

**Question for written answer E-004521/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Need to define marital rape as a crime throughout the EU

In seven of the 28 Member States of the EU, marital rape is not defined as a crime. As a result, victims of such violence are left defenceless.

Despite, as the European Institute for Gender Equality reports, it being a taboo subject, 30 % of European women have been victims of sexual assault by a partner (see study by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights).

UN Women reports that in other continents, such as America, the percentage of countries that explicitly outlaw marital rape is higher.

Marital rape must therefore be recognised as a specific crime throughout the EU, as recommended by Amnesty International and prescribed by the Istanbul Convention, which has been ratified by only 14 Member States.

1. Does the Commission consider that, in order to comply with Directive 2012/29/EU, all EU Member States must legislate to explicitly define marital rape as a crime?
2. Does the Commission intend to commission a specific study into intimate partner sexual assault from the European Institute for Gender Equality, in view of the lack of data available on this issue?
3. Does the Commission consider it necessary to conduct a campaign to increase public awareness and raise the profile of marital rape?