

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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*Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs*

**2004/2220(INI)**

25.11.2005

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

on the current situation in combating violence against women and any future actions

Draftswoman: Edith Mastenbroek

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs 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:

- A. Whereas in the Commission Communication to the Council and the European Parliament, establishing for the period 2007-2013 a Framework Programme on Fundamental Rights and Justice (COM(2005)0122) fighting violence against women, children and young people plays a very important role, as part of the effort to create a real area of freedom, security and justice,
- B. Recalling that, as stated by the Vice-President of the European Commission, Mr. Franco Frattini, in his speech to the European Parliament on 21 June 2005, there is estimated to be at least 700-900 women who die each year from intimate partner violence in Europe and that even this number is considered to be underestimated,
  - 1 Urges Member States to define acts of female genital mutilation as an illegal act of violence against women, which constitutes a violation of their fundamental rights and a serious aggression against their physical integrity. Regardless of where or in which country this act occurs against EU citizens or residents, it remains illegal.
  2. Calls on these Member States to ensure that parents are held legally liable when such acts of genital mutilation occur on minors;
  3. Calls on the Member States to ensure that genital mutilation be considered a reasonable argument for an asylum claim in order to protect the asylum seeker from a inhumane treatment;
  4. Considers it of utmost importance that reliable statistics exist regarding women's reporting of brutal or inhumane treatment to the law enforcement authorities;
  5. Regrets that, as the aforementioned visits are usually left unrecorded when action is not taken by law enforcement authorities, the statistics remain untrustworthy and unreliable;
  6. Calls therefore on the Member States to ensure that all reports by women of brutal or inhumane treatment are recorded as well as the percentage of cases in which the law enforcement authorities undertook action and which types of action were used;
  7. Recalls that the burden of proof is often placed on women who are already in a disadvantaged situation;
  8. Calls on the Commission to establish a mechanism on the basis of which it would be possible to identify those Member States in which the situation of violence against women appears to be comparatively worse.

## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	Current situation in combating violence against women and any future actions
<b>Procedure number</b>	2004/2220(INI)
<b>Committee responsible</b>	FEMM
<b>Opinion by</b> Date announced in plenary	LIBE 18/11/2004
<b>Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary</b>	
<b>Drafts(wo)man</b> Date appointed	Edith Mastenbroek 21/02/2005
<b>Previous drafts(wo)man</b>	
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	14/11/2005
<b>Date adopted</b>	24/11/2005
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+ : [32] - : [0] 0 : [0]
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Edit Bauer, Mihael Brejc, Kathalijne Maria Buitenweg, Michael Cashman, Charlotte Cederschiöld, Carlos Coelho, Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Rosa Díez González, Kinga Gál, Patrick Gaubert, Adeline Hazan, Lívia Járóka, Ewa Klamt, Wolfgang Kreissl-Dörfler, Barbara Kudrycka, Stavros Lambrinidis, Sarah Ludford, Edith Mastenbroek, Martine Roure, Inger Segelström, Manfred Weber, Stefano Zappalà, Tatjana Ždanoka, Johannes Blokland, Giusto Catania
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Gérard Deprez, Genowefa Grabowska, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, Bill Newton Dunn, Herbert Reul, Marie-Line Reynaud
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>	Margaret Bowles, Othmar Karas
<b>Comments (available in one language only)</b>	