

"Violence against women"

Resolution adopted by the EPP WOMEN Congress of 11 November 2017 in Berlin

Having regard to:

- The values of the EPP, being based on liberty, justice, human rights, gender equality and democracy;
- Several congress resolutions of EPP Women in which violence against women and sexual harassment are addressed, and in particular the resolutions on “Women in Conflict Zones and Situations”, adopted in 2010 in The Hague and on “Migration and Integration: The Impact on Women” adopted in 2016 in Sofia;
- EU statistics, showing that one in three women has experienced sexual and/or physical violence during her life, and one in two women (55%) has experienced sexual harassment;
- The fact that the elimination of violence against women has been declared a priority of the European Commission for year 2017, and that it has launched campaigns in this respect across the EU;
- The fact that the United Nations has designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and 10 December as Day of Human Rights;

The EPP WOMEN, gathered in Berlin for its Annual Congress on 11 November 2017:

1. Recognizes that violence against women is a huge problem in our society, affecting a significant part of the European population;
2. Stresses that violence against women and sexual harassment should not be seen as a private issue of the victim, but as a common concern of society;
3. Urges all EU member states to sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention, May 2011)ⁱ, implying that these states are legally bound by its provisions;
4. Highlights that, due to the dimension of the problem, more actions are needed on the highest levels of decision-making to address this issue;
5. Calls on the EPPW national member organizations to organize a set of targeted events or campaigns in order to raise awareness about violence against women and sexual harassment and to encourage, as well as empower women to address these abuses;
6. Calls upon the EPPW national member organisations to build up an Action Plan on these issues to be implemented on local level on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the Day of Human Rights;
7. Calls upon all governments and EPP member parties to financially support these initiatives;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the EPP Political Assembly, the EPPW national member organisations and EPP member parties and to the EPP Group in the European Parliament.

ⁱ Thus far the Convention has been signed and ratified by Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Finland, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Turkey, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.