



LOBBY EUROPEEN DES FEMMES EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

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EWL Newsflash
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Editorial

European policymakers must Say No to Violence against women

The European Women's Lobby and its member organisations mobilise for the 16 days of activism against Violence against Women - starting on the International day against violence against women on 25 November and ending on International Human Rights Day the 10th December. Across Europe, as well as globally women's organisations and activists are taking a lead in raising awareness in issues of violence against women, and holding policymakers accountable to end violence against women.

Statistics show that one in four or one in five women in Europe have been victims of male violence, and it is one of the most important causes of mortality for women in Europe. Given the enormity of the issue for society as a whole, and the numerous individual lives devastated, the silence surrounding these realities are ever the more unacceptable. Violence against women is not only a huge important public health issue, and it is also costly for society. Violence against women is also a matter of democracy, human rights and equality. The 16 days of activism this year celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, highlighting that women's rights are an integral part of the human rights struggle and that women and girls have a right to grow up free from male violence. Policymakers must do all they can to uphold this basic right if Europe wants to aspire to be a region that respect the fundamental principles of human rights and gender equality.

The European Women's Lobby, with its branch EPACVAW (European Policy Action Centre on Violence Against Women), calls on European policymakers to:

- Increase EU financial resources to fund activities and organisations working in the field of violence against women
- Establish a one-yearly meeting of EU and national policymakers and NGOs to assess progress and challenges in the work against violence against women
- Declare a European year on zero tolerance against violence against women
- Propose a strong EU policy on violence against women that comprises binding instrument to step up Member States' efforts to prevent and combat gender-based violence and ensure protection of women.
- European Parliamentarians to join the UNIFEM lead campaign 'Say no to violence against women' by signing the written declaration tabled by Eva-Britt Svensson, Vice chair of the Women's right committee.

More info at www.womenlobby.org and www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/kit08/kit.html
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EWL News

EWL organised a workshop on **'Challenges and opportunities from a local authority and gender perspective'** in partnership with the Cities for Local Integration Policy (CLIP) network in the framework of the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) seminar on "Framing a positive approach to migration" in Paris on 6-7 November. The workshop was facilitated by EWL project coordinator Amandine Bach and the speakers included: Meri Kumbe (Cultural house of Albanian Immigrants in Greece), Salome Mbugua (Akidwa, Ireland) and Karima Ben Ahmed (Forum femmes Méditerranée, France). For more information about the seminar, click [here](#).

EWL will organise in partnership with migrant women's organisations across Europe a conference on **'Integrating a gender perspective in integration policies: the way forward'** on 1 December in Brussels. The conference aims to bring together high-level decision-makers (European Commission officials and representatives from international organisations) and representatives from migrant women's organisations to share their perspectives on the issue of integration. See the programme [here](#).

Update on the EWL 50/50 Campaign - www.5050democracy.eu

The EWL 50/50 Campaign **'No Modern European Democracy without Gender Equality'** was launched on 16.09.08. The European wide Campaign aims to increase the presence of women at the highest level of European politics and to encourage women to cast their votes in the next European elections. The Campaign is already personally endorsed by a number of well known personalities from across Europe. For more information see the [50/50 website](#).

National Campaign activities

The National Women's Council of Ireland organised a public meeting on 14 November 2008 in the framework of the 50/50 Campaign in presence of European Commission vice President Margot Wallström. Putting the Campaign into a national context, Ms Butler, Chairwoman of NWCI stated that the concerns highlighted in relation to the 50/50 campaign are also relevant to the Irish context. In Ireland only 13% of the Members of the Parliament and 19% of local councilors are women. If women, who constitute over half of the population of Ireland are represented by only 13% of sitting TDs or if they rely for their representation on men, then the capacity of the existing political system to represent women adequately is seriously diminished. This is of serious concern to the NWCI in the lead-up to the Local and European Elections in 2009.'

The Czech Women’s Lobby organized an event in Prague on 5 November on “Gender Equality- A neglected Priority (not only) during the EU Presidency” followed by a press conference, where the 50/50 Campaign was presented and discussed. EWL President Brigitte Triems and Policy Director Cécile Gréboval participated in the conference.

The Deutscher Frauenrat co-organised an event on women in decision-making with the European Commission Representation in Berlin on 25 November. European Commission Vice President Margot Wallström also participated.

The EWL sent a letter to Felipe Gonzalez, future chairperson of the Reflection Group on the future of Europe to point out the current lack of the gender balanced composition of the Group (currently composed of two women out of twelve planned members), calling out him to remediate the situation.

Supporter of the Month

‘There will never be equal treatment in gender terms, as long as our decision making institutions will have a gender biased membership. It is not just a matter of rights, it is a matter of sensitivity to the issues that deserve priority and to the manners to deal with them.’

Giuliano Amato, former Prime minister of Italy and Vice-president of the European Convention:

Take Action!

Participate in the 50/50 Campaign - contact the national political parties concerning the lists for the European elections 2009. Although the next European elections are still nine months away, national political parties across Europe are deciding right now who is going to be on the lists of candidates. The number of women elected will reflect the number and ranking of women on the candidate lists: the higher the proportion of women on the list, the higher changes they have of being elected. If all women are put at the bottom of the list, they won’t have a chance to be elected either! Therefore we need your help to put pressure **right now** on all national political parties and ask them to ensure the equal representation and ranking of women and men on their electoral lists and to include gender equality as a priority in their programmes. Please, feel free to use the **model lobbying letter** we have prepared.

Sign the Campaign on www.5050democracy.eu !!!

EWL Representation

- Amandine Bach, EWL Project Coordinator, participated in the 2008 Euromed Civil Forul ‘Move and live together in the Euromed Space’ that took place in Marseille from 31 October to 2 November.
- Rada Boric, EWL Board Member from Croatia, participated in the III Regional Conference ‘Violence Against Women – influencing public policies’ organised by

CARE International North West Balkans, that took place in Belgrade (Serbia) on the 5-7 November.

- Cécile Greboval, EWL Policy Director, attended the ECICW (European Center of International Council of Women) seminar on ‘EU policies in a gender perspective, that took place on the 7-9 November in Brussels
- Martine Levy, EWL Vice president, attended a conference organised by the French Presidency on ‘Professional equality between men and women’ that took place in Lille on the 13 Novembre.
- Cécile Greboval participated in the European Citizens Forum that took place in Brussels the 13 November
- Myria Vassiliadou, EWL Secretary General, participated in the Euromed Conference on ‘Women’s Economic Rights: Making a difference in the Mediterranean’ that took place on the 17-18 November in Brussels
- Mary Collins, EWL Policy Officer, and Thérèse Murphy, EWL vice President, attended the 2nd European Demography Forum that took place in Brussels on the 24-25 November.
- Amandine Bach, participated in the Swedish Women’s Lobby conference on ‘Women with a migrant background’ on 15 November in Stockholm.
- Cécile Greboval attended a conference in the European Parliament on ‘Break gender stereotypes, give talent a change’ that took place on the 27 November organised by International Centre of the ILO.
- Thérèse Murphy participated in the PES Conference that took place in Madrid on the 18-19 November.

EWL Civil Society Representation

Platform of European Social NGOs - The EWL is an active member of the Platform of European social NGOs and is represented within its Management Committee and most working groups. The **Social Policy Working Group** of the Social Platform met on 18 November at which it discussed NGOs response to the financial crisis in light of the Commission’s Action/Recovery Plan (adopted on 26 November). In its letter to Commission President Barosso, the Social Platform highlighted that there must be no backtracking on social spending in Member States; strengthening social protection mechanisms is an investment for the future, failing which the backlash of the crisis will disproportionately impact on lower income women and men throughout the EU. The letter can be downloaded [here](#).

The Social Platform is also working on a coordinated response from different European Networks to the **Social Partners** negotiations on the **Revision of the 1996 Parental Leave Directive**. For further information, contact Mary Collins: collins@womenlobby.org

EU Civil Society Contact Group - EWL is member of the EU Civil Society Contact Group that brings together seven large rights and value based NGO sectors - environment, social, development, women, culture, human rights and public health. More information: [Act 4 Europe](#). EWL will organise a lunch time discussion on gender budgeting on 19 January 2009. For further information please contact: Maria Collins collins@womenlobby.org and Cécile Greboval greboval@womenlobby.org.

EESC Liaison Group with Organised Civil Society - EWL is member of the NGO Liaison group of the European Economic and Social Committee. More information: [NGO Liaison](#).

EWL is member of the NGO Platform on **EU Migration and Asylum Policy** initiated by the UNHCR to discuss and exchange information on the development of immigration policies and legislations at European level. Amandine Bach, EWL project coordinator, attended in the Migration sub-group meeting that took place on the 25 November.

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European & International News in Brief

European News

2010 European Year on Poverty and Social Exclusion: at the initiative of the **European Anti Poverty Network** (EAPN) a NGO Steering Group has been set up comprising of European Networks, of which EWL is a member, to prepare common actions in the year and to create greater synergies between members of the Networks at national level. The Steering Group made a contribution to the Commission's Framework Document, which it is currently drafting to assist the National Implementing Bodies (NIB) in the Member States in developing national action plans. As part of the process of developing these plans, civil society organisations are to be consulted. Therefore, now is the time to contact the NIB in the different countries to input into the national action plans. The funds allocated to each country must be matched by a similar amount at national level – the amounts per country are detailed in the Framework Document. For further information, contact Mary Collins: collins@womenlobby.org

The **Working Time Directive**, which is currently at the second reading stage of the European Parliament (procedure of co-decision with the Council) is scheduled to be voted in the plenary session of the Parliament at the beginning of December. This Directive, which has been on the table for many years, fixes the maximum working week at 48 hours over a period of (initially) four months with the possibility of extending to twelve months. However, the 'opt-out' clause which makes it possible for some countries to go beyond the 48 hours means that in some countries (notably the UK) the weekly working time can be over 70 hours a week. The Directive also makes it possible to distinguish between 'active time' and 'inactive working time' in which the latter would not be calculated in the 48-hour working week. In reality, this would mean that for those workers who are 'on-call' (medical profession for example) they would effectively be imposed longer working hours over and above the 48-hour limit. The Committee of Employment and Social Affairs at its meeting on 4 November voted to remove the opt-out clause within three years. In a **letter** to members of the Employment Committee prior to the vote, EWL President, Brigitte Triems pointed out that the Directive is in total contradiction with measures being proposed to reconcile private, professional and family life and that the Directive must be consistent with other initiatives addressing equality between women and men to ensure that gender equality is promoted and not undermined. Click [here](#) for more information.

The **Second European Forum on Demography:** entitled Better societies for families and older people, took place in Brussels on 24-25 November. Please, click [here](#) to get more information. Please click for the [European Demographic report 2008](#).

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News from the European Parliament

The European Parliament adopted **report** on the **Gender Pay Gap** on 17 November in which it recommends a number of measures including the possibility of applying sanctions to employers who continue to maintain the pay gap between women and men for equal work or work of equal value. The gender pay gap, which stands at 15% on average in the EU, continues to remain entrenched despite EU legislation prohibiting unequal pay. However, while legislation can be more easily applied in cases of direct pay discrimination, the indirect aspect of the problem requires a number of other measures, including full transparency in the composition of wages so that women can become empowered to seek redress when faced with pay differentials in comparison to their male colleagues, for example in discretionary benefits which are part of the composition of wages.

The European Commission is carrying out an **evaluation** of the effectiveness of legislation in addressing the gender pay gap, particularly in relation to the EU legal framework on equal pay for equal work or work of equal value (which hasn't prevented the current 15% EU gender pay gap average). If you or any of your member organisations have a particular expertise or have worked on the gender pay gap, the evaluators would be very happy to hear from you. Please contact the team leader Petri Virtanen directly (Net Effect Ltd, Finland): petri.virtanen@neteffect.fi or +358.50.521.7617.

The **Women's Rights Committee** did not approve the Maria Carlshamre's **report** on **Prostitution and its health consequences on women in Member States**. The rapport was deeply discussed and finally rejected with 3 votes in favour, 26 against and 2 abstentions.

Parliament's Constitutional Affairs Committee has called on the December European Council to reach an agreement allowing Ireland to ratify the Lisbon Treaty in spring 2009.

The resolution, approved on Monday, invites the Irish government to put forward concrete proposals on the way forward after the 'no' referendum. Approving a **report** drafted by Jo Leinen (PES, DE), by 16 votes in favour and 6 against, the Committee reiterated its view that every effort should be made to ensure that the Treaty is ratified before the 2009 European Parliament elections.

Limiting the maximum working week to 48 hours. The maximum working time in the EU should be 48 hours a week, and the opt-outs from this rule should be removed within three years, according to the majority of MEPs in Wednesday's second reading vote at the Employment and Social Affairs Committee. By adopting a co-decision **report** from Alejandro Cercas (PES, ES) with 35 votes for, 13 against and 2 abstentions, the committee made clear its disagreement with the Council (where a common position was adopted on 9 June 2008) notably regarding the non-participation clause, more commonly known as the "opt-out", and on on-call time, an issue of particular importance for the health sector. Click [here](#) for more information.

Olli Rehn: enlargement strategy can help stabilise economies of EU hopefuls. Although the financial crisis has had a limited effect so far on the candidate countries and the Western Balkans' economies, these countries are beginning to be affected by slow growth and high unemployment, said Olli Rehn, the EU Commissioner for Enlargement, as he presented the annual strategy paper for the EU's enlargement policy to the Foreign Affairs Committee on Wednesday. Please, click [here](#) to get more information.

Update on Violence against Women and Women's Human Rights

Human Rights for Women, Human Rights for All: Celebrating 60 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The 2008 16 Days Campaign dedicates this year's theme to the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the recognition that women rights are human rights. The campaign offers an opportunity to celebrate the past 60 years of women's advocacy, including the right to live free from violence. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

Norway adopts new law criminalising the buying of sexual services: On 21 November the Norwegian Parliament adopted the long awaited bill which will make it a criminal offense to buy sexual services. The new law, which will come into force on 1 January 2009 is modeled on a similar Swedish law adopted in 1999, with improvements such as it also prohibits Norwegians from buying sexual services abroad as well. The adoption of the law is the result of a long struggle of the women's movement, and a broad alliance of social movements, including the trade unions. The law will be accompanied by reinforced support possibilities for women in prostitution to offer alternatives.

The Global Campaign to Stop Killing and Stoning Women! is initiated by a group of activists, lawyers, journalists, and academics, who are committed to ending the stoning and killing of women. Stoning to death is a legal form of punishment for 'adultery of married persons' (zina al-Mohsena) in Afghanistan, Iran, Nigeria (about one-third among 36 states), Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates. Recent cases of stoning by state authorities have mostly occurred in Iran, where stoning is not limited to 'adultery.' Elsewhere, such as Pakistan and Iraq, incidents of stoning have tended to be carried out by communities, rather than the state. In Nigeria and UAE, sentences to death by stoning have been overturned after strong international protests.

IFJ presented Guidelines on Reporting Violence Against Women. To mark International Day on the elimination of violence against women (25th November), the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) is organising a round table where they presented the IFJ guidelines on report violence against women.

On 29-30 September 2008, the EWL jointly with other humans rights and women's rights organisation, participated in a conference on **The Right to Abortion:What is at stake for women in Europe.** Please, click [here](#) to read the final declaration.

Events

2 December: Launch of ENAR's 2007 Shadow Report on racism in Europe. The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) is delighted to invite you to the launch event of ENAR's 2007 Shadow Report on racism in Europe, which will be hosted by the European Parliament's Anti-

racism and Diversity Intergroup in the European Parliament in Brussels. Please, check ENAR [website](#) to get the report.

9 December: The British Council and the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) organise **'Journeys to Europe'**, an event to be held from 18.00 to 19.30 followed by a cocktail reception. Please, click [here](#) to get more information.

21-23 January 2009 -Politics and Gender Conference. The first Gender and Politics conference of European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Standing Group on Gender and Politics will be held in Belfast on 21-23 January 2009. Please, click [here](#) to get more information.

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Publications - Web Sites

Publications

Gender Action Link: Gender, International Finance and Climate Change! It is the first "Gender Action Link" connecting gender, international finance and climate change issues. This brief, reader-friendly resource is the first in a new series of Gender Action Links to come, including Links on gender, international finance and critical issues like extractive industries, indigenous rights, accountability, commercial banks, debt, the food crisis and more. The timely series aims to link international finance-watcher and gender justice communities through key thematic briefings, concrete case examples, useful action resources and partnership opportunities. Gender Action Links will link up gender justice groups and international finance-watchers so we can multiply our impact!

Introducing the Sexual Diversity Tool Kit, a compilation of tools which can support your work on issues related to sexual diversity. The Sexual Diversity Tool Kit was developed and tested in collaboration with International Plan Parenthood Federation (IPPF) Member Associations in Mexico, Peru and Venezuela. The kit includes a survey to measure provider and staff attitudes and knowledge around working with sexually diverse populations, an indicator guide useful for planning service provision or advocacy, and an index used to assess agency readiness to work with sexually diverse populations. These tools have been tested with small samples, and have been useful in collecting data to inform new programs and improve existing services.

Transnational Standards of Social Protection. Contrasting European and International Governance. Cristian Joerges and Poul F. Kjaer (eds). This report presents the proceedings of a joint RECON-CRC 597 workshop, which illuminate the intertwinements of European regulatory policies and global governance arrangements. By pinning down the exact nature of the interaction between these two levels, the EU's dilemma becomes obvious: On the one hand, stronger global governance can be a chance, through which the EU can clarify its own *raison d'être* of increased integration to a wider world. On the other hand, the design of the European project is being challenged by more assertive global structures. This is especially the case in relation to the WTO regime, which is constraining the decisional autonomy of the EU, regarding the appropriateness of its content and its external effects.

Gender Justice in the European Union. The normative subtext of methodological choices

Cathrine Holst. This paper examines the *EU gender justice index*, which is to be launched in the near future, and which is based on recommendations made in a Commission-funded report. Cathrine Holst undertakes a critical discussion of the normative assumptions of this report and argues that a full citizenship index should focus on justice, not on productivity; on individual opportunities, not on group-level outcomes; and on equality, but also on liberty and democracy.

Assessing Gender Democracy in the European Union. A Methodological Framework

Yvonne Galligan and Sara Clavero. This paper presents a methodological framework for assessing the quality of democracy in the European Union from a gender perspective. In addressing key questions in this regard, the paper presents a variety of methodologies that have been adopted in established assessments of democratic performance, critically discussing their strengths and weaknesses as well as their applicability for an assessment of gender and democracy. Galligan and Clavero expose the complexities involved in the design and implementation of a methodology for a gender-sensitive assessment of democracy.

Multiple Meanings of Gender Equality: A Critical Frame Analysis of Gender Policies in Europe.

Edited by Mieke Verloo. This book aims to map the diversity of meanings of gender equality across Europe and reflects on the contested concept of gender equality. In its exploration of the diverse meanings of gender equality it not only takes into account the existence of different visions of gender equality, and the way in which different political and theoretical debates crosscut these visions, but also reflects upon the geographical contexts in which visions and debates over gender equality are located. The contextual locations where these visions and debates take place include the European Union and member states such as Austria, the Netherlands, Hungary, Slovenia, Greece, and Spain.

Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies present the final report for the conference entitled **‘Trafficking in Women for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation’** which took place on 13 October 2008 in Cyprus within the framework of European Anti-Trafficking Day. The purpose of the conference was to address the issue of Trafficking in Women for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation with a special focus on the demand for sexual services and gender equality.

The autumn 2008 edition of European Commission **on-line newsletter, Equality in Action** is now on-line. This edition of the newsletter is designed to help readers access the various elements of the new social package, which was published by the European Commission on the 2nd of July 2008.

A UNIFEM report: **Progress of the world’s women 2008/2009. Who Answers to Women? Gender and Accountability.** The Progress 2008/2009 focuses on five key areas where the need to strengthen accountability to women is urgent: politics and governance, access to public services, economic opportunities, justice, and finally the distribution of international assistance for development and security.

The Global Gender Pay Gap Report 2008, by the World Economic Forum.

Mainstreaming Gender in the European Union: Getting the Incentives Right. The European Union, like many other international organizations and governments, committed itself during the 1990s to the “mainstreaming” of gender issues across all policy areas at all stages in the

policy process. Nonetheless, more than a decade after the Union's initial commitment, this commitment has not led to consistent and effective implementation. The problem, we argue, lies in the failure to "get the incentives right," mobilizing sufficient interest among crucial actors, beginning within the bureaucracy of the international organizations or governments in question. Working paper by Emilie M. Hafner-Burton and Mark A. Pollack.

Siyanda Update: Women's Movements, Issue No. 71, November 2008. Siyanda is an on-line database of gender and development materials from around the world. It is also an interactive space where gender practitioners can share ideas, experiences and resources.

Key feminist concerns regarding core labour standards, decent work and corporate social responsibility, by Anja Franck - WIDE Network. This publication provides a feminist analysis of workers' rights issues in respect of core labor standards, the decent work paradigm and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in relation to trade policy, especially that of the European Union

Funding, Training, Calls, Jobs opportunities

Training

Feminist Summer University on Violence: Feminist analysis of new challenges. Interdisciplinary symposium. University Laval, Quebec May 31 - June 6, 2009.

Graduate summer course on **'Work and inequality in a Global Economy'**. June 29- July 10 , 2009. Central European University, Budapest, Hungary.

Jobs opportunities

One World Action is looking for a person to lead their policy and advocacy work. The person will be joining a dynamic, committed and exciting organisation working with partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America, based at their office in London. Please, click [here](#) to get more information.

New internship opportunity at **Mental Health Europe**. MHE is offering an internship position in its Brussels-base Secretariat, starting in January 2009. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) published today three vacancy notices for Temporary Agents. Please, click [here](#) to get more information.

WAGGGS is looking for a **Regional Director, European Region**. Please, click [here](#) to get more information. The deadline to send the application is the 19 December.

Donations to the EWL

Do you share the vision and commitment of the EWL? Do you want to support the achievement of equality between women and men and promote women's human rights in Europe? You can make a difference by **supporting the EWL financially**. Every contribution, however small, is an encouragement to the EWL to continue fulfilling its mission. Please, click [here](#) for more information.