



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S  
**LOBBY**  
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES



European Women's  
Lobby



@EuropeanWomen  
#EuropeanWomensVoice



[www.womenlobby.org](http://www.womenlobby.org)

## The European Women's Lobby explained to Members of the European Parliament

Gender equality is an essential part of democracy, social justice and human rights.

**Women and girls are half of Europe's population**, and are entitled to the same rights as men and boys. They are now present in all spheres of society, from education to employment, reaching political and business decision-making. They are more able than ever to bring their voice to the political debates and raise their concerns. Events, campaigns and conferences are taking place in different countries, giving life to a **renewed women's social movement**.

However, despite this optimistic picture, equality between women and men is **far from being a reality** and women's rights are facing a **stronger backlash than ever**. In all areas of society and life, women still face discrimination, inequality, violence and insecurity.

The EU has a role to play to promote gender equality, end violations of women's human rights, and mainstream women's rights in all its work.

### In the European Union...

#### The reality

Women account for only **24%** of people that we hear and read about in the news

Out of 10, only **1** woman has been an **EU Special Representative** appointed in troubled areas of the world

Women are less than **40%** of the teachers in tertiary education

Women are **17%** in high-level positions dealing with **energy in national ministries**

**1 in 10** women in Europe does not have **access to care** in the first months of pregnancy

#### The commitments

**Treaty of the EU article 2**  
Equality between women and men is a value of the EU and the EU Member States

**Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU, article 23**  
Equality between women and men must be ensured in all areas, including employment, work and pay

**Treaty of the EU, article 3**  
The EU shall promote equality between women and men

**Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, article 8**  
The EU will aim to eliminate inequality and promote equality between women and men

## WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY AND OUR MEMBERSHIP



The European Women's Lobby (EWL) is the **largest umbrella organisation of women's associations in the European Union**, working to promote women's rights and equality between women and men, and representing a total of more than 2000 organisations.

**We want to be the voice of the women's movement in Europe and its diversity:** our membership includes organisations representing migrant women, women with disabilities, Romani and traveler women, business women, farmer women... **Not one single girl or woman should be left behind!**

Acting as a forum for increased exchange, cooperation and integration, the EWL allows the women's organisations of Europe to **play an active role in shaping the European framework for gender equality and women's rights.**

## HOW THE EWL CAN HELP YOU IN YOUR DAILY WORK



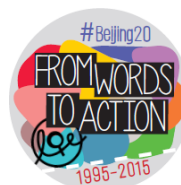
- Our vibrant membership represents the diversity of women and women's movement all over Europe. EWL members can give you **reliable information from the ground on the situation of women's and girls' rights** to feed into your parliamentary work.
- EWL members, supported by a Brussels-based Secretariat, work on a **wide range of topics** (socio-economic policies, violence against women, women in decision-making...) and can provide you with their **expertise** on these issues.
- Equality between women and men is everybody's business in every sector of society. Environment policies, taxation, EU budget... have an impact on the life of women and girls and gender equality. Based on their experience, **EWL members can equip you with the tools to apply women's rights and gender equality to every aspect of EU policies.**

## TAKE ACTION: add your footprint to European policies!



As Member of the European Parliament, you have the power to make a real difference for the rights of women and girls in the EU. If you also believe that women's rights are human rights and that gender equality values are instrumental to make change, **support us, contact us and above all, take action!**

- **Connect with the women's movement in your country:** contact our members. Meet them in your country. Invite them to Brussels as a group or as experts and speakers for events. The Brussels-based secretariat can help you to get in touch with our members in your country and in any other country.
- **Mainstream women's rights into your EP work:** for each report, opinion, hearing... make sure that the voice of women's organisations is included and that EP demands have an impact on women's lives and gender equality.
- Contribute to the annual report of FEMM on gender equality, and **support the work of the FEMM Committee**
- All term long, **ask questions to the EU Commissioners** on their commitment to gender equality and gender mainstreaming (Commissioners linked to your EP Committees and any other Commissioner on issues you are sensitive to)
- Use and promote **our publications: Beijing+20, Women's Watch** – they reflect and are built on our members' experience.
- Follow us on **social media** – they are an essential communication channel to promote equality between women and men. Your retweets, likes and reposts demonstrate your commitment to our shared struggle!



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