



**Statement by the Chair of the Delegation for relations with Moldova,
MEP Siegfried MURE AN,**

**on the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by the Parliament of the Republic
of Moldova**

Brussels, 19 October 2021 – *"I very much welcome the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention) by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova.*

The Istanbul Convention is the first legally-binding international instrument on preventing and combating violence against women and girls. It establishes a comprehensive framework of legal and policy measures for preventing such violence, supporting victims and punishing perpetrators.

Violence against women and girls is one of the most abject and pervasive form of human rights violations, and it is a tragic manifestation of gender inequality and systemic gender-based discrimination.

The ratification of the Istanbul Convention will substantially galvanise endeavours directed at combating such violence in Moldova. In addition, it will be instrumental in meeting targets under Moldova's nationalised Sustainable Development Goal 5: 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls'.

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right; it is also a necessary foundation for a more peaceful, prosperous and sustainable society.

This historical and decisive step taken by our Moldovan colleagues testifies to their commitment to uphold values that lie at the core of our Association Agreement."

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