

# MAINSTREAMING EU ACTION TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In addition to action under the Gender Equality and Justice policies, the European Commission focuses on violence against women in a range of policy areas:

## **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:**

The EU and UN recently launched the Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The EU contributes € 500 million.

## **TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS:**

The Commission is raising awareness of the gender dimension of human trafficking and is encouraging a gender-specific implementation of the Anti-Trafficking Directive to protect women and girls.

**TRADE POLICY:** Under the Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance, the EU closely monitors human rights and violence against women records of trade partners.

## **EDUCATION AND SPORT:**

The Commission's good practice and peer learning work on violence against women and girls focuses on gender gaps in education, combatting bullying, and gender-based violence in sport.

## **HUMANITARIAN AID AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE:**

The Commission is funding projects to combat sexual and gender-based violence in conflict zones such as Syria, Congo, South Sudan and in migrant reception centres in Greece.

## **ASYLUM AND MIGRATION:**

The Common European Asylum System prescribes the need to take a gendered approach. The Commission supports measures taken in migrant reception centres to protect and support women and girls affected by violence.

**ECONOMIC AFFAIRS:** The Commission promotes inclusive growth, which averts economic hardship and, with it, social tensions and violence. Women's economic independence in particular is promoted as it is a precondition for empowerment.

## **RESEARCH AND INNOVATION:**

The Commission funds research on gender-based violence, especially human trafficking. The 'Science with and for Society' programme will investigate gender-based violence in research organisations and universities.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENLARGEMENT:**

An EU-UN Women programme targets intersectional discrimination and violence in the Western Balkan Countries and Turkey. The MADAD Fund aims to strengthen resilience and empowerment of refugee women and girls affected by the Syrian Crisis.

## **SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND INCLUSION:**

The European Social Fund supports targeted actions to combat violence against women, notably women with disability, most vulnerable or deprived. Focus is also put on the gender dimension of the European Structural and Investment Funds.

## **REGIONAL POLICY:**

The European Regional Development Fund supports women's economic and social empowerment and social infrastructure investments in women's shelters and safe public spaces for women and girls.

## **TRANSPORT:**

The Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee have launched the 'EU Platform for Change' to address the problem of workplace violence against female transport workers.

# NON. NO. NEIN.

A YEAR OF FOCUSED ACTION  
TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

25 NOVEMBER 2016 – 25 NOVEMBER 2017

<http://ec.europa.eu/justice/saynostopvaw/>

#SayNoStopVAW

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOCUSES ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against women is endemic in the European Union. It causes severe harm to women, families and communities and has huge societal costs. This is why **Věra Jourová, European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality**, took the initiative to dedicate the year 2017 to ending violence against women.



*"Equality between men and women is one of the European Union's founding values. Still today, one in every three women in the European Union has experienced violence since the age of 15. Any woman or girl – young and old, from urban and rural areas and from all sections of society – risks violence at some point in her life, be it at home, work, school or in public spaces. Yet domestic violence is still a taboo topic and physical and sexual assault or harassment is an everyday reality for so many women and girls around Europe. This has to stop. The European Commission therefore takes a zero tolerance stance to violence against women and we are stepping up our actions."*

### EUROPEAN COMMISSION ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST YEAR

- **NON.NO.NEIN. CAMPAIGN:** Under the hashtag #SayNoStopVAW, the Commission has launched a social media campaign to raise awareness and take a clear stand against violence against women. The campaign's dedicated website includes testimonials from funded projects, information material and contacts to national support services. Through the campaign, the Commission reaches out to target groups and stakeholders both directly and through social media promotion.
- **ACCESSION TO THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION:** The European Union signed the Council of Europe Convention on violence against women on 13 June 2017. Work towards the EU ratification has commenced and is expected to conclude in 2018. The Commission encourages all Member States to ratify the Convention at national level.
- **EUROSTAT SURVEY ON THE PREVALENCE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE:** Eurostat coordinates the development of an EU-wide prevalence survey to get new data on VAW. The pilot phase in 2018 involves 11 national statistics authorities with additional Member States to follow. The survey will be carried out in 2019-20.
- **POLICY MONITORING AND DATA COLLECTION:** The European Institute for Gender Equality has developed a methodology for monitoring VAW policy within the Gender Equality Index and has expanded its data collection on intimate partner violence, rape and femicide in the EU with country-specific factsheets, recommendations and indicators. EIGE is also updating its methodology to estimate the risk of female genital mutilation in selected Member States.
- **COUNCIL PRESIDENCY CONFERENCE DEDICATED TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:** Together with the Maltese Presidency, the Commission organised a conference focusing on gender-based violence in the context of intersectional discrimination and women's access to justice and services. A web tool for professionals in contact with women affected by female genital mutilation was launched.
- **MUTUAL LEARNING PROGRAMME:** The Commission organised an exchange of good practice among Member State governmental representatives, including on the Danish policy and legislation on digital sexual abuse and the French campaign addressing sexual harassment on public transport.
- **COLLOQUIUM ON FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS 2017 - "WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN TURBULENT TIMES":** Violence against women is one of the core topics of the event and is discussed at one plenary and two discussion sessions.

## FUNDING UNDER GENDER EQUALITY AND JUSTICE PROGRAMMES

The European Commission regularly co-funds pan-European, national and local projects to prevent violence against women and support victims. Under the **Rights, Equality and Citizenship and Justice Programmes**, it supports organisations that tackle the problem in a multitude of ways.

For the Year of Focused Action, €15 million was made available to 12 national authorities and 32 grass roots projects, for example:

**DOCTORS AND NURSES IN FINLAND** are trained to recognise signs of violence, to encourage disclosure and reporting of violence, and to raise awareness of support services available.

**THE ROMANIAN PRO REFUGE ASSOCIATION** is working to strengthen effective referral and cooperation between assistance services for victims of human trafficking.

**A CAMPAIGN IN ITALY** uses major football league stadiums, televised matches and football programmes to reach men and boys with the message that violence against women is unacceptable.

**IN THE NETHERLANDS, THE WOMEN'S SHELTER ORGANISATION KADERA** is mobilising housing providers to help tackle domestic violence by training caretakers, maintenance workers and many others.

**A UK-LED PROJECT** trains young people and staff at universities to encourage disclosure of experiences of sexual violence and to support those affected in the best way possible.

**JUDGES AND STATE ATTORNEYS FROM CROATIA** are trained to address barriers to the legal protection of women who have experienced violence.

**THE POLICE ACADEMY IN CYPRUS** is incorporating specific training on violence against women in its curriculum with a focus on registration of complaints, investigation and prosecution.

**"MEN SPEAK OUT" BY GAMS IN BELGIUM** encourages men from communities practicing female genital mutilation to oppose such practices. Other GAMS projects work with survivors in the EU and abroad.

**THE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN GREECE** is gathering expertise, facilitating collaboration, and offering practical advice in order to build a safety net for migrant and refugee women.