The European Women’s Lobby

Working together for women’s rights and gender equality in Europe

Pierrette Pape
EWL Acting Coordinator
The situation of women in Europe

- Members of the European Parliament: 35%
- Women in national parliaments: 22%
- Women in national government: 26%
- Feminisation of poverty: 26.9% (against 24%)
- 22% women poor over 65 years (16% for men)
- 16% average gender pay gap
- 39% average gender pension gap
- 63% employment rate – close to pre-crisis levels
- Two-thirds of women work part-time
- 1 in 3 women experience male violence (physical, sexual, psychological)
- 1/5 women experienced rape
- 7 women die every day from male domestic violence
- 9 out of 10 women in prostitution would like to exit prostitution but feel unable to do so
Why a European Women’s Lobby?

✓ No real equality between women and men
✓ Discrepancies of legislation and reality
✓ Need for women’s organisations to ally, share information, develop common action
✓ Women’s voice and advocacy at European level
✓ Together, we can make a change!
The voice of women in Europe

✓ The largest umbrella organisation of women’s associations in the EU

✓ National co-ordinations in 31 European countries and 20 Europe-wide member organisations (migrant women, women farmers, women lawyers, trade unions, etc.)

✓ Concentrating on European level, but activities range from local to international level

✓ Aim to promote women’s rights and gender equality in Europe
EWL membership
Working with...

- European Parliament
- European Commission
- Council of Ministers
- Advisory Bodies
- European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)
- Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)

- **NGOs**: Social Platform, European Civil Society Contact Group
EWL secretariat in Brussels

Celebrating the vote of the EP resolution on prostitution!
Women and decision-making

- Members of the European Parliament: 35%
- Women in national parliaments: 22%
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EWL 50/50 Campaign:
No modern democracy without parity

www.paritydemocracy.eu
EWL European Political Mentoring Network 2013-2014
Immigration, Integration and Asylum
Women’s Diversity, Anti-discrimination
Economic and Social Policy from a feminist perspective

- Women earn an average of 16% less than men
- Women’s pensions are on average 39% less than men’s
- Women are four times more likely than men to work part-time
- Almost a quarter of women are at-risk-of-poverty
EWL Actions on socio-economic policies

• Gender pay gap
• Women’s pensions
The impact of austerity measures on women’s rights and gender equality

New EWL video clip:
Violence against Women

- An estimated one in five women has been a victim of domestic violence
- 7 women die every day from male domestic violence
- 9 out of 10 women in prostitution would like to exit prostitution but feel unable to do so
EWL observatory on violence against women
MAKE MY YEAR!

Act now to end violence against women in Europe.

#EndVAAWinEurope

Act against Rape!
USE the Istanbul Convention!
HE WOULD HAVE SIGNED...

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

"THEY SAY THAT SLAVERY HAS DISAPPEARED FROM EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION. THAT IS INCORRECT. IT STILL EXISTS, BUT NOW IT WEIGHS ONLY ON WOMEN, AND IT IS CALLED PROSTITUTION."

Victor Hugo, 1862.

#Endprostitution
#brusselscall
Our work at international level
Women’s Watch 2012 - 2013

A feminist appraisal of the situation of women’s rights in 30 countries looking both at legislation and statistical data regarding:

✓ Women in decision-making
✓ Women’s economic independence and care responsibilities
✓ Violence against women and women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights
• A comprehensive framework to achieve gender equality
• Sustainable funding for gender equality
• Credible EU policies on gender equality at international level
• Women’s economic independence
• Parity democracy
• A caring society
• A Europe free from violence against women
• Diverse in equality

@EuropeanWomen #EP2014 #EuropeanWomensVoice
EWL action to mobilise voters

You care for her future? Vote in the 2014 European elections!

Why is it important to vote? The European Union is a key player in terms of democracy and social change. By voting at the European elections in May, you decide who represents YOU in the European Parliament. The candidates you choose are your supporters for the next five years. They define European politics, take on the present and shape the future of women and girls, men and boys in Europe!

The outcome of the elections will also have an impact on the face of the new European Commission which has key lawmaking powers and can make proposals towards real change for people in Europe.

The European Union supports gender equality through legislative acts and support to national developments. European laws or directives call for equal treatment on the basis of sex and include equal pay for equal work, employment rights, an end to sexual harassment at work and to discrimination in goods and services. We now have tools for the protection of women victims of violence and more participation of women in decision-making is being discussed.

The European Commission has initiated legislation and research, and supported campaigns and activities at national level. The Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Committee of the European Parliament plays a key role by sending out strong messages which determine policies in Europe.

“For a Europe that promotes women’s rights, solidarity, dignity, respect and equality!”

On 25 May, I vote.

The European Women’s Lobby calls for a strong commitment to gender equality. Read our manifesto www.womenlobby.org @EuropeanWomen #EuropeanWomensVoice #EP2014
2014: Challenges ahead

- Impact of the crisis and austerity measures on women and on women’s organisations (funding)
- Weakening/disappearance of institutional mechanisms for gender equality and women’s rights
- Climate of conservatism and anti-feminism
- Impact of neoliberalism & consumer society on women’s representations, roles and stereotypes
- Backlash against women’s rights, especially Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

www.womenlobby.org

@Europeanwomen

Become a Friend of the EWL!