

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2019

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

November 25 marks the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The sheer numbers are alarming: 1

in 3 women have experienced physical or sexual violence. Worldwide, 1 in 2 women killed were killed by their partners or family. Violence against women - be it physical, mental or structural - is a fundamental violation of human rights. And it is the result of fundamentally unequal distribution of power and resources in our society. We cannot allow ourselves to look away any longer. This is why we have intensified our Committee work in the last week to fight violence against women.

There is still a long way to go: I am convinced that if women are economically independent, it also makes them more independent in their relationships. Furthermore, all Member States must finally ratify the Istanbul Convention. Apart from that, we urge the Commission since long ago to present as soon as possible a comprehensive European Strategy to prevent and fight violence against women, at home and in the streets, online and offline.

The International day for elimination of violence against women is a call for action, a call for change. Let's talk about the numbers, tell the stories of survivors and spark a worldwide conversation.

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LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

6 NOVEMBER

Visit of Gabriela Cuevas, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

FEMM Committee held an exchange of views with Ms Gabriela Cuevas Barron, current President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The IPU is a global inter-parliamentary institution established in 1889, which currently includes parliaments from 178 countries. The European Parliament is an associate member. The exchange of views focused on parliamentary actions aiming at the promotion and protection of women's rights around the world, equal opportunity policies, as well as the implementation and advancement of gender mainstreaming.

International Conference on Population and Development

In view of the ICPD25 Summit in Nairobi (12-14 November 2019), FEMM - jointly with DEVE - held an exchange of views on a motion for a draft resolution. The text looks into the main commitments of the Summit: zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices against women, girls and youth. It also proposes the way forward in terms of the political and funding commitments. The draft resolution is foreseen to accompany an oral question to the Commission and the Council and will be finalized in January.

[Link](#) to the conference website

Procedure: 2019/2850
Rapporteur: Evelyn Regner

Deadline for Amendments: 26.11.2019, 12.00 pm
Joint vote in FEMM/DEVE: 22-23.01.2020

Annual report on Human Rights and Democracy in the world

FEMM voted on its draft opinion to the Annual report 2018 on Human Rights and Democracy in the world and the European Union's policy on the matter of the Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI). FEMM asks DROI to include in its report the calls on the Commission to deliver the next Gender Action Plan, incorporate the gender dimension in all sectors of the EU external action and recognize and respond to the global backlash against women's rights. It also calls to focus on more systemic actions against gender-based violence and provide systemic support to women's rights organizations and women's rights defenders, among others.

The opinion was adopted by 24 votes in favour to 6 votes against, with 1 abstention.

Procedure: 2019/2125(INI)
Rapporteur: Evelyn Regner

Vote in AFET/DROI: 04.12.2019
Vote in Plenary: January 2020

[Link to the OEIL](#)

2018 Discharges on the Commission and EIGE

FEMM Members considered the draft opinions of the discharges of the budget 2018 for the Commission and the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).

On the Commission the draft opinion makes several requests such as: the implementation of gender budgeting in the budgetary process; the need to specify the resources allocated to each of the objectives devoted to gender equality of the REC programme; or the need to make a greater effort in the integration of the gender perspective in the fields of research and innovation.

On EIGE, the draft opinion, based on the positive opinion of the Court of Auditors with regard to EIGE's annual account for the financial year 2018, considers that the discharge can be granted.

Procedures: 2019/2055(Commission)
2019/2089 (EIGE)
Rapporteur: Frances Fitzgerald

Consideration of amendments: 05.12.2019
Vote in FEMM: 22.01.2020
Vote in CONT: 20.02.2020

[Link to the OEIL](#) (Commission)
[Link to the OEIL](#) (EIGE)

Oral question on the Gender Pay Gap

The Committee adopted an oral question addressed to the Commission on its initiatives aimed to tackle the gender pay gap. FEMM would like to know how the Commission plans to close the gender pay gap in the framework of the next Gender Equality Strategy and if it will include measures to take equal account of women and men's work.

The President elect of the Commission committed in her "Political Guidelines for the next Commission 2019 - 2024" to table actions to introduce binding pay transparency measures during the first 100 days of her mandate. FEMM would also like to get reassurance of this commitment and if it will imply a harmonization of the current wage transparency systems in Member States.

The oral question was adopted by 26 votes in favour to 4 votes against, with 2 abstentions.

Procedure: 2019/2870 (RSP)
Rapporteur: Evelyn Regner

Discussion in Plenary: December (TBC)

18 NOVEMBER

Violence against women in the Member States and best practices



On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2019, FEMM held a hearing devoted to analyse the state of play of violence against women (VAW) in the EU and to exchange best practices to combat it.

The event started with an overview of the international legal instruments in fighting VAW. It

continued with a session taking a closer look at specific cases of the Member States' actions fighting VAW. The hearing included the launch of EIGE's 'Guide to risk assessment and risk management of intimate partner violence against women for police'.

[Link](#) to the site of the event

MISSIONS

Joint ad hoc delegation to ICPD25 Nairobi Summit

A joint ad hoc delegation of 10 MEPs headed by Evelyn Regner (FEMM) and Norbert Neuser (DEVE) attended the Nairobi Summit from 12-14 November. The Summit marked the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo where the landmark Programme of Action was adopted. The Members took part in discussions on advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights, which are essential to achieving the SDGs by 2030. The delegation consisted of: Frances Fitzgerald (Ireland, EPP), Robert Biedron (Poland, S&D), Shaffak Mohammed (United Kingdom, RENEW), Chrysoula Zacharopoulou (France, RENEW), Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana (Germany, Greens/ALE), Virginie Joron (France, ID), Ryszard Czarnecki (Poland, ECR) and Eugenia Rodríguez Palop (Spain, GUE/NGL).

During the mission, members, jointly with representatives of the European Commission and the EU delegation to Kenya, issued a statement of solidarity with Kenyan civil society working on women's rights.

[Link to the Conference Website](#)
[Link to the statement](#)

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

FEMM Committee will meet again on 2, 4 and 5 December. At that time, we will deal, among others, with the following topics:

- The EU accession to the Istanbul Convention - Joint exchange of views LIBE-FEMM (02/12/2019);
- The EU Strategy for Gender Equality - Hearing (04/12/2019);
- Gender Equality Forum - Exchange of Views (05/12/2019);

- Gender Equality Index 2019 - Presentation by EIGE (05/12/2019);
- Discharge procedure 2018 (Commission and EIGE draft opinions) - Consideration of amendments (05/12/2019)

BULLETIN

EIGE

EIGE's risk assessment guide: protecting women from lethal violence



Ahead of the international day to eliminate violence against women, EIGE has published a risk assessment guide to help police prevent repeated acts of intimate partner violence and save lives. With proper training, and allocation of resources

where they are most needed, the guide can help police improve victim safety. The guide can also assist Member States with their reporting obligations under the Istanbul Convention, Victims' Rights Directive and EU protection order legislation. It offers a way to transform articles from these legal texts into concrete actions on the ground.

More information using [this link](#)

LAST STUDIES

[Briefing for the FEMM-DEVE ad hoc Delegation to Nairobi 12-14 November 2019](#)

[The Istanbul Convention: A tool to tackle violence against women and girls](#)