

**Question for written answer E-004584/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Barbara Matera (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Mauritanian sexual assault survivors

According to Mauritania's penal code, women victims of rape can be convicted of extramarital relations if sufficient proof of rape is not provided. This vilifies victims of sexual assault and has resulted in the silence of countless women. Those who are convicted are sentenced to long jail sentences and have almost no support once they are released. This treatment of victims is a violation of international treaties that Mauritania has signed.

What can the VP/HR do to encourage Mauritania to abide by international law and support these women?