



2019/2188(INI)

6.4.2020

DRAFT OPINION

for the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

On reducing inequalities with a special focus on in-work poverty
(2019/2188(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Vilija Blinkevičiūtė

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Notes that the gender pay gap in the 28 EU Member States stands at 15.7 %, that women are more affected by atypical and flexible contracts (zero-hour contracts, temporary work, part-time work, etc.) than men, and that women are more likely to experience poverty and fall into the category of the poorest workers as a result of these low-security contracts;
2. Notes that, following the global economic and financial crisis in 2008, in-work poverty in the EU increased from 8 % to 10 %, and that the current unprecedented global COVID-19 pandemic will have even greater economic and financial consequences, which will have a direct impact in terms of increasing poverty, especially among women and the other most vulnerable groups in society, as its effects will be felt most keenly by workers in the service sector, the self-employed, temporary and seasonal workers, etc., among whom a higher proportion are women;
3. Notes that, although poverty rates among women vary considerably from one Member State to another, the risk of poverty in the risk groups to which older women, single women and single mothers, homosexual, bisexual and transgender women and women with disabilities belong is the same;
4. Points out that, according to Eurostat, there are currently 64.6 million women and 57.6 million men living in poverty in the EU Member States, which shows that the impact of poverty on women and men is different;
5. Notes with concern that poverty among women increases with age, with the gender pension gap remaining at around 39 %;
6. Stresses that female poverty is a multifaceted problem directly influenced by unequal access to property, career breaks due to the raising and care of children, caring for sick and dependent persons, and segregation in education and, subsequently, in the labour market, which means that women account for the largest share of low-paid workers;
7. Calls on the Commission to come forward as soon as possible with proposals to close the gender pay gap.