

**Question for oral answer O-000004/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 115

Mikael Gustafsson

on behalf of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Subject: 57th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW): prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls

Violence against women and girls remains one of the most serious global, structural human rights violations. In order to end violence against women and girls and gender-based violence, efforts must be made at every level. At international level the most significant process to eliminate violence against women and girls has been carried out through the work of the United Nations, and in particular the Beijing Platform for Action. The European Union has also incorporated this issue into both internal policy and legislation and foreign policy actions.

The elimination of violence against women and girls will be the priority theme for the 57th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on 4-15 March 2013. Last year the CSW did not manage to adopt agreed conclusions, which is a very serious concern for all actors who defend and promote women's human rights. Against this backdrop, CSW 57 will be a key opportunity to advance the women's human rights agenda and to step up global action to eliminate violence against women and girls. The EU has an important role to play and must take all necessary steps to ensure a positive outcome.

- How will the European Union support the UN's efforts at this stage to eliminate all forms of violence against women, and to ensure that there will be a positive outcome and a set of forward-looking agreed conclusions at the 57th CSW in March 2013?
- What are the main components of the EU's contribution to new policy action and operational action at global level to end all forms of violence against women?
- What progress has been made by the EEAS in terms of incorporating women's human rights issues into the core of its work, and in particular the work towards eliminating all forms of violence against women? And what further steps are planned?
- How is the EU's policy for the confrontation and prevention of violence evaluated in the context of humanitarian and international development aid?
- How will the global efforts to eliminate violence against women be articulated at EU level, notably in the EU strategy to end all forms of violence against women which has been announced and through possible future legislative measures?

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Forwarded: 30.1.2013

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