

Raising awareness of domestic violence

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Bucharest (Romania), 30/09/2022

Recognizing that:

1. Domestic violence is a violence or abuse committed against a person in the same domestic unit which can have many different forms from a physical, sexual, psychological to an economical one.
2. Overwhelmingly, the main victims of domestic violence world-wide are women. However, men, children, parents, or elderly can be affected as well.
3. This socially pathological phenomenon is targeted against human dignity and can have devastating effect on physical, psychical state and work performance.
4. Violent patterns of behavior are often transmitted transgenerationally to children since children often take on known roles from the family. Therefore, it causes severe harm to families and communities.
5. 1 in 3 women in the EU has experienced physical and/or sexual violence.¹ More than 1 in 5 women have suffered specifically domestic violence.²
6. The situation of victims of domestic violence world-wide was aggravated by social distancing and isolation during periods of COVID-related confinement.³
7. According to a recent Eurobarometer survey from March 2022, 77% of women in the EU think that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increase in physical and emotional violence against women in their own country.⁴
8. Following the same survey, 15% of women in the EU know of women in their circle of friends and family who have experienced domestic violence or abuse since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. In some countries (Greece, Romania, Croatia and Cyprus) the percentage rises up to 25%.⁵

Acknowledging that:

1. Matters related to domestic violence fall under the competence of national states. Nevertheless, it is important to draw attention to them also on the EU level.
2. Sensitive issues such as domestic violence often remain unreported. Only about a third of women who are physically or sexually abused by their partners contact the authorities. In addition, complaints are not systematically recorded, and the data is not easily comparable between EU countries.⁶
3. On 8 March 2022, the European Commission has launched new EU-wide proposal for a directive to combat violence against women and domestic violence.⁷
4. In 2022 €30.5 million from EU's Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values funding programme has been allocated for projects preventing and combatting violence against women and children.⁸
5. On 13 June 2017, the EU signed The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence known as an 'Istanbul Convention', signaling a will to tackle those issues. Although all Member states are signatories of this Convention, in some EU countries it remains unratified.⁹
6. YEPP and the EPP strongly stand for family and community including creation of safe space and healthy relationships within them.

YEPP Calls on:

1. Member States to allocate financial means for the establishment of shelters, emergency housing, and psycho-social counselling available to anyone who is in need to leave their home for protection.
2. Member States to create safe ways for victims to seek support by setting up emergency warning systems in accessible public places such as in medical facilities.



HEAD OFFICE
10 Rue du Commerce
1000 Brussels, Belgium
+32 2 285 41 63
yepp@epp.eu

3. The EU and Member states to facilitate easier reporting on the acts of domestic violence such as telephone help lines, online chats, accessible public places (as mentioned above), special mobile apps for the victims of domestic violence etc.
4. The EU and Member States to promote prevention in forms of campaigns at schools, raising awareness campaigns for public and assistance to families in order to mitigate this socially pathological phenomena.
5. Member States to assist national police forces and the judiciary with trainings regarding treatment of victims of sexual and domestic violence as well as to provide psychological counsellors and social workers in the shelters and emergency houses with necessary fundings.
6. The EU and Member States to coordinate up-to-date data collection on domestic violence.
7. The EU and Member States to put focus in awareness raising also in cases of new phenomena such as cyber violence, cyber-bullying, cyber-stalking, cyber-harassment as well as non-consensual sharing or manipulation of intimate material.