

European Women's Lobby

Policy positions related to Violence Against Women

EWL Observatory

In 1997, the EWL European Policy Action Centre on Violence Against Women took the initiative to set up and manage a **European Observatory on Violence Against Women**. The European Observatory is an expert group composed of women from each of the Member States of the European Union who has extensive expertise in the area of violence against women.

With the European Observatory, the Violence Policy Centre has developed indicators to monitor progress in combating violence against women and is currently focusing on the development of National Observatories to combat violence against women. The mission of these observatories is to monitor policies on violence against women at the national level. The National Observatories are drafting **national reports** on violence against women, containing information on what has been done and what should be done in relation to violence against women. The report is a lobbying tool for women's NGOs to engage in dialogue with policy-makers on measures and policies that need to be implemented.

Summary of Policies

□ EWL's Charter of Principles on Violence Against Women

March 2002 - In considering the issue of violence against women, the EWL firmly adopts a feminist perspective. Violence against women is, thus, seen as a structural phenomenon the cause of which is a direct result of gender inequality.

□ Women's Sexual Rights in Europe

January 2005 - Women's sexual rights include the right to control their sexuality, and access to sexual and reproductive health-related services, including safe and legal abortion. The EWL defends these rights within International and European contexts.

□ Women's Participation in Conflict and Post-conflict Resolution

March 2004 - In this contribution to the UN CSW, the EWL highlights the main issues at stake and calls for European action in support of women's rights in conflict situations and women's participation in post conflict situations.

□ EWL Motion on Prostitution

September 2001 - In September 2001 the General Assembly of the EWL adopted a new motion stating that it is a crime to buy women in prostitution and proposing to develop strong policies against pimping.

□ EWL motion on Prostitution and Trafficking

October 1998 - The EWL General Assembly in 1998 adopted a motion that situates prostitution and trafficking in women as fundamental violation of women's human rights.

EWL's Charter of Principles on Violence Against Women [2002]

1. Feminist perspective

In considering the issue of violence against women, the EWL firmly adopts a feminist perspective. Violence against women is, thus, seen as a structural phenomenon the cause of which is a direct result of gender inequality. The EWL adopts the definition of violence against women as stipulated in the Beijing Platform for Action. Furthermore, it endorses the statement of the Beijing Platform for Action: "*violence against women is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of women's full advancement.*" (paragraph 118). The persistence and tolerance of all forms of male violence against women is a fundamental obstacle to the achievement of full equality between women and men in all areas of life.

2. Women's Rights are Human Rights

The EWL believes in the fundamental principle of respect for Human rights. The EWL believes that all forms of violence against women and girls in the private and public sphere by state and non-state actors must be addressed and understood as basic violations of human rights principles.

3. The autonomy and the empowerment of women

The EWL believes that the intervention of NGOs in the area of violence against women should work to achieve the autonomy and the empowerment for all women. This goal underpins all actions undertaken by the EWL to combat violence against women.

4. Prostitution and Trafficking in women

In relation to prostitution and trafficking in women, the EWL believes that:

- Prostitution and trafficking in women constitute a fundamental violation of women's human rights.
- Prostitution and trafficking in women should not be associated with the terms "forced" or "free".
- It should be recognised that "free choice" is a relative factor, situated at the intersection of economic, social, cultural and political options of women in a given society. Inequality severely restricts freedom of choice.

5. Recognition of diversity

The EWL believes that differences among women must be taken into account when dealing with issues of violence against women. Women can be affected by violence in a different way in relation to their diversity. NGOs working in the field of violence against women should develop strategies to ensure the inclusion of women marginalised because of their race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, age, belief or religion.

Women's Sexual Rights in Europe [2005]

Women's sexual rights include the right to control their sexuality and the provision of sexual and reproductive health-related services. They include reproductive rights where the number and spacing of children can be chosen in a free, responsible and informed way.

Today, these rights must be defended as they concern not only women's health, but also their dignity and freedom. In this way, women's sexuality is not solely associated with issues of responsibility or risks concerning reproduction. Sexual activity is above all an integral part of a woman's life, of her private life and sexual enjoyment thereof. Women's sexual rights recognise the right to sexual well being and the freedom of choice concerning partner(s), sexual orientation, sexual preferences and the choice of each woman whether or not to have sexual relations.

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) promotes equal rights for a wide range of women. Women must not be put into a category depending on their sexual orientation, abilities or disabilities, their social and/or ethnic groups, which is imposed on them and which restricts their choices and independence in this case their sexuality and reproductive rights.

Nevertheless, the sexual and reproductive life of women is too often determined by cultural and religious codes, which deny them fulfilment or make them into sexual objects by using or selling their bodies. In light of these two trends, sexual and reproductive rights must ensure that women's bodies are respected and that women can own and control their own bodies.

The EWL will defend these rights within international organisations, the European institutions and the Member States of the European Union. The EWL forwarded its recommendations on sexual rights in Europe in its written contributions to the Convention on the Future of Europe and the draft Directive establishing the Principle of Equality between Men and Women.

Women's Participation in Conflict and Post-conflict Resolution [2004]

EWL submission on **Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building**¹

1) Preamble

1.1 The European Women's Lobby (EWL) is submitting this contribution to the Irish Presidency in preparation of the 48th session of the CSW, which will focus on a review of the implementation and actions taken in relation to women and armed conflict. The EWL [1] recognises that the impact of war and conflict disproportionately affects women and girls and that violence against women is systematic, extreme and widespread in situations of conflict and war. Violence against women is a continuum, a continuous series of physical, verbal and sexual assaults and acts of sexual violence committed by men against women with the explicit aim of hurting, degrading, intimidating and silencing; taking away their ability to control their life situation and killing women. Violence against women in times of conflict and war is not simply a by-product of war but it is often a strategic tool, a reaffirmation of the:

"(...) historically unequal power relations between women and men, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of women's full advancement." (paragraph 118 of the Beijing Platform for Action)

1.2 While women in general are committed to peace, the EWL acknowledges that women have been and continue to be active participants in conflict and war.

1.3 However, respect for diversity and gender equality are crucial to understanding the root causes of conflict and subsequently for addressing conflict prevention and resolution, post-conflict resolution, peacemaking, peace keeping and peace-building. The diversity of women's life experience coupled with their shared experience of male oppression gives them a legitimate voice to speak on the issue of conflict and war, as there can be no sustainable peace without a gender perspective because the root causes of conflict are at an intersection between social and economic development in which women have a vital role to play.

1.4 The EWL recognises the changing nature of modern day armed conflict and war which increasingly encompasses internal conflicts and international terrorism. This changing nature impacts on the whole of civil society and calls for a diversity of strategies in which gender equality is a vital component.

1.5 Conflict prevention requires additional resources, which necessitates reconsideration of military expenditure. The concept of "gender budgeting" must be applied to the examination of military budgets and be adapted accordingly. At the level of the EU, the Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities of the European Parliament approved an own-initiative report on gender budgeting in June 2003. This report provides the basis for applying the principle of gender budgeting to military budgets.

2) Recommendations to the European Union and its Member States

In light of the way in which conflict and war impact on women and girls, the EWL stresses the need to strike a balance between on the one hand, responding to women and girls as victims during and following armed conflict and on the other hand, ensuring women's participation in the prevention and resolution of conflict, peace negotiations, reconciliation and reconstruction for the development of sustainable peace (women as actors of change), therefore, the EWL calls on the EU and the Member States to:

2.1 Invest in Civil Society as a means of conflict prevention:

In light of the changing nature of modern day conflict and war, the issue of prevention must be paramount. Studies show [2] a people-centred approach is most effective and that the

¹ Contribution to the 48th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW, 1-12 March 2004)

development of civil society together with an effective citizenship (access to education, health, justice, employment, culture, decision-making, respect for gender equality and human rights with appropriate legislation) reduces disparities between different ethnic groups and creates bonds. It also prevents the creation of a vacuum in which the seeds for violent and criminal networks germinate and grow.

- The recognition of women's NGOs is vital in creating and sustaining civil society and the role they play in this respect is of paramount importance. In this context, the EWL calls on the EU to support women in building communities and to invest in women's NGOs in its external development policies and in its role as a donor organisation to areas of conflict and war.

2.2 Take a leadership role in pursuing peaceful means of conflict resolution in the world with the full participation of women:

Conflict and war are highly gendered activities in which women as civilians are more likely than soldiers to be killed [3]. Women are used as strategic targets of conflict and war. It is estimated that almost 90% of current war casualties are civilians; the majority are women and children. [4].

Violence against women is systematic during conflict and is one of the major horrors of war that shatters women's and girl's lives. Women are tortured, systematically raped, trafficked, prostituted and endure forced pregnancies. Women and girls are victims of violence by numerous factions: soldiers and other armed groups, government officials, aid workers, civilian authorities and members of their own families.

Trafficking in women and prostitution are intrinsically linked to conflict and war and are heightened at this time. The presence and mobilisation of armed (soldiers) and civilian (humanitarian) factions contribute to the growth of prostitution around military bases, army and refugee camps, which increases the demand for the prostitution of women and girls and contributes to the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS.

Therefore, the EWL calls on the EU and its Member States to:

- Condemn sexual violence, systematic rape, forced impregnation, trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation, prostitution and all other forms of gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict.
- Condemn and sanction European soldiers who engage in any form of gender-based violence while on mission in areas of armed conflict.
- Provide clear gender focused "Regulations and Rules" similar to the "Code of Conduct" issued by the United Nations [5] and to those of national EU Member States on the standards of conduct of military and civilian peacekeeping and humanitarian staff while on mission in areas of armed conflict. Such regulations and rules should clearly stipulate the consequences of breaching the high standards of conduct especially in relation to any form of gender-based violence [6].
- Provide a Code of Conduct, inspired by the Plan of Action proposed by the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises [7], to ensure that humanitarian aid workers are fully aware of their responsibilities and duties stipulating that sexual exploitation constitutes acts of gross misconduct that can lead to the termination of their employment as well as sanctions.
- Condemn, prohibit and prevent the recruitment of child-soldiers, including girls, especially within the armies of the Member States.

2.3 Actively promote the equal participation of women in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building

Women continue to be under-represented in conflict prevention and peace negotiations despite numerous commitments to ensure the full and equal participation of women, including

the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (October 2000). In the foreword of the first UN study published in 2002 under the title “Women, Peace and Security” [8], the Secretary-General notes that “ while many positive steps have been taken to implement the resolution, women still form the minority of those who participate in peace and security negotiations, and receive less attention than men in post-conflict agreements, disarmament and reconstruction.”

The European Parliament’s Resolution on the “participation of women in peaceful conflict resolution” adopted in November 2000, calls on the Commission and the Council to inform the European Parliament on an annual basis on the progress, programmes and initiatives undertaken as a consequence of this resolution. This Resolution fully respects the UN Security Council 1325.

The EWL calls on the EU and its Member States to:

- Develop the capacity of the EU within the common security and defence policy (Art 2 of Amsterdam Treaty) to respond to conflict prevention and to promote the concept of human security.
- Provide a mandate within a common security and defence policy to, inter alia: coordinate the EU with a focus on non-military crisis management; ensure the implementation and monitoring of codes of conduct for military and civilian factions intervening on behalf of the EU in areas of armed conflict; ensure that at least 40% of women are included in all reconciliation, peacekeeping, peace-enforcement, peace building and conflict prevention posts, including fact finding and observer missions acting on behalf of the EU and its Member States. [9]
- Ensure that all current and future Foreign and Defence Ministers are aware of the existing instruments to increase the participation of women in all decision-making bodies relating to conflict prevention and resolution, namely: UN Resolution 1325 and European Parliament Resolution 2000/2025 (Participation of Women in Peaceful Conflict Resolution, November 2000), and that they will actively implement these instruments.
- Ensure that the implementation of these is monitored and that the Member States and the EU report on progress annually at the meetings of EU Foreign and Defence Ministers.

2.4 Place women’s human rights at the core of donor policies for reconstruction and development:

The respect for women human rights must be a precondition of donor funds on the part of the EU and its Member States for development and for reconstruction in post conflict areas. One example of gender-based violence for which women require specialised services in the aftermath of conflict and war is rape. Of all the abuses committed in war or by repressive regimes, rape in particular is inflicted predominantly against women. Rape has been considered – and still is in many cases – as an “inevitable reality” of war. Rape is never incidental or private. It is a strategy planned and organised with the complicity of those who are deemed to provide protection in times of armed conflict and war. It serves a strategic function and acts as a tool for achieving specific and military objectives for which the International Criminal Court (ICC) recognises as a war crime and a crime against humanity. [10]

The EWL calls on the EU and its Member States to:

- Build support systems and invest in specialised services for the victims of rape and trauma in the wake of gender-based violence perpetrated during the conflict period. In light of the fact that studies show that domestic violence increases during and in the period following armed conflict, indicating that women remain vulnerable to male violence in the post conflict period, donors (EU and Member States) must ensure that funds are available for women to benefit these specialised services.
- Make funds available to women to seek redress through the mechanisms of international law in the aftermath of armed conflict. The overarching aim is to restore women’s dignity by providing medical, social and psychological support to women as

they face the justice system, which in itself can be a traumatic experience, especially when cross examination is used to ridicule, destabilise the victim and in general to minimise the seriousness of the acts of gender-based violence.

- Make funds available to women to participate and take leadership in reconstructing community life and access to infrastructure such as water supply, electricity, schools, hospitals, roads as well as (re) building legal and administrative structures of the State.
- Make funds available to women to participate in decision-making at local, regional and national levels.

2.5 Grant protection to women who flee their countries:

Approximately 40 million people – an estimate 80% of them women and children have fled their homes because of armed conflicts and human rights violations. [11] Some have crossed international borders and are considered as refugees while others have fled to other regions within their own countries and are referred to as “internally displaced persons”. The UN Secretary General outlined in his report to the Security Council that “the forced displacement of civilian populations is now often a direct objective, rather than a by-product of war.” [12] Women and girls continue to be exposed to sexual violence in their flight and in refugee camps where they are forced to exchange sex for basic food for themselves and their children by peacekeeping and humanitarian aid workers as well as other members of the camps.

The EWL calls on the EU and its Member States within the process of harmonisation of EU policies on asylum to:

- Grant women asylum by recognising gender-based violence as a legitimate reason within the existing UN Geneva Convention of the Status of Refugees (1951) and to include gender-based violence within the interpretation of the existing five criteria (race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership of a particular social group) of the aforementioned Convention.
- Adopt the UNHCR guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women and on the Prevention of the Response to Sexual Violence against Refugees.
- Adopt within the process of EU harmonisation of asylum policies, the UN guidelines on “International Protection – Gender Related Persecution within the context of Article 1A(2)” [13] to assist officials throughout all of the EU Member States (current and new) in understanding the nature and determining the legitimacy of asylum claims by women on the basis of gender-based violence.
- Reject the concept “Safe country of origin”, currently being discussed within the framework of the draft EU Directive on Minimum Standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status”. This concept is contrary to the individual right to asylum in general and prejudices women in particular given that persecution for reasons of gender is not specified as one of the criteria of the Geneva Convention.

3) Appendices

3.1 EWL’s activities on the issue of women and armed conflict

- EWL European Campaign on Women asylum seekers: “Persecution is not gender blind”, Fact Sheet “Rape as a weapon of war and a tool of political oppression” December 2000.
- The co-organisation and hosting of the Afghan Women’s Summit for Democracy (December 2001) at which the Brussels Proclamation, was adopted addressing the Afghan women’s recommendations on four central components of Afghan society, namely: education and culture, healthcare, refugees, and human rights.
- The EWL Declaration against war (press release) and follow-up letters to governments (January 2003) prior to USA and British military intervention in Iraq.
- The delegates to the EWL 2003 GA adopted four motions on the theme of women and armed conflict. These motions cover the following issues (1) make conditional the respect for women’s human rights, their equal treatment and their participation in

peace and reconstruction in all European Commission programmes of assistance for the reconstruction of Iraq, and in all aid that is granted for conflict resolution.; (2) designate a European Commissioner for Peace, ensure implementation of UN Security Council 1325; (3) change the current terminology of “ministry of defence” into “ministry of peace” and, (4) nominate at least 40% of women representatives in all post-conflict peace resolution bodies (in line with the European Parliament’s Resolution on the “participation of women in peaceful conflict resolution.”). A workshop on the issue of women and armed conflict was also held during the GA meeting.

- Many EWL members are specialised in the issue of peace.
- Joint organisation of an exposition on “Women in Armed Conflict”, with the organisation “Medica Mondiale”, Brussels, November 2003

3.2 The European context – references documents which provide a mandate to the EU and its Member States.

The Treaties of the European Union

Treaty of Maastricht (1992), the European Union (EU) has competence in matters relating to

- “a common foreign and security policy, including the progressive framing of a common defence policy, which might lead to a common defence.” [14]

Article 17 of the Amsterdam Treaty gives further indication of the common foreign and security policy, stipulating that:

- “The progressive framing of a common defence policy will be supported, as Member States consider appropriate, by cooperation between them in the field of armaments.” (Article 17, paragraph 1) and
- “shall include humanitarian and rescue tasks, peacekeeping tasks and tasks of combat forces in crisis management, including peacemaking.” (Article 17, paragraph 2)
- The Draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe (text of 18 July 2003) reaffirms the Union’s objective to “promote peace” (Article 3, paragraph 1) and
- “In its relations with the wider world, the Union shall uphold and promote its values and interests. It shall contribute to peace, security and sustainable development (...) protection of human rights and in particular children’s rights, as well as to strict observance and development of international law, including respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter.” (Article 3, paragraph 4)

This particular text does not directly apply at this given time as the draft Constitution will be discussed at the Inter-governmental Conference in 2003/2004.

European Parliament – Resolution on Participation of Women in Peaceful Conflict Resolution, November 2000 [15]. Some of the proposals include:

- Gender sensitive peace and security initiatives.
- Gender perspective in the planning of refugee camps.
- Gender perspective in asylum and immigration policies.
- Equal participation of women in diplomatic conflict resolution.
- Gender sensitisation of peace, security and reconstruction operations.
- Include at least 40% women in all reconciliation, peacekeeping, peace-enforcement, peace building, and conflict preventive posts – including fact-finding and observer missions – in which Member States participate.
- Secure that women participating in peacekeeping operations are bound by United Nations norms and international human rights principles and not by discriminatory local restrictions.
- Promote the use of all female fact-finding and assistance teams to respond to sexual violence and other situations where demanded by the cultural context.
- Strengthen non-governmental organisations, including women’s organisations that focus on conflict prevention, peace-building, and post-conflict reconstruction.

[1] As a follow-up to the fourth world conference on women (Beijing 1995), the EWL established the EWL/Policy Action Centre on Violence against Women to provide a channel through which women's NGOs could influence the European Union Institutions in relation to policies, strategies and measures to address violence against women (VAW). In 1997 an expert group of fifteen women (one from each Member State) was formed creating the EWL/European Observatory on violence against women in order to advise the EWL on identifying priorities and developing common strategies for EU policies in the area of VAW. The EWL, its Centre and Observatory have developed specific expertise in the area of VAW.

[2] See "Human Security Now", Commission on Human Security, New York 2003

[3] European Parliament – Resolution on Participation of Women in Peaceful Conflict Resolution, November 2000 Explanatory Statement

[4] Women and armed conflict:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/session/presskit/fs5.htm>

[5] United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules. Article 101, paragraph 3 of the Charter of the United Nations places an affirmative obligation on staff to uphold the highest standards of integrity. Cited in "Women, Peace and Security", study submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1325, 2002

[6] The Peacekeepers Code of Conduct explicitly states that "peacekeepers should not indulge in immoral acts of sexual, physical or psychological abuse or exploitation of the local population or United Nations staff, especially women and children." Cited in "Women, Peace and Security"

[7] See Plan of Action proposed by the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee – Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises.

[8] "Women, Peace and Security", study submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1325, 2002

[9] European Resolution on "participation of women in peaceful conflict resolution.", 2000

[10] EWL European Campaign on Women asylum seekers: "Persecution is not gender blind", Fact Sheet "Rape as a weapon of war and a tool of political oppression" December 2000

[11] Progress of the World's Women 2002, Volume 1: "Women, War, Peace, The Independent Experts Assessment on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Women's Role in Peacekeeping", Elizabeth Rehn and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, published by UNIFEM 2002

[12] Report of the Secretary General to the Security Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, S/1999/957, 8 September 1999, cited in Progress of the World's Women 2002, Volume 1: "Women, War, Peace

[13] UNHCR: Guidelines on International Protection: Gender-Related Persecution within the context of Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention and/or its Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, HCR/GIP/02/01, 7 May 2002

[14] Former Article B of the Maastricht Treaty, renumbered Article 2 of the Amsterdam Treaty, relating to the objectives of the Union

[15] To download:

http://www3.europarl.eu.int/omk/omnsapir.so/pv2?PRG=CALDOC&FILE=20001130&LANGU E=EN&TPV=DEF&LASTCHAP=18&SDOCTA=12&TXTLST=1&Type_Doc=FIRST&POS=1

EWL Motion on Prostitution [2001]

Make it a crime to buy women in prostitution and develop strong policies against pimping

Context

In January 1999 a new law went into effect in Sweden, one that made it a crime to buy another human being with the intent of using her for sexual purposes. However it is not a crime for that person to sell herself in prostitution. The fact that it is a crime to buy, but not to sell sex, makes the law unique. It is unique because it is the only one of this kind in the world and because it is based on a feminist analysis of prostitution; it acknowledges the reality of prostitution, namely that women in prostitution are the victims of a crime, the crime of sexual abuse and sexual violence, and not criminals themselves. It recognises the vulnerability and powerlessness of women in prostitution and the general imbalance between men and women in the society. The new law is also part of a larger effort, with regards to the issue of violence against women on behalf of the Swedish government and includes the obligation for social welfare services to help women to get out of prostitution.

The law has been implemented for just two and a half years, but we are already seeing some positive results. According to police working on prostitution; in Stockholm, street prostitution has declined 70%-80% and prostitution in clubs, hotels and other in-door facilities has declined of about by 50%.

It has also had beneficial effects on stopping the trafficking of women for prostitution. According to Kajsa Wahlberg, Detective Inspector at the National Criminal Investigation Department, who investigates crimes concerning trafficking, the law deters trafficking of women into prostitution since it has made it more difficult for pimps to work in Sweden. Previously pimps could just give the women a mobile phone and send them on the streets, but nowadays they have to find premises and solicit customers. It has also resulted in greater awareness and willingness on behalf of the police and prosecutors to investigate and prosecute pimps and traffickers.

Actions

The member organisations of EWL shall lobby their respective governments to adopt a similar law, one that will make it a crime for men to buy and use women in the context of prostitution. The law shall not in any ways criminalise the women, the victim. On the contrary, the law must be combined with efforts to help the women getting out of prostitution by providing them with financial assistance, education, job training, housing and health care. They should also work for strong policies against pimping.

The EWL should lobby the commissioners and members of the EU Parliament to put pressure on their respective governments to make it a crime to buy women in prostitution and to develop strong policies against pimping. EWL should provide its members with information and support them.

EWL motion on Prostitution and Trafficking [1998]

We state that:

1. Prostitution and trafficking in women constitute a fundamental violation of women's human rights.
2. Prostitution and Trafficking in women should not be associated with the terms "forced" or "free".
3. It should be recognised that "free choice" is a relative factor, situated at the intersection of economic, social, cultural and political options of women in a given society. Inequality severely restricts freedom of choice.

We affirm that:

4. Prostitution and trafficking in women are violations of women's human rights. Effective protection of these rights will depend on raising the status of women in all areas of life and that this can be brought about through mindful strategies which enable women and men to negotiate in the form of a gender contract;
5. Strategies to confront prostitution and trafficking in women must be multi-faceted addressing on the one hand the needs of women whose human rights are violated while at the same time targeting at the client, the procurer and other people benefiting from the sex industry.
6. Studies on prostitution and in particular studies about traffickers and customers must be undertaken.
7. The definition of male violence includes all forms of sexual exploitation.
8. Until these issues are rightfully recognised and adequately addressed in consultation with a broad-based coalition of women's groups, prostitutes and women, victims of trafficking must have access to all protective services.
9. These rights should include: access to health care; police protection; opportunities for training and education; legal services and representation including legal residence permits in the cases of women from non EU countries; support and counselling and all other services offered to all women regardless of their activity.
10. There must be education reflecting the view that buying and selling of bodies represents a violation of human rights and as such must be considered illegal.

We call on:

11. Governments and policy-makers at all levels to engage in a broad consultation with all groups concerned with the protection of women's human rights, in particular women's organisations, prior to considering any policy or legislation relative to prostitution. The EWL believes that the issues are global and therefore, require multi-dimensional solutions which address a number of universal issues, notably: inequality of women, globalisation of the world economy; countries in transition; poverty; immigration policies and above all the issue of incessant violation of women's human rights.
12. Governments and policy-makers to pass legislative measures against trafficking in women, and to ensure full application of these measures.