



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Development

2011/2198(INI)

8.11.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

on women's situation in war
(2011/2198(INI))

Rapporteur(*): Catherine Grèze

(*): Procedure with associated committees - Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

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SUGGESTIONS

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

External assistance programmes

1. Calls on the EU's budgetary authority to increase the financial resources allocated for promoting gender equality and women's rights in the future Development Financing Instruments for the period 2014-2020;
2. Calls on the EU High Representative and the Commission to take the necessary measures to improve the complementarity and timely mobilisation of all financial instruments for EU external action, namely the European Development Fund, the Development Cooperation Instrument, the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights and the Instrument for Stability, in order to avoid fragmentation of the EU's response to women's situation in war;
3. Calls for special attention to gender mainstreaming in peace research, conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping operations, post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction and for a gender mainstreaming component in the Country Strategy Papers;
4. Calls for specific provisions ensuring additional protection to women against rape, forced prostitution and any other form of indecent assault, as well as particular care for expectant mothers and mothers of young children with regard to the provision of food, clothing, evacuation and transportation and medical facilities in order to avoid unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, as priority areas under the Development Financing Instrument for the period 2014-2020;
5. Strongly encourages the EEAS, the Commission and the Member States to incorporate development issues – in particular recognition of the right of mothers to receive protection and support and to care for and bring up their children, as well as women's health and economic security, with special attention being paid to the issue of property rights, particularly in relation to the ownership and farming of land – into their actions affecting women in conflict zones;
6. Calls on the Commission and the EEAS to examine the creation of a mechanism to provide for health and psychological support – that must always be run by women practitioners – to women who are victims of violations during times of war, in order to establish methods to gradually and smoothly reintegrate these women back into society by, for example, finding jobs and thus restoring social stability and cohesion;
7. Urges the EEAS to appoint a special envoy for the protection of women in conflict zones, with the task of seeing to it that all efforts of the EU's external action are coherent with this essential objective of respecting the rights of women; insists that this special envoy should additionally address gender identity and non-discrimination;

8. Welcomes the EU plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development and calls on the EU High Representative to take all necessary measures in order to provide adequate and effective training to EU delegation staff members regarding a gender-sensitive approach to peacekeeping, conflict prevention and peace building; asks the Commission and the Member States to ensure that adequate technical and financial assistance is provided in support of programmes enabling women to participate to the full in the conduct of peace negotiations and empowering women in civil society as a whole;
9. Welcomes the decision of the EU to adopt a list of 17 implementation indicators in order to evaluate the EU's own performance on gender issues in fragile, conflict and post-conflict countries; stresses that the indicators, that should also include qualitative measurements, need to be improved; calls on the Commission and EEAS to take into consideration the conclusions of this evaluation process during the programming and implementation phases;
10. Calls upon the Commission to examine the possibility of establishing rapid-response units composed of trained personnel (such as doctors, psychologists, sociologists, legal advisors etc) aimed at providing immediate and in situ support to the victims of gendered crimes;
11. Calls on the EEAS, in line with Article 9 of Council Decision 2010/427/EU of 26 July 2010, to ensure that the programming, implementation and monitoring of the country initiatives for promoting the gender perspective in pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict situations are managed at delegation level in order better to target the specificities of each context and the probability of an existing regional dimension;
12. Asks the Commission to support local civil society groups, particularly women's groups and those that have a gender sensitive agenda, through accessible funding and capacity building in order for them to be able to fulfil their role as a watchdog, especially in the context of failing states;

Protection of women from all forms of sexual and gender based violence; empowerment of women in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction

13. Stresses that, with a view to ensuring that EU action on gender issues in fragile, conflict and post-conflict countries has a positive and lasting impact, there should be a transfer of responsibility to local non-state actors, including women's organisations, who should be given a more prominent role;
14. Calls on the Commission and the EEAS to promote the involvement and participation of local women's organisations, including in the preparation and discussion of post-conflict negotiations and agreements;
15. Calls on the EU High Representative and the Commission to ensure that special consideration is given to women's organisations operating at local level in the planning arrangements and financial instruments for EU external action and that they are allocated sufficient funding to be able to play a prominent role in projects relating to the management of pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict situations, with due emphasis being placed on good practice regarding the establishment of workers' cooperatives and access to micro-credit;

16. Asks the EEAS to pay particular attention to the growing number of corrective rapes on LGBT women taking place in pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict situations;
17. Stresses that even if rape as a weapon of war has been used frequently worldwide, nevertheless in recent years it has become particularly dramatic in a number of African conflicts; calls for closer cooperation between the EU and the UN to strengthen prevention and mainstream women's role in LRRD programmes;
18. Highlights the crucial importance of ensuring that women are equal actors in processes of justice reform or transnational justice processes so that they can efficiently advocate the enforcement of equal rights in national judicial systems;
19. Calls upon the Commission, the EEAS and European Parliament delegations to find ways to promote the signature, ratification and implementation of the 1998 Rome Statute (for the International Criminal Court) by the developing countries that have not already done so, as a necessary step towards protecting women's sexual rights during times of war and averting the impunity of perpetrators;
20. Condemns hostage-taking and calls for stronger punishment of the use of human shields during conflicts;
21. Calls for women prisoners to be housed separately from men, in particular to avoid sexual abuse;
22. Underlines the importance of the right to know the fate of missing relatives and calls on the parties to armed conflicts to take all feasible measures to account for persons reported missing;
23. Points out that women, especially widows, separated women and orphans have difficulties returning home from refugee camps and owning land because of traditional stereotypes and because of the usual increase in land disputes after long conflicts; takes the view that the destruction of the fabric of societies brought about by conflicts should be seen as a chance to rebuild such societies in a way which guarantees women the right to own land as well as rights of political participation in general;
24. Suggests the appointment of a Standing Rapporteur in the European Parliament on gender equality and women's rights in the EU's external relations, who would also be responsible for gender identity and non-discrimination issues;

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	7.11.2011
Result of final vote	+: 24 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Thijs Berman, Leonidas Donskis, Charles Goerens, András Gyürk, Eva Joly, Franziska Keller, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Norbert Neuser, Birgit Schnieber-Jastram, Michèle Striffler, Alf Svensson, Patrice Tirolien, Ivo Vajgl, Anna Záborská
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Santiago Fisas Ayxela, Fiona Hall, Krzysztof Lisek, Isabella Lövin, Horst Schnellhardt, Giancarlo Scottà, Jan Zahradil
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Josefa Andrés Barea, Sophie Auconie, João Ferreira