beyond. While European Union (EU) external policies have integrated increased commitments to ending the scourge of violence against women and girls and promoting their sexual and reproductive health and rights, the lack of common legislation to deal with widespread abuses of women within Europe's borders is striking.

Bringing together the perspectives of NGOs and policy-makers from EU and international levels, the Roundtable discussion will seek to explore and challenge the EU's current internal and external policy approaches in this field, and develop concrete recommendations for comprehensive and coherent European action.

13h30 – Opening word: Sirpa Pietikäinen, Member of the European Parliament (MEP)

13h40-14h45 – Ending Violence against Women and Girls: The perspective of Non Governmental Organisations

Roundtable followed by discussion chaired by Catherine Stihler MEP

- Brigitte Triems, President of the European Women's Lobby
- Manisha Gupte, India, co-founder of MASUM, member of the International Women Health Meeting
- Ayse Tekagac, UK, member of Roj Women and the International Women Health Meeting
- Gabi Heller, Hungary, member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
- Stephanie Darmanin, Malta, member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

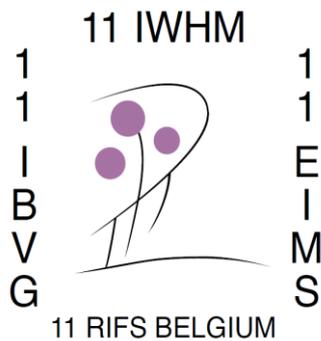
14h45-15h30 – Responses of institutions to Violence against Women and Girls

Roundtable followed by discussion chaired by Antonya Parvanova MEP

- Katariina Leinonen, Human Rights Policy Guidelines Division, European External Action Service
- Dagmar Schumacher, Director of UN Women Brussels Office

About the organizers:

The **International Women Health Meeting** (IWHM, 13-17 September, Brussels) is calling for a full respect of women's health and an end to violence against women and girls globally.



The 11RIFS (International Women's Health Meeting) target the advocates of women's health, the activist in the field, feminists, academics, financial institutions and other networks working on women's health.

It creates a platform to exchange, to inform, to question and to act on policies and practices regarding women's health and human rights, especially the sexual and reproductive rights.

5 days of discussions with movements around the world on women's health, films, concerts, exhibitions, plenary sessions, workshops, events, Do-It-Yourself events for and by women.

For more information, please visit www.11rifs.org

The **World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts** (WAGGGS) is launching its campaign 'Stop the violence. Speak out for girls' rights' in partnership with UN Women.



Europe Region

World Association
of Girl Guides
and Girl Scouts

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) is the umbrella organization for national Girl Guide and Girl Scout associations in 145 countries throughout the world, the Europe Region representing over one million members in 39 countries in Europe. WAGGGS provides global education, community action and advocacy programmes based on non-formal education on issues relevant to girls and young women such as the new global advocacy campaign "End violence against girls" or the achievement of the MDGs.

For more information, please visit www.europe.waggsworld.org

The **European Women's Lobby** (EWL) has set up an NGO Coalition calling for an EU Year to End Violence against Women and comprehensive EU action to end violence against women.



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The EWL is the largest umbrella organisation of women's associations in the European Union (EU), working to promote women's rights and equality between women and men. EWL membership extends to organisations in all 27 EU member states and the three candidate countries, as well as to 20 European-wide bodies, representing a total of more than 2500 organisations.

For more information, please visit www.womenlobby.org

About the speakers:

Sirpa Pietikäinen, MEP



Sirpa Pietikäinen is a Finnish Member of the European People's Party (EPP) with a long history as a politician. As a Member of the European Parliament, she replaced Alexander Stubb in 2008, and was re-elected in 2009. She was Finland's Minister of Environment in between 1991 and 1995. At the European Parliament, Ms. Pietikäinen is Member of the Environment and Public Health Committee and substitute Member in the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee and in the Women's Right and Gender Equality Committee.

Catherine Stihler, MEP



Catherine Stihler was elected in 1999 as the youngest British MEP in the European Parliament. Since then Catherine has performed in the role of Deputy Leader of the European Parliamentary Labour Party (EPLP) from 2004 to 2006 and EPLP health spokesperson in the previous Parliament. Catherine is currently a member of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee and is a substitute on the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee. She is Vice-Chair of the Kangaroo Group's Working group on consumer goods. Catherine has special interests in consumer protection, economics, education and lung disease. Catherine is also editor of the Parliament Magazine. Born in Bellshill Scotland, Catherine was educated at Coltness High School, Wishaw and St Andrews University, where she was awarded a MA (Hons) Geography and International Relations (1996), and a MLitt in International Security Studies (1998). Before becoming a MEP, Catherine served as President of St Andrews University Students Association (1994-1995), and worked as a Political Researcher and Facilitator to Anne Begg MP (1997-1999).

Antonyia Parvanova, MEP



Dr Antonyia Parvanova (1962), Bulgarian, Paediatrician and Public Health policy expert, is currently Member of the European Parliament, Vice-President of the Alliance of the Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE), and seats as a full Member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. She is also the ALDE group coordinator for the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality. Following her career as a clinician and researcher in Bulgaria and in the UK, Dr Parvanova started her political career when elected Member of the Bulgarian Parliament in 2001. In the European Parliament she initiated several public health policy actions. Throughout her professional and political activities, she has been actively involved in the Women's Rights debate, looking most particularly at societal and health related issues, at both national and EU level. She focuses her action on sexual and reproductive health issues, with a specific emphasis on the ones affecting women. In the European Parliament she managed to include in the EP Resolution on the Stockholm programme a text urging the Commission to propose a directive on elimination of violence against women.

Brigitte Triems, President of the European Women's Lobby



Brigitte Triems has been elected as President of the European Women's Lobby in October 2008. She has been involved with the National Council of German Women's Organisations since 2002, being its vice-chairwoman between 2004 and 2008. Her professional career led her to work on women's rights and migration issues at national and international levels: she's worked in the Women's International Democratic Federation and is now the managing director of a non-profit employment and qualification company in Berlin that deals with the integration of immigrants into German society and the fostering of international understanding. Throughout her professional and activist involvement, she specialised in women's rights at UN and EU levels, as well as in the eastern and central European countries.

Manisha Gupte, co-founder of MASUM, India, member of the International Women Health Meeting



Manisha Gupte is the co-founder of MASUM—a non-governmental organisation that fights for the rights of women to access health care and promotes sexual and reproductive rights. Born in a newly independent India of the 1950s, Gupte and her health activist husband Ramesh Awasthi were politicised while at university, influenced by Gandhian and socialist ideologies. She began her career as a microbiologist, studying the origins of a nitrogen-fixing gene. Gupte's desire to engage with social issues, and her involvement with India's budding feminist movement, forced a choice between the laboratory and life outside it. Gupte and Awasthi decided that to help bring change to the country, they had to go to the grassroots and live in India's rural heartland. Social customs meant that women who were widowed or from lower castes had even poorer access to health care. Their presence in the village sparked social change and women started setting up groups themselves to speak out against wife beating and caste discrimination. Soon they needed a wider support network, and so MASUM was born to empower women through community participation and promote women's health from a feminist perspective.

Ayse Tekagac, UK, member of Roj Women and the International Women Health Meeting



Ayse Tekagac is currently a student at the Westminster University in London, studying Masters in Conflict Prevention and Dispute Resolution. At the same time, she is currently doing volunteer work at the Roj Women Association on Campaigning, Lobby and Community work.

Gabi Heller, Hungary, member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts



Gabriella Heller is Hungarian and has been a member of the Association of Hungarian Girl Guides for nine years. She has been volunteering in the International Working Group of her Association since 2006 and has held leadership trainings as a trainer since 2009. She has represented WAGGGS as part of their international delegation to the COP 15 UN Climate Change Conference in 2009 and has been working on the implementation of the WAGGGS Global Advocacy Campaign "End Violence against Girls" at European level since 2010. In her professional life she currently works for the Hungarian office of an international law firm and is currently completing her Master thesis in Law at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany.

Stephanie Darmanin, Malta, member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts



Stephanie Darmanin is Maltese and has been active in the Malta Girl Guides (Association) (MGGGA) since her childhood. While in Malta, as a volunteer she represented her association at national and international level, particularly in the Maltese National Youth Council and National Council of Women.

She has also worked on youth policy issues at European level, particularly on the issue of youth rights, representing WAGGGS in the European Youth Forum and supporting WAGGGS advocacy work on different issues, including violence against women and girls. While at University, she was the International officer of the Law

Student Society and following her studies joined the European Commission as a Maltese translator. She is currently reading a Master in European Law at the University of Luxembourg.

Katariina Leinonen, Human Rights Policy Guidelines Division, European External Action Service



Ms. Kati Leinonen works as Human Rights Policy Officer in the European External Action Service. Her thematic responsibilities include gender equality, women's rights and women, peace and security as well as gender mainstreaming in the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). Ms. Leinonen is the Chair of the EU Women, Peace and Security Task Force. She has Master's Degrees in Economics and Business Administration as well as in Human Rights and Democratisation. She has worked in the human rights field since 1997, of which seven years in field positions in Rwanda and Burkina Faso.

Dagmar Schumacher, Director of UN Women Brussels Office



Ms. Dagmar Schumacher is the Director of the Brussels office of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), part of UN Women. The office in Brussels is responsible for resource mobilization, policy dialogue and advocacy with European Union institutions and selected EU member states. Prior to joining UNIFEM Ms. Schumacher worked at the Headquarters of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme in Bonn. For five years she held both positions: Chief, Partnerships Section, UNV as well as of Donor Relations Adviser on Germany for UNDP. In this dual role she played inter alia a leading role in consolidating and

expanding UNV's donor base, further developing partnerships with different UN entities and civil society partners and organizing high level missions of UNDP to Germany.

From 1998 – 2002 she was working with UNDP in Hanoi, heading the Poverty and Social Development Unit. She was also serving as Liaison Officer in Bonn in order to organize the move of UNV from Geneva to Germany and served as Programme Specialist for CIS and Eastern European countries with UNV.

Ms. Schumacher started her career with the United Nations in 1990 as Junior Professional Officer in the Regional Office of UNIFEM in the Andean Region. Subsequently, she was the UNIFEM focal point in Buenos Aires, Argentina in preparation of the Latin-American Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.