

**Question for written answer E-000167/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Marietta Giannakou (PPE)**

Subject: Violence against women in Afghanistan

On 11 December 2012, the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) published a report entitled 'Still a Long Way to Go: Implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women in Afghanistan (EVAW)' concerning the implementation of the law to combat violence against women in Afghanistan. Despite adoption of legislative framework provisions in 2009, the results have been disappointing, with very little progress having been made, the number of cases actually coming to public attention representing merely the tip of the iceberg.

Cultural obstacles, inconsistent police procedures and the referral of such cases to local tribal councils are hampering the effective implementation of the EVAW law. Many female victims receive death threats and in certain cases they are unjustly condemned for desertion, even if it was the immediate result of abuse by their husbands.

The UNAMA report was prompted by the recent escalation of violence against women, in particular the death of Nadia Sediqqi, the acting head of Afghanistan's Women's Affairs Department in Laghman province in eastern Afghanistan. Sediqqi's predecessor, Hanifa Safi, had been killed five months previously. All recent evidence points to an increase in violence against women.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission intend to take immediate and effective action to prevent violence against women in Afghanistan?
2. Will it provide technical assistance for the implementation of the EVAW law in provincial courts, step up support for shelters providing care for abused women or use its funding mechanisms to bring pressure to bear on the Afghan authorities to implement the EVAW law more effectively?