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*Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality*

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**2012/2293(INI)**

14.1.2013

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on social housing in the European Union  
(2012/2293(INI))

Rapporteur: Mojca Kleva Kekuš

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas affordable, adequate and secure housing is a precondition for achieving social justice and cohesion and tackling social exclusion and poverty;
  - B. whereas in 2010 24.5 % of all women were at risk of poverty or social exclusion;
  - C. whereas the gender pay gap and, consequently, the gender pension gap are still one of the main reasons women find themselves below the poverty line at a later stage in their lives;
  - D. whereas the financial and economic crisis has increased the unemployment rate among women and prevented greater progress in providing disadvantaged women with housing options;
  - E. whereas single mothers, young families, young people at the start of their careers, migrant women, people with disabilities, women from minority groups and the elderly are especially affected by the lack of social housing;
1. Stresses that the Member States should increase the number of affordable housing options and support women in achieving financial independence, by providing them with conditions more conducive to reconciling work and family life;
  2. Recalls that in 2009 there were seven times more single mothers than single fathers; stresses that single mothers should therefore be given priority when it comes to the allocation of social housing;
  3. Calls on the Member States to invest in social housing neighbourhoods and thus to provide a stable and secure environment, in particular for vulnerable groups such as young families, young people at the start of their careers, migrant women, people with disabilities, women from minority groups and the elderly;
  4. Notes with regret that victims of domestic violence are often more likely to stay in an abusive environment if they are financially unable to find suitable housing; calls, therefore, for the EU to promote policies and programmes that increase access to safe and affordable housing for domestic violence victims;
  5. Calls on the Member States to carry out gender-based analysis as part of all housing policies and programmes; stresses that all data must be broken down by gender and that more research is needed in order to ascertain exactly how housing policies can support women.