

**Question for written answer E-004936/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Barbara Matera (PPE)

Subject: Violence against children in schools

Children are the most vulnerable population in the world, and girls especially face shockingly high rates of sexual harassment and assault, not only from classmates but also from male teachers. A 2010 UNICEF report on violence against children in West and Central Africa found that 46 % of Congolese schoolgirls had been victims of sexual abuse, harassment or violence at the hands of their teachers or other school administrative figures. The problem is not just in Africa, as the UNICEF study 'Violence against children in schools and educational settings' found that, for example, in Nepal, 18 % of sexual abusers of girls in school were teachers. The 2012 UN report 'Tackling Violence in Schools: a Global Perspective' notes that 'Violence in schools is one of the most significant factors contributing to the underrepresentation of girls in the educational setting'. This is one of the many reasons for which we need to ensure that every child around the globe not only has access to education but to safe and quality education. Children spend the majority of their time in school, so they should not fear violence in an educational setting, and school should be a safe zone.

What forms of protection at international level, such as through the European Development Fund, can the EU employ to assist its developing partners in ending violence against children in schools?

Europe has improved noticeably in this area, and moved away from corporal punishment and other forms of violence in schools. What plans are there to exchange good practices and data, specifically with developing countries, on the ways to protect children while they attend school?