

**Question for written answer E-000301/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)**

Subject: Gender violence at schools in Sierra Leone

Sixty million girls are sexually assaulted at or on the way to school every year, according to the latest report published by Plan International. Of particular concern is the situation in Sierra Leone, where girls' lives are marred by discrimination and abuse: 90% have been subjected to female genital mutilation (MICS-UNICEF), and one in six are married at the age of 15 (Statistics Sierra Leone SSL).

The number of rapes increased during the Ebola crisis, and the government banned pregnant girls from attending school (E-007099/2015). Now girls face a school environment where violence and abuse are rife.

As the Vice-President/High Representative acknowledged in her answer to my question E-010143/2015, fighting discrimination and violence against girls and women in Sierra Leone is a human right priority.

1. What measures will the Commission propose to the Sierra Leone authorities with a view to combating gender violence against girls at school?
2. Does she believe that the EUR 80 million set aside for education in the 11th EDF need to be increased in order to make an effective contribution to ensuring girls' safety at school?
3. Will she launch new projects to combat sexual violence through the National Indicative Programme?