

A PUBLICATION BY THE EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY



FROM CONFLICT TO PEACE? #WOMENSVOICES

RECOMMENDATIONS ON PREVENTING & COMBATING
VIOLENCE AGAINST REFUGEE WOMEN & GIRLS ON THE MOVE

ENDING ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST REFUGEE WOMEN AND GIRLS



TESTIMONY - SANA

"I arrived in Finland with my husband as asylum seekers. Already in the very beginning of the process, I stated that I wanted our applications to be handled separately. Because of the political activity of my husband, I had been gang raped in my country. I did not want my husband to learn this. The marriage is a forced one and there has been all kinds of violence throughout the marriage, and also in the reception centre in Finland. I sought help from a social worker and the police has also visited our home because of domestic violence. I want a divorce, but it is very complicated because of religious reasons."





IT IS IMPORTANT THAT FEMINISTS ENGAGE IN REFUGEE POLITICS IN ORDER TO CHANGE THE MALE NORM OF “WHO IS A REFUGEE.”

Swedish Women’s Lobby



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BOTH VIOLATES AND IMPAIRS OR NULLIFIES THE ENJOYMENT BY WOMEN OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS.

Beijing Platform for Action



ENSURE THAT HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMMING IS GENDER RESPONSIVE

World Humanitarian Summit Core Commitment



#WOMENSVOICES COUNTRY FINDINGS

Preventing and combating violence against refugee women & girls

Different Countries, Same Findings by EWL members:

- No comprehensive policies to end violence against refugee women and girls
- No gender-sensitive humanitarian response
- No gender-sensitive asylum systems



THE 5 Ps FRAMEWORK TO END ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST REFUGEE WOMEN AND GIRLS



EWL CHECK LIST 'IMPLEMENTING A GENDER-SENSITIVE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE'



EWL CHECK LIST 'ENGENDERING THE ASYLUM SYSTEMS'



ENDING ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST REFUGEE WOMEN AND GIRLS

The reality: A lack of specific measures to protect women and girls refugees from male violence

- Lack of funding for women's NGOs providing services for survivors (PARTNERSHIP)
- Lack of campaigns to end stigmatisation of refugee and migrant women (PREVENTION)
- Lack of access to information on their rights, in their language (PREVENTION)
- Lack of shelters, helplines, rape crisis centres, legal aid... (SERVICE PROVISION)
- No access to services because of the legal status (SERVICE PROVISION)
- No long-term care for mental health and trauma recovery (PROTECTION)
- No individual residence permit status (PROTECTION)
- Impunity, increasing with racism (PROSECUTION)





ENDING ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST REFUGEE WOMEN AND GIRLS

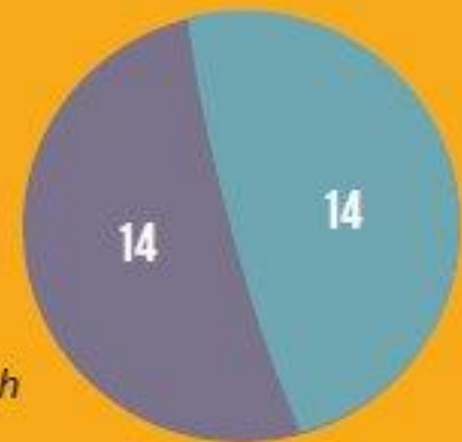
Our demands:

- Ratification of the Istanbul Convention, without reserves
- Comprehensive and coordinated policies on all forms of violence against women
- A victim-centred approach including specific measures for refugee women and girls
- Systematic and adequate data collection and research
- Appropriate financial and human resources
- National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security

STATUS OF THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION IN THE EU REGARDING THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS

-  **EU Member States** that have signed & ratified:
AT, BE, DK, ES, FI, FR, IT, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SE
-  **EU Member States** that have signed and are to ratify:
BG, CZ, CY, DE, EE, EL, HR, HU, IE, LT, LV, LU, SK, UK

The Istanbul Convention is the first European instrument which creates a comprehensive legal framework and approach to combat violence against women.



IMPLEMENTING A GENDER-SENSITIVE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The reality: the specific needs of women and girls are not taken into account in refugee settings, and women and girls are at risk of several forms of male violence while on the move.

- Women's organisations can't access sites (HUMAN RESOURCES)
- Lack of female interpreters and trained staff (HUMAN RESOURCES)
- No sex-segregated toilets, showers, sleeping rooms, safety rooms (SPACES)
- No separate spaces to report VAW or for asylum interviews (SPACES)
- Lack of services for women: post-rape care, reproductive health, etc. (SERVICES)
- Lack of integration programmes (SERVICES)
- Lack of access to legal aid, psycho-social support (RESPONSE TO VAWG)
- Lack of referral mechanisms and case management (RESPONSE TO VAWG)



IMPLEMENTING A GENDER-SENSITIVE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Our demands:

- Transit/accommodation centres built and staffed in a gender-sensitive manner
- Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights
- A coordinated global approach to prevent and respond to violence against women in crisis contexts
- Empowering women and girls as agents of change



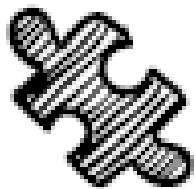
In Serbia, the ratio social workers/ refugees in the refugee camp in Presevo during the height of the crisis was: 4/6000.

In the UK accommodation centres, common rooms are mixed and women sometimes miss meals as a result of being intimidated by men.

ENGENDERING THE ASYLUM SYSTEMS

The reality: national asylum policies and procedures are gender-blind and don't abide with the international obligations.

- Lack of trained asylum staff on gender-based violence/persecution (STAFF)
- Lack of mandatory guideline for interviews of women & girls (INTEVIEWS)
- Lack of female staff in asylum centres (CENTRES)
- No gender mainstreaming in all aspects of asylum policies/procedures (INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS)
- Attacks on freedom of assembly and association (PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS)
- Lack of safe space, trained professionals, child friendly information... (UNACCOMPANIED GIRLS)



ENGENDERING THE ASYLUM SYSTEMS

Our demands:

- Asylum procedures comply with the UNHCR Guidelines on International Protection
- The EU asylum system include a gender perspective
- All women entering the EU should be granted independent legal status
- Gender focal points in the European Asylum Support Office

THE RIGHT TO ASYLUM SHALL BE GUARANTEED WITH DUE RESPECT FOR THE RULES OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION OF 28 JULY 1951 AND THE PROTOCOL OF 31 JANUARY 1967 RELATING TO THE STATUS OF REFUGEES AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION AND THE TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.

Article 18 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights



European Parliament
resolution of 8
March 2016 on the
situation of women
refugees and asylum
seekers in the EU

  **European Parliament
News**

nt
ideas
n more
cities be improved? Dur
European Week of Regi
Cities over 5,000 people
exchanging ideas on gro
and... (read more)



© Marie Dorigny / European Union 2015

Now is the time for action for Europe to implement a gender-sensitive humanitarian response and to end violence against women!



OUR
FUTURE
STARTS
NOW!



To find out more:

www.womenlobby.org

@Europeanwomen

Pierrette Pape

EWL Policy and Campaigns Director

pape@womenlobby.org

