



My Body, My Rights:

PES Women calls on the European Union to implement the Spanish Presidency Initiatives in combating all forms of violence against women Declaration adopted by PES Women on 1st June 2010

On International Women's Day, PES Women dedicated 2010 to the overarching theme of the Women's right to conserve their body's integrity under the umbrella slogan '**My Body, My Rights**'. The campaign has been divided into three windows of action: firstly, a focus on sexual and reproductive health rights with a call for **universal maternal health** in the context of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, secondly, a recommendation to the European Commission in support of the Spanish Presidency in introducing specific measures on **combating violence against women** and finally, a mobilisation planned on **World AIDS Day**, to raise awareness on the vulnerability of women to the virus and underline the need of education to prevention and of care.

PES Women warmly welcomes and fully supports the initiatives undertaken during the first half of 2010 by the Spanish Presidency, which puts gender equality policy as a top priority, especially combating violence against women throughout Europe.

Gender –based/male violence is considered to be the major cause of death and invalidity of women aged 16 to 44, greater than cancer and road accidents. All forms (sexual, psychological and physical) of violence against women should be a criminal offence in all countries of the European Union and punished severely. Statistics have shown that one in three women will be a victim of violence during their lifetime and 10% will be victims of rape or attempted rape. These facts are totally unacceptable and each of us must act firmly to eradicate this problem.

That is why PES Women supports all efforts in combating gender-based violence through its annual campaign "My body, my rights" and calls on

- the Council with all Member States **to step up their commitment towards combating all forms of gender-based violence** including in the context of the crisis, **through concrete measures and legislation protecting women victims**.
- The Commission together with all Member States to commit to a clear timetable and a clear study on the current report of the **European Protection Order Directive** and ensure the best protection for all women in Europe. Moreover, we encourage adopting a broader approach in which the principles of freedom, solidarity, social inclusion and equal rights between women and men in the EU is respected according to article 3 of the Lisbon Treaty.
- Encourage the upcoming European Presidencies to achieve a European Protection Order Law.
- The **Council of Justice and Home Affairs to find a fair** agreement on 3 and 4 June in order to settle a **progressive solution** for an **efficient protection** for all women victims of gender-based violence throughout Europe.
- The Commission to ensure the **Observatory of violence against women - together with the European Gender Institute** or as part of it - to be fully



operational as soon as possible in order to develop studies and comparable data on this issue.

- The EU to introduce an **EU-wide free telephone number** (116 016) offering information and assistance to women victims of violence throughout Europe as proposed by the European Commission and supported by the Spanish Presidency.
- All decision-makers to ensure that the **Daphne Programme** suffers no budgetary cuts as a result of the crisis in order to guarantee continuous support to women victims.
- Creating a European Year on combating violence against women, as proposed in the Marc Tarabella Report “Equality between Women and Men in 2009”.

PES Women reiterate its support to all organizations, institutions involved in this fight and call on more awareness rising of the public on this issue to eventually stop violence against women in our society.

We will continue campaigning under the motto of **My Body, My Rights** in raising awareness regarding the issue of **women and AIDS**, as HIV is globally still the leading cause of death and disease of women of reproductive age. We will not allow fundamental values and rights to be put into question due to the consequences of the economic crisis.

