



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S  
**LOBBY**  
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES

## **Our manifesto**

# **How Europe can become a better and safer place for women and girls**

### **Easy-to-read version**

Easy-to-read is information  
that is written in a simple way  
so that all people can understand it.  
You can find more information at:  
[www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read](http://www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read).



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The difficult words in the text are marked in **bold**.  
You can find their explanation at the end of this booklet.

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the European Union

## WHO WE ARE

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We are the European Women's Lobby.  
We are an organisation that protects  
the rights of women and girls in Europe.

At the European Women's Lobby,  
we want a Europe where women and girls can:

- Fully enjoy their rights,
- Have the same chances in life as men,
- Be free and safe to decide about their lives and bodies.

This is the symbol of our organisation:



## WHAT THIS BOOKLET IS ABOUT

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This is the easy-to-read version of our 'Manifesto'.  
Our manifesto is a document we wrote to explain:

- What is the situation  
of women and girls in Europe?
- What should the **European Union**  
and its countries do  
to protect and make better  
the rights of women and girls?

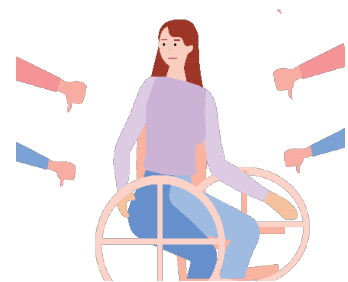


## THE SITUATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN EUROPE

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Unfortunately, Europe is not yet a place where all women and girls can enjoy their rights safely and freely. Things can be even harder for certain women.

For example, women with disabilities, **migrant** women and older women.



Amongst others:

- **Women in Europe still experience violence from men**

For example, many women in Europe are attacked or killed by their partners or family members.

Also, many women are forced to have sex against their will.



- **Many women in Europe still do not have the right to decide about their own lives and bodies**

For example, many women in Europe do not have the right to have an 'abortion'.

This is a medical procedure that stops a woman's pregnancy if she does not want to keep the baby.

Other women may be forced to have a medical operation that makes it impossible for them to have children.



This is unacceptable.

Women should have the right to decide if they want to have children or not.

Nobody else should decide for them.

- **Women in Europe still do not have the same chances in life as men.**

For example, women earn less money than men for the same work.

Also, women are often expected to leave their jobs to look after their children and household while men continue with their careers.

This is unfair.

Men are equally able to look after their children and household.



- **Most people who make laws and decisions in Europe are men.**

Women do not have the same chance to take part in decisions about their lives.

The **European elections** in 2024 will be an opportunity to change this and have more women elected.

We need to vote for women who fight for the rights of all women and girls.



## WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO PROTECT AND MAKE BETTER THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

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At the European Women's Lobby, we think that the **European Union** and its countries should work harder to protect the rights of women and girls in Europe.



Amongst others, we ask the European Union and its countries to:

- **Make the rights of women and girls a priority in their work.**

For example, there should be a **European Commissioner** working specifically on the rights of women. This way there can be more progress in the rights of women and girls in Europe.



- **Stop violence against women and girls.**

For example, they should make laws that protect women and girls from any kind of violence. The laws should also punish those who harm women and girls or force them to do things against their will.



- **Support women and girls who have been victims of violence.**

For example, they should make it easier for women to report the people who harm them.

They should also help these women to get a job and be independent or to find a safe place to live.



- **Make sure women can decide about their lives and bodies.**

Women should have the right to decide if they want to have children or not.

They should be able to have a free and safe **abortion** if they want to stop their pregnancy.

Nobody should force them to marry or become mothers against their will.



- **Make sure woman can take part in politics same as men.**

Women are half of the population.

So half of the people who make laws and decisions in Europe should be women.

The next **European elections** in 2024 should be an opportunity to have more women elected.

We need to vote for women who fight for the rights of all women and girls.



- **Make sure women can take equal part in discussions and decisions about climate change.**

**Climate change** has a bigger impact on women than men.

Women are also active in fighting climate change. So their voices should be heard too!



- **Make sure that women have the chance to get good jobs and earn fair salaries.**

Women should have the same chances to get a job as men.

They should also get a fair salary for their work.

Their salary should not be lower just because they are women.



- **Support organisations that work to protect the rights of women and girls.**

For example, they should give money to organisations that protect the rights of women and girls.

This way these organisations can continue doing their important work to support the rights of women and girls.

They should also work together with organisations of women to make a difference in the lives of women and girls in Europe.



- **Support migrant women and girls.**

In recent years, many people have left their countries





and have come to the **European Union** hoping for a better life.

Things can be even harder for certain women and girls.

**For example**, women with disabilities, older women or women of certain religions.

The European Union and its countries should help these women to feel safe and build a new life.

- **Recognise the work of women as carers.**

Being a carer means you look after someone else on a regular basis.

At some point in our lives, we will all need to be looked after, or to look after someone else.

Everybody should have the right to get good support and care when we need it.

However, women are often expected to look after other family members and the household, much more than men.

This is a very important and big work but it does not get the recognition it deserves.

The European Union and its countries should give women the support they need to do this important work.

They should also make it equally possible for men to be carers.



## JOIN US!

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Do you want to join us in making Europe a better place for women and girls? You can find out how to do this on our website by [clicking here](#).



There you can also find the full text of our manifesto in different languages.

However, those texts are not easy to read. So you may need the help of a support person to read them.

## MORE INFORMATION

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To learn more about the work we do at the European Women's Lobby, you can visit our website at [www.womenlobby.org](http://www.womenlobby.org).

If you have questions, you can send us an email at: [ewl@womenlobby.org](mailto:ewl@womenlobby.org).



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## EXPLANATION OF DIFFICULT WORDS

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### Climate change

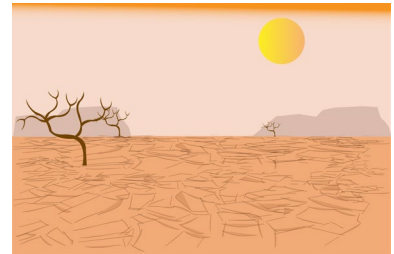
Climate change means the temperature and the weather in the world change.

For example, there may be extreme heat or lack of rain in some areas.

Many people have to move from these areas because they cannot live there anymore or cultivate the earth to get food.

Climate change has a bigger impact on women than men.

Among other reasons, this can be because women are more likely to live in poverty or may not be able to move freely.



### European Commissioner

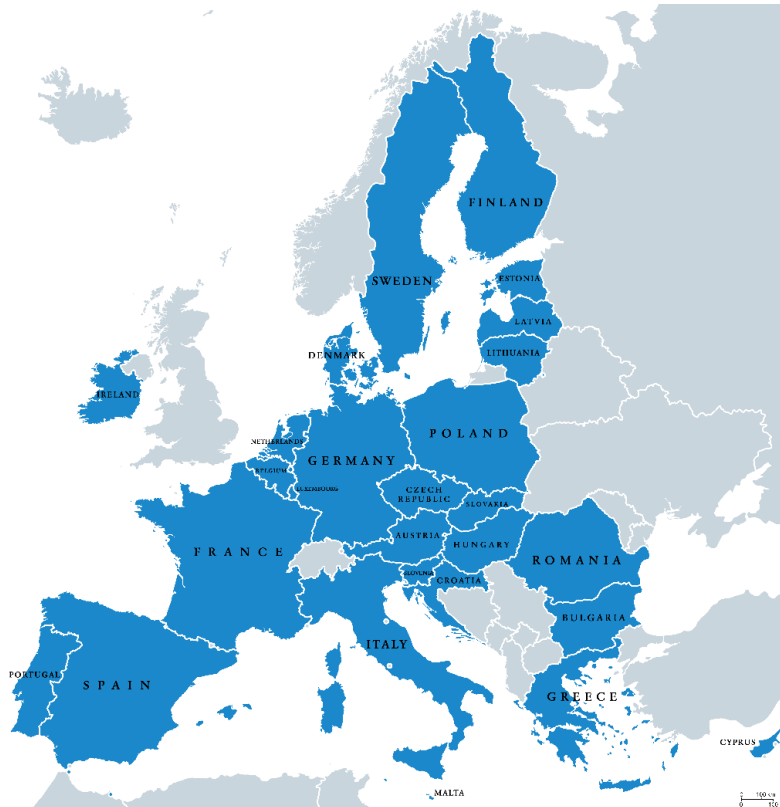
The European Commissioners are people who are responsible for specific fields of work at the European Union.

Their role is to lead the way and suggest what needs to be done to make things better in their field of work.



## European Union

The European Union is a group of 27 countries in Europe. These countries came together to make things better, easier and safer for people.



## Migrants

Migrants are people who move away from a country or area they used to live and settle somewhere else.

There can be many reasons why people do that.

For example:

Some people may have war  
in their countries  
and their lives may be in danger.  
So they try to escape  
from the war in their country  
to get somewhere safe.



Other people may not be able  
to get a job and earn enough money  
where they live.  
So they go to other countries  
to look for a job and a better life.