



Cover the reality of violence against women and girls.

Interested journalists are invited to contact:
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What

The European Women's Lobby, the largest umbrella organisation of women's associations in the European Union, is organising an international conference followed by a demonstration themed "**Loud and United to end violence against women and girls.**" Globally recognised feminist activist **Gloria Steinem** will give a final keynote speech, and invite participants to take to the streets of Brussels and march together.

When & Where

Thursday 8 June 2017
Brussels, Belgium

Conference: 14:00 City Hall, Grand Place 8, 1000 Brussels Entrance "l'escalier des Lions."
Demonstration: 17:00 Mont des Arts, Place de l'Albertine, 1000 Brussels (Facebook event : <https://www.facebook.com/events/1967859493432979/>)

Why

- 50 women are murdered in Europe every week by their partner or ex-partner.
- 1 in 3 women has experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15.
- Every second woman is confronted with one or more forms of sexual harassment.

Violence against women and girls has to stop

We resist and keep speaking up, loud and united with activists from Belgium and around Europe.

20 years of lobbying and campaigning

This year, the European Women's Lobby is marking the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the EWL Observatory on violence against women and girls. The Observatory is a unique structure that brings together more than 30 experts, professionals, women's rights defenders, and front-line NGOs activists, from all over Europe. On 8 June we want to give visibility to their tireless work and achievements at the forefront of the fight against VAWG.

Recent action by the European Union

On 11 May 2017, [the EU publicly declared its intention to sign and ratify the Istanbul Convention](#). The Istanbul Convention is the common name for a Council of Europe Convention from 2011 aiming at combatting violence against women and domestic violence. It addresses different forms of violence against women, through measures aimed at preventing violence, protecting victims, and prosecuting the perpetrators. It is the first legally binding treaty in Europe that criminalises different forms of violence against women. With this declaration, the EU sends the world a message about its commitment to fighting the violation of women's rights.

Agenda

14:00 Welcome words by **Edith Schratzberger-Vécsei**, President of the European Women's Lobby

HERstory of women's organisations in the fight to end violence against women

Moderated by Biljana Nastovska, EWL Observatory Expert, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Vanja Macanovic, EWL Observatory expert, Serbia

Jean-Ann Ndow, EWL Observatory expert, WAGGGS

Corazza Bildt, MEP, Sweden, FEMM Committee

Highlighting innovative initiatives of women's organisations

Sexual Violence Center Cork, Mary Crilly

Lilies of the street, Hanuka Lohrengel and Egle Plytnikaite

Maison des femmes, Céline Bonnaire, Director of the Kering Foundation

Women Tribunals, Valentina Andrašek

Stories of survivors of male violence

Moderated by Salome Mbugua, EWL Observatory Expert, European Network of Migrant Women

Fiona Broadfoot, founder of the Build a Girl Project, Survivor of sexual violence and prostitution

Alisha Watts, Survivor of Online Grooming

Monica Weissel Alvarez, Femmes survivantes, Survivor of intimate partner violence

Speaking Truth to Power: Exchange with key EU Decision makers on recent EU policy developments

Moderated by Maria Miguel Sierra, EWL Observatory Expert, Belgium

Ms Monika Ladmanova, Gender Equality Advisor to Věra Jourová, EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality

Ms Revault d'Allonnes-Bonnefoy, MEP, France, LIBE Committee

Ms Antonella Gatt, Chair of the Social Questions Working Party (Social Policy), Maltese Presidency of the EU

Mr Rait Kuuse Deputy Secretary General on Social Policy, Ministry of Social Protection, Estonia

Ms Marja Ruotanen, Council of Europe Director of Human Dignity and Equality

Hand-over of signatures of the "["Rise up against violence petition!"](#) to EU decision makers, Julia Krzyszkowska, Senior Campaigner WeMove.EU

Key-note speech by Gloria Steinem

Conclusions by **Iliana Balabanova-Stoicheva**, EWL Vice-president

16:30 Closing

The event is followed by a demonstration organised together with Belgian women's organisations ([Conseil des Femmes Francophones de Belgique](#), [Vrouwenraad](#) and [La Marche Mondiale des femmes](#))

17:00 Demonstration at Place de l'Albertine

All information on our website: www.womenlobby.org/Gloria-Steinem-in-Brussels-8-June-2017

Warm wishes,

Elvira

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For a feminist Europe

www.womenlobby.org