

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2020

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

In the last month of 2020, the Members of the FEMM committee have been very busy and continued their work on a variety of topics.

A highlight of December was our Gender Mainstreaming Network, whose members from all committees of the European Parliament joined us for an exchange on the current status quo in their committees as well as to discuss how to gender mainstream the budget. This important exchange will carry on in the next year and remains extremely valuable in our every day work.

In addition, FEMM worked closely together with LIBE, DEVE and AFET this month on combatting trafficking in human beings with LIBE and on the newly proposed Gender Action Plan III with DEVE and AFET. For the latter, Commissioner Urpilainen and High-Representative Borrell joined our meeting to discuss how to advance gender equality in the EU's external policies.

The topic of violence also remained important, not only with the aforementioned joint file with LIBE on combatting trafficking in human beings, but also combatting sexual child abuse online and intimate partner violence and custody rights. At the same time, our hearing on "Women's Rights Defenders (WRD)" highlighted the EU's role to combat the increasing attacks against WRD and women's rights.

For the coming weeks I wish you calm and happy days spent with your loved ones and stay safe!

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LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1 December

Council Directive 2000/78/EC in light of the UNCRPD - vote on opinion



On 1 December 2020, the FEMM Committee voted on the draft opinion on "Implementation of Council Directive 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation in light of the UNCRPD".

Women and girls with disabilities face multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination based on both gender and disability, including direct and indirect discrimination, discrimination by association, denial of reasonable accommodation and structural or systematic discrimination. The opinion addresses a series of recommendations with regards to various types of discrimination.

The opinion was adopted by 31 votes in favour to 1 vote against with 2 abstentions.

Procedure file: [2020/2086 \(INI\)](#)

FEMM Draftsperson: [Rosa Estaras Ferragut \(PPE\)](#)

EMPL Rapporteur: [Katrin Langensiepen \(Verts/ALE\)](#)

Combatting child sexual abuse online - Vote on opinion



On 1 December 2020, the FEMM Committee voted on the draft opinion on "Temporary derogation from certain provisions of Directive 2002/58/EC of the

European Parliament and of the Council as

regards the use of technologies by number-independent interpersonal communications service providers for the processing of personal and other data for the purpose of combating child sexual abuse online”.

Child sexual abuse is an extremely serious crime that has wide-ranging life-long consequences for victims. Converging data shows that more than 80% of the children depicted in pornographic material are girls under the age of 13, who also represent more than 90 % of the victims of sexual abuse online.

The opinion was adopted by 27 votes in favour to 4 votes against with 3 abstentions.

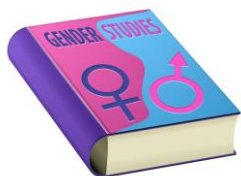
Procedure: [2020/0259 \(COD\)](#)

FEMM Drafsperson: [Christine Anderson \(ID\)](#)

LIBE Rapporteur: [Birgit Sippel \(S&D\)](#)

Gender Mainstreaming Network meeting - Exchange of views

The Gender Mainstreaming Network (GMN) of the European Parliament met on 1 December 2020. The GMN promotes gender mainstreaming in the work of Parliament's committees and delegations.



Committees and delegations have appointed Members responsible for gender mainstreaming who take part in regular meetings and share experiences and best practice in their fields of activity.

During the exchange of views, Members heard presentations about gender budgeting within the EU policies and about the updated action plan on gender mainstreaming of the Committee on Budgets. Members also discussed the implementation of gender actions plans and gender mainstreaming in all Committees of the European Parliament.

[Gender mainstreaming in the European Parliament](#)

Intimate partner violence and custody rights - Exchange of views



On 1 December 2020, the JURI and FEMM Committees held a first exchange of views on the upcoming own-initiative report "The impact of intimate partner violence and custody rights on women and children".

The exchange of views will feed into the preparation of the first phases of the report. The report would take into consideration the aspects of shared custody, implementation of the so-called parental alienation syndrome and economic violence. It would reflect on how to help prevent domestic abuse as joint custody and cooperative co-parenting are often unsafe for women who leave violent partners. Although certain legal protections are available, more work is needed to understand and address abused women's needs in this context and the impact of the situation on the children involved.

Procedure: [2019/2166\(INI\)](#)

JURI Rapporteur: [Luisa Regimenti \(ID\)](#)

FEMM Rapporteur: [Elena Kountoura \(GUE/NGL\)](#)

3 December

Joint DEVE - AFET - FEMM Discussion on the Gender Action Plan III

On Thursday, 3 December 2020, Members of three committees (Development, Foreign Affairs, Women's Rights) debated on the Gender Action Plan (GAP) III with Josep Borrell, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission and Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Partnerships.

The EU's new Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Action 2021-2025 (GAP III) aims to accelerate progress on empowering women and girls, and to safeguard gains made on gender equality during the 25

years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and its Platform for Action.

[More information on the Gender Action Plan III](#)

7 December

Trafficking in human beings - consideration of amendments



On 7 December 2020, the LIBE and FEMM Committees debated the amendments to the report on the

“Implementation of Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims”.

The motion for a resolution assesses the implementation of Directive 2011/36/EU. The draft report proposes to update the provisions of the Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) directive, including the establishment of specific measures for the prevention and prosecution of trafficking for sexual exploitation, addressing the use of online technologies in both the proliferation and the prevention of THB, improving measures for prevention and early identification of victims. It also recommends to strengthen the gender perspective across all forms of trafficking, as well as to ensure that Member States explicitly criminalise the use of all services that involve exploitation.

511 amendments have been tabled and more than 40 compromises proposed by the co-rapporteurs.

Procedure file: [2020/2029 \(INI\)](#)

LIBE Rapporteur: [Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar \(S&D\)](#)

FEMM Rapporteur: [Maria Soraya Rodriguez Ramos \(Renew\)](#)

Public Hearing on Women's Rights Defenders



On 7 December 2020, the FEMM Committee held a Public Hearing on “Women's Rights Defenders (WRD) - EU's role to combat the increasing attacks against WRD and women's rights”.

The hearing discussed the situation of Women's Rights Defenders by assessing the EU existing frameworks and instruments that protect Human Rights Defenders in order to ensure the inclusion of a gender perspective. The specific challenges and risks faced by Women's Rights Defenders were given due consideration.

[Programme and other details](#)

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The FEMM Committee will meet again on 11, 25 and 26 January 2021. During these meetings, we will deal with the following topics, among others:

- Vote on the LIBE-FEMM report on the “Implementation of Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims” 2020/2029(INI);
- Exchange of views with the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union;
- Public Hearing on “Gender aspects of precarious work”;
- Consideration of draft report on “Promoting gender equality in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and careers” (2019/2164(INI));
- Consideration of amendments to the draft report on “The situation of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the EU, in the frame of women's health” 2020/2215(INI).

POLICY DEPARTMENT



At the request of the FEMM Committee, the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs has commissioned

the following study:

[Precarious work from a gender and intersectionality perspective, and ways to combat it](#)

Further information:

Full list of Policy Department [Supporting Analyses](#)

BULLETIN

EIGE



The forthcoming report 'Gender inequalities in care and consequences for the labour market' is part of EIGE's work on monitoring the EU's progress towards its gender equality commitments under the Beijing Platform for Action. It was prepared at the request of the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The finalised report will be published on EIGE's website in January 2021.

[EIGE's website](#)

Twitter [@eurogender](#)

[EIGE's newsletter](#)

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