

END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN EUROPE!

In occasion of this year's November 25th, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Party of the European Left denounces sex and gender-based violence in all its expressions, suffered by women, girls and LGBTQIA+ in all European countries.

Such violence occurs in all areas of women's lives and throughout their lives, from the private to the public sphere. An analysis conducted in 2014 by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) revealed that one in ten women in the EU had been sexually abused since they were fifteen. In the EU, one in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence and two women are murdered every day by their partners or ex-partners.

Women face harsher working, economic, and living situations than men due to structural inequalities and a lack of co-responsibility in care work, leaving them in subordinate positions due to economic reliance. Women are marginalized and vulnerable to violence. Such vulnerabilities are embedded in society, particularly through a lack of access to justice, and are especially severe for women who are victims of discrimination in various forms, such as disabled women, migrant women, or undocumented women. Although sex and gender-based violence and abuse have been addressed by EU member states, disparities in the application of current laws and different legislative and policy strategies lead to different degrees of combating violence, protection, victim support, and prevention.

A study conducted for the European Parliament in 2022 concluded that no form of sex and gender-based violence is criminalized across the

EU, implying that not only do procedural law frameworks differ across the EU, but there are countries that do not comply with recommended standards for victim support, such as hotlines, shelters, 24-hour crisis centres for victims of sexual violence, services for specific groups of victims, and measures to encourage reporting.

Gaps in safety measures can have serious consequences, as they may hinder the ability of victims to access the support and protection they need. In order to address these issues, it is crucial for the EU to prioritize the implementation of standardized and comprehensive victim support systems, as well as improve coordination and training among relevant authorities to effectively combat sex and gender-based violence.

As a result, The Party of The European Left supports the call for a European Directive on violence against women and domestic violence. Victims of any type of violence against an intimate partner or ex-partner, sexual violence, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, violence against women's sexual and reproductive rights, sexual and reproductive exploitation, female genital mutilation, early or forced marriage, cyberviolence, or online sexual abuse based on their image should be protected equally regardless of where they live.

The Party of the European Left aims to eradicate male violence and femicide in Europe by addressing the root causes of these issues, such as economic and social inequality along with gender stereotypes rooted in patriarchy. The Party proposes transversal measures that includes reducing wage gaps, pensions, promoting public care systems, promoting equal access to

education and to feminist, trauma-informed, age appropriate and data-based sexuality and affective programs and continuous training of all bodies involved in incidents of sex and gender-based violence.

We are convinced that the fight against patriarchy is a priority and essential not only to eradicate male violence against women and LGBTQIA+ people, but also to build a Europe of free, equal, self-determined people.

Fighting patriarchy also implies fighting for peace because patriarchy is at the root of war. In these dramatic hours of war, we stand in solidarity with Palestinian women, migrant women, Kurdish women, and women worldwide who are victims of war and patriarchal oppression.

We want a Europe free from gender-based violence. IT'S OVER.

Political Secretariat and Working Group on Feminist Policy of the EL

