



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES

EMERGENCY MOTIONS

06/06/2013

EMERGENCY MOTIONS SUBMITTED TO EWL GENERAL ASSEMBLY Zagreb 1-2 June 2013

Motion 1: Urgent Need to Ensure Enabling Environment for the Operation of Civil Society and Women's Organizations in Turkey and Elsewhere

Organisation proposing the motion: European Women's Lobby, Coordination for Turkey

Organisations seconding the motion:

1. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
2. Czech Women's Lobby
3. Hungarian Women's Lobby
4. The International Alliance of Women
5. Lithuanian Women's Lobby
6. Spanish EWL coordination CELEM
7. Belgian Coordination NVR/CCFB
8. BPW Europe,
9. Luxembourgish Coordination for EWL
10. The National Women's Council of Ireland
11. Swedish Women's Lobby
12. The Federation of Romani and Traveller Women
13. The French Coordination for the European Women's Lobby

Text of the emergency motion:

Canan Arin, a prominent lawyer and an activist in Turkey is currently facing legal proceedings as a result of protesting early marriages through striking cases in a statement she made in a conference. Women's organisations and women human rights defenders (WHRDs) continue to face significant challenges, threats and pressure from governments, notwithstanding the vital role they play in promoting gender equality and women's rights. In the same token independent women's organizations such as VAKAD, İřtar, Umutiřığı, Kibele are under the threat of being closed and some members are detained without any concrete justifications. We are calling on EU governments and the Turkish government to ensure an enabling environment for freedom of association with non-discriminatory laws, regulations and implementations and that they act in a democratic manner to allow and support the work of civil society and WHRDs. We ask EWL to take action by making an urgent call to all EU member States and Candidate Countries by sending a letter of concern.

Political context:

A vibrant and independent civil society, women's organizations and WHRDs are most vital for instituting equal rights for all and for a stable democracy. On the other hand, the conditions under which they operate are mostly deteriorating and they increasingly face threats, challenges and legal restrictions in their countries that are mainly exerted by the governments. There is an urgent need to respect, protect and ensure right to freedom of association with transparent and non-discriminatory laws and regulations. The full realization of the right to peaceful assembly is an essential condition for enabling civil society. States must ensure that women rights organizations and WHRDs can perform their important role in the context of peaceful protests, in accordance with national legislation consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights law. In this regard, it must be ensured that no member of civil society and women's rights organizations is subject to



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excessive or indiscriminate use of force, arbitrary arrest or detention, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Motion 2: Urgent Call for Solidarity and Support in Ensuring that Ireland first abortion legislation is accessible and practical for women and that it provides for the full decriminalisation of abortion

Organisation proposing the motion: National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCi)

Organisations seconding the motion:

1. European Network of Migrant Women.
2. International Alliance of Women (Greece)
3. CELEM
4. BPW Europe
5. UKJCW
6. Cyprus Women's Lobby
7. Hungarian Women's Lobby,
8. EWL Turkey Coordination ,
9. Estonian Women's Association Roundtable

Text of the emergency motion:

Ireland's first draft abortion legislation, introduced in April 2013, aims to give effect to the existing constitutional right to an abortion in life threatening pregnancies including the risk of suicide. The draft legislation provides for the continued criminalisation of abortion with a maximum penalty of 14 years if a woman or doctor have an abortion in Ireland outside the very restrictive boundaries of the Bill. The procedures for obtaining and abortion in life threatening pregnancies are onerous, inaccessible and will be totally unworkable for women in Ireland. We call on the EWL and its members to put pressure on the Irish government to make the necessary changes to the draft legislation to provide for the full decriminalisation of abortion and to ensure that this legislation is accessible and practicable for women as required by the European Court of Justice in the A, B and C case (2010).

Political context:

Women in Ireland have a constitutional right to an abortion in life threatening pregnancies including the risk of suicide. There has been inaction in legislating for this right for over 21 years. The current government has been forced to comply with the judgement of the European Court of Human Rights in the A, B and C v Ireland case and coupled with the international and national pressure that the Savita Halapanavar case brought it introduced draft legislation in April. However due to intense pressure on political representatives from a minority of people who are anti-abortion in all circumstances, this legislation represents the lowest common denominator and women will still not be able to realise their constitutional right to an abortion if this legislation is passed. There is a real opportunity to change it but we need national and international pressure to achieve this



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Motion 3: Urgent Call for Solidarity and Support in ensuring that current Spanish abortion legislation doesn't experience a clear backward step

Organisation proposing the emergency motion: Spanish Coordinator for the European Women's Lobby (CELEM)

Organisations seconding the motion:

1. EWL Coordination for Turkey
2. Czech Women's Lobby
3. Cyprus Women's Lobby
4. Women's Network Croatia
5. National Women's Council of Ireland
6. Women's Council Denmark
7. Coordination of Greek Women NGOS for the EWL

Text of the emergency motion:

The Spanish Coordinator for the European Women's Lobby (CELEM), ask for the EWL members signature to the next Statement, to send it to the Spanish Parliament and European Parliament Equality Commission, Spanish Government and European Commission. Moreover the EWL should write to all EU governments asking the same: "We support the Spanish associations in their request to Spanish government of not abrogate the current Organic Law 2/2010 on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy, which defends the right of women to choose their motherhood".

Political context:

The Spanish Government has proposed the revocation of the current abortion legislation based on time limits by a legislation much more restricted than the 85 law based on assumptions, in which women won't have the right to decide their maternity. The health professionals and other people will be who decide for them. Moreover, it will eliminate the possibility of terminating pregnancy when there is foetal malformation and "the alleged risk" to the mother's health will be regulated, making more difficulty and criminalizing the women's decision

Motion 4: Surrogacy motherhood –a global trade with women's bodies

Organisation proposing the motion: The Swedish Women's Lobby

Organisations seconding the motion:

1. Polish Women's Lobby
2. EWL Coordination for Turkey
3. Women's Lobby Slovenia
4. The French Coordination for the EWL
5. Netherlands Council of Women
6. Hungarian Women's Lobby

Text of the motion:

Surrogacy motherhood is a trade with women's bodies and children, as well as a threat to women's basic human rights and bodily integrity. An end needs to be put to the industry of surrogacy that reduces the female body to a container. We are calling on the members of the EWL General Assembly 2013 to oppose surrogacy motherhood and to declare our common support for the European Parliament resolution of 5 April 2011 on priorities and outline of a new EU policy framework to fight violence against women ([2010/2209\(INI\)](#)). The resolution adopted



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states that surrogacy is an exploitation of the woman's body and her reproductive organs. We urge the members of the EWL to take a collective stand against a legalization of surrogacy motherhood in the European countries. The rights of women and children, not the interest of the buyer, must be the focus for the issue of surrogacy motherhood.

Political context:

Discussions about surrogacy and its consequences for the surrogacy mother are relatively new. Most European countries do not have regulations or legislations on the issue. The Swedish Women's Lobby raises this emergency motion because we have noticed a trend within the discourse of surrogacy towards a dismantling of women's fundamental human rights. Across Europe, proposals for promoting and legalizing surrogacy motherhood are being put forward, a tendency that seems to have been accentuated in the last few months, for example in Belgium. Such voices heard in the debate often promote the interest of the buyers, whilst women's rights are negotiated, even though it is not a human right to have children. Instead, the rights of women and children must be at focus for the issue. The right to bodily integrity should not be open for negotiation by any form of contract. No matter the regulation or the nature of the contract, it still remains a trade with women's bodies and with children.

Motion 5: Women and Precarity

Organisation proposing the motion: The French coordination for the EWL (CLEF)

Organisations seconding the motion:

1. Women's Lobby Slovenia
2. Coordination of Greek Women's NGOs for the EWL
3. CELEM (Spanish Coordination)
4. Women's Network Croatia
5. EWL Coordination for Turkey

Text of the motion:

We, European feminists are very sensitive to structural reforms in the European Union that impact the situation of women, particularly women in Southern countries and we want show them our support. We demand equal representation of women in decision-making, financial empowerment and economic independence while fighting against stereotypes. We appeal to candidates in the 2014 European elections that our demands are taken and subsequently transcribed into law.

Political context:

The economic crisis that still affects Europe plunged the country into a recession which women are the first victims. In our patriarchal society, the economic situation of women is more vulnerable than men. Women are more affected by insecurity through involuntary part-time or non-skilled jobs. Facing the glass ceiling, they hardly reach positions of responsibility and the average difference in wages between women and men and 16.2% in the European Union. These multiple discrimination impact even more women at the time of retirement. And one in four women over age 75 live below the poverty line in the European Union. The austerity policies in the European Union (cut in social spending, pension reform ...) threatens the hard-won rights of women. States and the European Union must respond and implement policies of social cohesion which must pass through greater gender equality. We call on the future EU candidates for 2014 is that of a renewal for gender equality.