



2018/2046(BUD)

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2019
(2018/2046(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Malin Björk

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SUGGESTIONS

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

- A. whereas the European Union is founded on, inter alia, the value of equality between men and women and Article 8 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union states that the promotion of such equality is a fundamental principle of the Union, requiring gender equality to be incorporated into all policies and addressed at all levels of the budgetary process via gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting;
- B. whereas inequality is a growing problem in the Union as shown in the current backlash against women's rights and gender equality, and whereas the Union budget must increasingly be designed to make a significant contribution to safeguarding and developing social rights, and improving gender equality and the situation of women;
- C. whereas the Union and its Member States collectively are the world's leading donor of global development aid, providing over 50 % of all such aid; whereas the reduction of aid from other donors in the fields of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and women's reproductive health requires an increase in current Union funding, especially in those fields with a particular gender dimension;
 1. Calls on the Commission and the Council to systematically use gender budgeting for public expenditure, including when negotiating and concretising the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) with the aim of being gender-responsive and of achieving the SDGs by promoting and implementing SDG 5 on Gender Equality;
 2. Reaffirms its request for increased resources, e.g. under the European Social Fund, the European Regional Development Fund and the EU cohesion fund, to uphold women's economic and social rights, especially through women's employment and investment in high-quality public care services, and to reduce gender inequality, including through the use of existing instruments at Union and Member State level;
 3. Calls on the Member States to ensure well-structured gender budgeting initiatives that promote gender equality through education and health services, notably comprehensive sexuality education and SRHR services;
 4. Stresses the need to increase resources for combating all forms of violence against women and girls, as well as gender-based violence against LGBTIQI people, including by reinforcing the Daphne funding within the framework of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme for the period 2014 to 2020, as well as ensuring that funding is made available for actions aimed at the effective implementation of the Istanbul Convention;
 5. Calls on the Union and the Member States to promote women's rights organisations, the empowerment of girls and women's representation in decision-making through EU development aid; recalls the urgent need to increase Union funding for SRHR in order to counter the impact of the financing gap left by the US after the reinstatement and

expansion of its ‘global gag rule’;

6. Recalls the important role of the European Institute for Gender Equality and calls for the Institute’s budget, staff establishment plan and independence to be maintained.