

## Persecution is not gender blind

Some women, because they are women, are forced to leave their country due to serious threats to their fundamental rights and freedoms.

### FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

*is a harmful traditional practice, which affects the health of women and girls with devastating and sometimes fatal consequences.*



European Women's Lobby

**The threat of this practice should constitute a legitimate cause for women seeking asylum in any of the European Union Member States**

**You can help to make this happen...**

*In cooperation with the Heinrich Böll Foundation*

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### RAPE AS A WEAPON OF WAR

*The systematic rape of women and girls in situations of war and armed conflict is used as a strategy of war.*



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### FORCED MARRIAGE, HONOUR KILLINGS, STONING TO DEATH FOR PRESUMED ADULTERY

*are carried out on the basis of traditional cultural practices denying women their rights as human beings.*



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### GUILTY BY ASSOCIATION

*Some women whose partners are detained or tortured cannot seek protection for themselves and their children on the grounds that they are not directly persecuted. Yet, their lives are gravely at risk.*



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All of the **EU Member States** have ratified the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Follow-up Protocol of 1967 which provide the legal basis for granting asylum.

However, 30 years later, the five reasons for persecution enumerated in the Convention are not evaluated to assess women's experience of persecution to include gender-specific acts. The issues raised in these cards are **examples of the type of gender-related forms of persecution experienced by women**.

Therefore, we demand that the European Union, mainstream gender into all asylum policies at all levels, recognise the specific forms of gender persecution as legitimate grounds for granting asylum in all of the EU Member States, and work towards a **European Policy on Asylum**.

NAME

Signature

Date

Nationality

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EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN  
ON WOMEN ASYLUM SEEKERS

**C/O European Women's Lobby**  
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