



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES

YOUNG FEMINIST SUMMER CAMP

AGORA

4-8 SEPTEMBER 2023
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Executive Summary.....	4
2. Introduction.....	5
3. Objectives.....	6
4. Programme Highlights	7
5. Key Takeaways and Results	13
6. Challenges and Lessons Learned.....	14
7. Next Steps.....	14
8. Conclusions.....	16
9. Acknowledgements.....	16





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AGORA Young Feminist Summer School is one of European Women's Lobby (EWL) flagship programmes that brings together young feminists from all over Europe to Brussels for a five-day gathering to discuss and explore feminism and learn from each other. It is open to young women aged between 18 and 30 who are keen to connect with other young feminists.

AGORA 2023 took place from 4-8 September 2023. The theme was Combating Violence Against Women and Girls. The objectives were to create a safe space for young feminist women to network and learn more about feminist topics. The dynamic and intense week was filled with various workshops and presentations by EWL. Key takeaways are the insightful discussions and the recommendations created by the AGORA participants.

During the AGORA Feminist Summer Camp, participants collectively established six key objectives for the week. These included strengthening European women's activism, fostering connections among diverse young feminists, and creating a creative platform for activism. The event also aimed to empower young feminist activists and explore the concepts of feminist leadership and power. Additionally, AGORA sought to enhance the European Women's Lobby's understanding of the interests, needs, and activities of young feminists, integrating them into future strategies.

Throughout the event, participants achieved significant milestones. They formed a robust network of feminists, embracing the diversity in nationality, gender identity, mobility, age, ethnicity, and knowledge among the group. AGORA provided a safe space for exchanging ideas, forging lasting connections, and building friendships. The program offered workshops and empowerment sessions that not only educated the participants on crucial topics like violence against women but also empowered them to take their activism to the next level. Meeting inspiring feminist leaders, including Barbara Hendricks and members of the European Parliament, motivated participants to envision their own potential as advocates for women's rights. Moreover, AGORA successfully extracted vital perspectives from young feminists, generating a valuable list of recommendations that will inform future strategies and advocacy efforts.

2. INTRODUCTION



AGORA, hosted by the European Women's Lobby (EWL), is an enriching five-day program designed to bring together young feminists from various corners of Europe. The event serves as a vibrant platform for young women aged 18 to 30 who are passionate about feminism, gender equality and women's rights. Through a participatory summer camp format, AGORA aims to foster connections, inspire and empower. It offers a unique space for skill-building, knowledge exchange and the exploration of feminist strategies and campaigns. The event is inclusive, embracing diversity and encouraging participation of women from marginalised groups. The participants are eager to connect with like-minded feminists, enhance advocacy skills and actively contribute to advancing women's rights.

This Report invites you to embark on a vibrant journey into the essence of EWL AGORA 2023. It's a window into the lively tapestry of our event, offering you a first-hand experience of its diverse and dynamic elements. From engaging sessions to insightful discussions, AGORA 2023 was a celebration of knowledge, collaboration, and progress. Let this report be your guide, painting a vivid picture of the energy and enthusiasm that defined our time together.

Throughout this report, we will delve into the Key Takeaways and Results, distilling the essence of the event's impact and accomplishments. We will candidly address the Challenges and Lessons Learned, fostering a culture of continuous improvement. Additionally, we will outline the Next Steps, the path forward and the initiatives set to unfold in the wake of this event.

We close the Report with a reflection on the collective effort that made this event possible and express our optimism for the future

The EWL leadership, the President and the Executive Committee, played a pivotal role in shaping and participating in this exceptional gathering. The success of this event was supported via a widespread collaboration between the EWL Hubs and two facilitators from the EWL Membership, gently guiding the participants through this exiting week.

3. OBJECTIVES

This section serves as a foundational compass, setting the stage for a thorough exploration of the proceedings. It encapsulates the event's core objectives, providing a clear roadmap for the reader.

2.1 ORGANISATIONAL LEVEL

Through a five-day participatory summer camp, we aim to create a space for young women to exchange, bridge gaps, inspire and be inspired, strengthen connections, reinforce skills and hear the voices of other young feminists. Our objective is to empower young feminist women in Europe to be activist leaders in a changing world by giving them a space to share experiences, knowledge and ideas. It shall “equip and empower young feminists with confidence, skills, experience and a network to become change-makers in their communities through the annual AGORA Summer Camp”.

More concretely, the EWL aims to:

- Revitalise and strengthen the engagement of young European women in activism;
- Unite diverse young feminists to exchange insights, foster connections, and share experiences;
- Establish an innovative platform for budding feminist change-makers to cultivate their activism;
- Foster unity, embolden emerging feminist leaders and collaborate internationally to enhance the inclusivity of feminism and magnify the influence of European feminist networks;
- Delve into the dimensions of feminist leadership and influence;
- Enhance the EWL's comprehension of the preferences, requirements, and undertakings of the youth.

2.2 THEMATIC LEVEL

The central theme of the 2023 AGORA was addressing Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG). More specifically, the program was meticulously crafted to focus on the theme of "Channelling resources and advocating to end VAWG in Europe." The young women participated in AGORA to develop expertise on current issues related to VAWG, gender equality and women's rights in Europe and the world, as well as enhance their participation in social, cultural and political exchanges on issues of VAWG.

Break down of Key Objectives:

- **Attainment of Profound Expertise:** Empower you to acquire comprehensive knowledge and insights concerning contemporary topics encompassing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), gender equality and women's rights, both within Europe and across the global landscape.
- **Resource Building:** Gather valuable tools and materials that empower young feminists to navigate challenges effectively.
- **Skills Reinforcement:** Strengthen existing skills and develop new ones, enabling young feminists to make a more substantial impact.
- **Safe Space Creation:** Cultivate an environment where young feminists can freely express themselves, fostering openness and trust.
- **Knowledge Building:** Acquire insights and information that enhance understanding of feminist issues and strategies.

- **Networking:** Connect with a diverse array of fellow young feminists, expanding collaborative opportunities.
- **Exchanging:** Share experiences, ideas, and perspectives to create a rich tapestry of insights and learnings.
- **Empowering:** Foster a sense of confidence and agency among young feminists, empowering them to drive change.
- **Encouraging Activism and Engagement:** Motivate young feminists to take action and play an active role in advocacy and initiatives.

4. PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

The programme was carefully crafted to engage participants, allowing them the opportunity to collaboratively establish a secure and conducive learning environment. Participants were able to expand their expertise and insights into the European discourse on women's rights and violence against women. Additionally, the structure provided ample space for open discussions on pertinent subjects, enabling the formulation of impactful recommendations. Ultimately, the program culminated in fostering collaboration towards initiatives leading up to the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women.

In this section, we comprehensively explore the event, offering insights into the strategic framework that underpins the programme's thematic structure. Here, we introduce the daily titles and core session objectives, providing a clear roadmap for the unfolding proceedings. Moreover, we present a condensed summary of the event's key activities, with a special focus on sessions that left a lasting impact. By highlighting particularly engaging and influential segments, we aim to showcase the richness and significance of the event's content.

DAILY CHECK IN AND CHECK OUT

Each day started and ended with a collective check in and check out.

- **Check-in to Harvest the Needs and Connecting to Purpose:** At the beginning of each day, participants engaged in a check-in to foster connection and self-awareness, sharing their current thoughts and feelings. This practice helped set the tone and purpose for the upcoming discussions.
- **Check-out to Reflect and Be Mindful:** At the end of each day, a check-out activity encouraged participants to reflect on their learning, experiences, and takeaways. This mindful reflection provided closure and a sense of direction as participants left the session.

DAY 1: WELCOME AND COLLABORATION PRINCIPLES

- **Getting to Know Each Other:** The week commenced with an interactive session dedicated to fostering connections among participants. This served as an icebreaker, enabling everyone to introduce themselves and establish a sense of camaraderie.
- **Programme of the Week:** An overview of the week's itinerary was presented by Magdalena Kurz, outlining the scheduled activities, workshops, and discussions. This provided participants with a clear understanding of what to expect during the duration of the event.
- **Meeting Charter and Creating a Safe Space:** In the spirit of empowerment and inclusivity, AGORA hosted a dynamic session titled "Creating Safe Spaces." This session provided an open forum for participants to explore and discuss the vital elements that contribute to nurturing a safe and inclusive environment within the community.
- **Expectations and Objectives of the Week:** During this segment, participants shared their individual expectations and objectives for the week. This facilitated a mutual understanding of the collective goals and allowed for tailored adjustments to the program, if necessary.
- **Defining Core Topics and Young Women's Needs:** Through interactive sessions and discussions, core topics were identified that resonated with the needs of young women. This process helped in shaping the content of the event to align with the participants' interests and concerns.



DAY 2: POLICY DEBATE WITH EWL'S EXECUTIVE AND KEY NOTE SPEAKER BARBARA HENDRICKS

- **EWL Policy Priorities:** The President gave an overview of the EWL, its mission, values, priorities and the importance of engaging with young women. The EWL Executive Committee shared their experience as feminist and their path towards activism.
- **Barbara Hendricks Keynote Speech:** Barbara Hendricks, opera singer and UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, a prominent figure in feminist activism, graced AGORA with her wisdom and insights. Her session was an open invitation to young feminists to engage in an enlightening dialogue. EWL was honoured to have Barbara leading this interactive discussion.
- **VAWG:** This session presented by Irene Rosales, and aimed to illustrate the overall situation of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Europe and explore actions on the EU level that combat VAWG. Special focus was placed on tools like the Istanbul Convention and the Proposal for a Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence.
- **Parallel Workshop - Sexual Exploitation in Europe:** The workshop on sexual exploitation facilitated by the EWL President, Iliana Balabanova, allowed participants to: Understand the concepts of sexual exploitation, prostitution and human trafficking; Get the main facts and figures around these forms of violence; Get familiar with the EWL work on these topics; Demystify the concept of “choice” used by so-called pro “sex-work” activists.
- **Parallel Workshop - #HerNetHerRights - Online forms of violence against women and girls:** In this workshop, facilitated by Veronica Zaboia, we discovered the forms and effects of online violence against women and girls and how everything is connected to the overall continuum of male violence against women. We shared what the EU is trying to do to protect women and girls online and discuss participants’ experiences in the digital sphere.
- **Informal Leadership Drinks** During the informal dinner at the EWL office, we introduced the foreseen activities for the 2024 EU elections campaign. Prominent guest speakers, Members of the European Parliament Kira-Marie Peter-Hansen, Delara Burkhardt and Manon Aubry, and city councillor Ms. Mutyebele Ngoi used this informal setting to share their journey from activism to political offices.



DAY 3: EMPOWERMENT THROUGH PARTICIPANT-LED WORKSHOPS

- **Project and Best Practice Exchange - Empowerment Café - Central Theme of VAWG:** In the Empowerment Café, our very own AGORA participants led a series of interactive workshops centred on subtopics within the theme Violence Against Women. 3 parallel sessions occurred simultaneously, where the young feminists were able to circulate between 3 workshops throughout the morning. In a total of 9 workshops, our participants shared and learned about topics related to: preventing harassment/violence in universities, violence in relationships, role playing gender roles, online violence and how to mainstream women with disabilities into the feminist movement.
- **Plenary Feedback - Open Space - Follow up learning:** The insights generated during the Empowerment Café were instrumental in shaping the direction of our collective work. After a collective brainstorm, the ideas were refined to create actionable recommendations, formulated by the young feminists themselves. These valuable recommendations were shared with EWL Members after AGORA, contributing instrumentally in shaping our future endeavours.
- **Mentoring Projects:** The session on mentoring, facilitated by Magdalena Kurz, commenced with an overview of mentoring concepts, followed by an examination of success stories and mentoring projects frameworks. Subsequently, participants engaged in group discussions and later convened in plenary to share their recommendations. This comprehensive session provided valuable insights and strategies for effective mentoring for young women in Europe.



DAY 4: BECOMING ACTIVE AND FORMING OWN CAMPAIGN

- **Communication Workshop:** During the Communication Session, held by EWL Communication Coordinator Mirta Baselovic, the participants explored the essence of empowering change through campaigning for women’s rights. We delved into various aspects of campaigning, emphasising the unique approaches and methodologies. A particular focus was on the “16 Days of Activism” campaign, where participants engaged in group work, undertaking tasks to prepare for their own advocacy campaigns within the city of Brussels. The session was an empowering step towards igniting change and advancing the cause of women’s rights.
- **Young Women’s Voices - 16 Days Campaign Action Planning:** During the 16 Days Campaign Action Planning Session, facilitated by Irene Rosales, EWL shared their longstanding expertise on advocating for policies to combat violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Europe. The session kicked off by providing an overall situation on VAGW in Europe, and continued by exploring actions on the EU level that combat VAWG, with a particular focus on the Istanbul Convention, the current Proposal for a Directive on Combating Violence Against Women and Girls and Domestic Violence, and strategies for how AGORA participants could go back to the National Governments and Ministries of Justice of their home countries and advocate to influence them.
- **Social Program - RoSa Library Presentation and Tour:** As a part of the Social Programme, AGORA participants visited the feminist library, RoSa. As they entered the library’s welcoming atmosphere, the participants explored the rich categories of feminist literature. The visit also consisted of a presentation outlining the history of the library, its archival component and its curation of materials dedicated to feminism. The RoSa library left many participants inspired to connect to similar libraries in their countries, or start one if it does not yet exist.



DAY 5: REFLECTION AND LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

- **Alumni Network:** After the "AGORA HERSTORY" session, during which Magdalena Kurz guided the young feminists through AGORA experiences and recommendations from 2015-2019, participants engaged in a dynamic brainstorming and discussion focused on the Alumni Network and strategies for young women's engagement. This aimed to foster collaborative thinking and innovative ideas for the development and growth of the network.
- **Evaluation:** The evaluation session commenced with a retrospective glance at the initial expectation-setting session from the first day, completing a full circle of our journey together. Afterwards the young feminists were asked to participate in a "The Real Human Size 3D Evaluation", rating questions on a scale from 5 (very satisfied) to 1 (very unsatisfied) by standing near the corresponding number on the floor. This dynamic approach allowed a visual representation, followed by an enriching discussion.
- **Harvest and Certificates:** Each participant was encouraged to step forward and generously share one or two profound takeaways from their enriching five-day Agora journey, as they received their certificates and gracefully passed them on to their peers. This concluding evaluation and farewell was a deeply emotional moment, brimming with heartfelt expressions of gratitude.
- **Closing:** The meeting was closed by the EWL Secretary General Mary Collins via video message.



5. KEY TAKEAWAYS AND RESULTS

On the first day of AGORA, participants collectively discussed and agreed on a set of objectives for the week, which are summarized below:

- Reconnect and reinforce young European women's activism
- Bring together young feminists from different backgrounds and with different experiences, to learn from each other and create connections
- Set up a creative space for young feminist change agents to develop their activism
- Build solidarity, empower young feminist activists and work together across borders to make feminism more inclusive and amplify the voices of feminist networks in Europe
- Explore the concept of feminist leadership and power
- Enable the EWL to better understand the interests, needs and activities of young feminists in Europe and bring these more into the centre of EWL's future strategy and actions.

Based on the agreed upon objectives, the participants expressed these key takeaways from the week:

A Network of feminists: AGORA provided a unique space for our 40 young participants to network with other feminists across Europe. The strength in the group lied in the rich diversity between different nationalities, gender identities, levels of mobility, age, ethnicities, lived experiences and knowledge within the group. By setting up a safe space framework on the first day, the participants could exchange perspectives, discuss and learn from each other in a forum based on values of reciprocal respect, inclusivity and solidarity. The participants forged new friendships and connections from AGORA, and expressed that they now have a network of other feminist activists across Europe from which they can draw upon in the future in continuing to advocate for women's rights.

A space for young feminists to develop their activism: Not only did the program of AGORA offer a variety of workshops and lectures where the young women could learn more about key topics within the theme violence against women (such sexual exploitation and abuse, violence in relationships, online violence, sexual harassment, violence in universities, violence against minorities, etc.), it also offered learning spaces where the young women could develop their activism. A major takeaway from the week was the peer-to-peer learning sessions (Empowerment Café), where the women were inspired by real examples of activism shared in workshops led by their fellow participants. The young women were also invited to develop a communications campaign related to violence against women, where they brought their activism to the streets of Brussels to interview citizens, create social media content and more.

Exploring feminist leadership and power: Throughout the week, AGORA participants also had the unique opportunity to meet and discuss feminist leadership and power with some very inspiring women that have tirelessly spent their careers advocating for women's and human rights. This included our keynote speaker - activist, humanitarian and opera singer Barbara Hendricks, the Executive Committee of the European Women's Lobby, as well as three young, female members of the European Parliament and a female representative of the Brussels Council, during an EU Policy

Networking event. Meeting with these feminist role models directly and having the opportunities to ask questions and learn more, empowered AGORA participants to believe that they also have the skillsets in place to take on similar roles in their own communities.

Extracting the perspectives of young feminists in Europe: One of the main objectives for the EWL was to meet and interact directly with young women in Europe to better understand their interests, needs and activities. AGORA created a space for the young women to provide strong recommendations on topics that are closest to them, so that these could be shared with the 2000 members in the EWL network, and be brought directly into EWL's future strategy and advocacy work with and for young women.

6. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

In every event, challenges are bound to arise and AGORA was no exception. However, through meticulous planning and collective effort, we successfully navigated these hurdles, ensuring a seamless experience for all participants. Let's shed a light on the effective strategies employed to mitigate them and on the lessons learned.

AGORA 2023 provided a rich variety of sessions and formats, offering diverse and inspiring content. However, the program's intensity was palpable. The team worked diligently to adjust, ensuring discussions were well-paced and providing longer breaks when necessary. It is suggested to consider a less densely packed program in the future, allowing room for unplanned discussions and time for attendees to process and absorb the content.

In addition, the participants made a clear request for an expanded version of the "Empowerment Café," providing greater room for peer-to-peer learning and exchange. The peer-to-peer format was deemed by the participants as an especially valuable form of learning, as it empowered them to see how much activism, advocacy, knowledge and experience already lies with their peers.

The participants expressed a wish for increased informal spaces where they could network and build connections, as the program of the week, as previously mentioned was packed from morning to evening. Having more free time in the evenings or longer lunches could be a way to mitigate this density.

7. NEXT STEPS

As we move forward from the EWL AGORA Young Feminist Summer Camp 2023, it's crucial to outline the concrete actions that will drive our collective vision into reality. The following points detail the specific tasks and initiatives that will shape the path ahead, ensuring that the momentum generated during this event continues to propel us towards meaningful change. Let's embark on this journey together, committed to realising our shared goals for a more inclusive and empowered future.

Several dedicated young women volunteered to take charge of specific tasks, while the committed EWL staff also affirmed their support by outlining various next steps. This collaborative effort sets a promising foundation for the practical implementation of the discussed initiatives.

Online Platform Assessment by Klára Hlavačková (Deadline: 15 October): Klára Hlavačková will conduct an assessment of potential online platforms to ascertain their suitability for the Alumni network. This evaluation will encompass key factors such as user-friendliness, accessibility, and scalability.

Development of Survey on Relevant Topics Led by Ana Mafalda Azevedo: Ana Mafalda Azevedo will spearhead the creation of a comprehensive survey aimed at identifying the most pertinent and pressing topics of interest to members of the Alumni network. This survey will serve as a critical tool in tailoring the network's offerings to the specific needs and interests of its members.

Establishing Contact with Focal Points for EWL - Beatriz Penteado Rodrigues and Giulia Grandin: Beatriz Penteado Rodrigues and Giulia Grandin will take the lead in establishing and maintaining open lines of communication with the designated focal points at EWL. This ensures seamless coordination and mutual understanding between the Alumni network and EWL.

Creation of AGORA 2023 Mailing List: The EWL will take the initiative in setting up a dedicated mailing list for AGORA 2023 participants. This platform will serve as a means of communication, facilitating the dissemination of updates, information and opportunities pertaining to the Alumni network.

Outreach to Previous Alumni Networks: The EWL will proactively reach out to existing Alumni networks, seeking valuable insights and feedback through a structured contact survey. This outreach initiative aims to leverage the collective wisdom and experiences of previous networks, enriching the development of the new Alumni network.

EWL Newsletter: The EWL will share an invitation to participants of AGORA 2023, encouraging them to register for the EWL Newsletter. This step aims to enhance networking opportunities and empower participants to actively participate in EWL's events and initiatives.

Dissemination of AGORA Recommendations among EWL Members: The EWL will actively share the recommendations generated during AGORA 2023 with its broader membership base. This allows for the possibility that the valuable insights and proposals generated during the event are integrated into the broader discourse and advocacy efforts of the EWL.

EU Elections: The EWL is happy to share the digital versions of our [2024 EU Elections manifesto](#). After the dynamic exchanges during AGORA, the EWL would be delighted for participants to remain involved with the EWL, including for our 2024 EU elections campaign.

Social Media: The EWL invites participants to stay connected to through EWL social media channels including [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and the [website](#).

Evaluation survey: The EWL set up an evaluation survey, collecting the invaluable feedback of participants that will help improving the next AGORA. The completion of this anonymous survey will shape the direction of our future programme.

8. CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, the EWL AGORA Young Feminist Summer Camp 2023 proved to be a transformative and impactful gathering, bringing together a diverse group of young feminists from across Europe. It was a beautiful revival after a five-year pause.

The objectives set at the beginning of the week were not only met but exceeded, as participants reconnected and strengthened their activism, forged invaluable networks, and developed their skills as change agents. The exploration of feminist leadership and power, coupled with insightful discussions with seasoned advocates, left a lasting impression on all involved. Importantly, AGORA provided a crucial platform for the voices of young feminists to be heard and their perspectives integrated into EWL's future endeavours.

Moving forward, the outlined tasks and initiatives serve as a roadmap towards meaningful and lasting change. With dedicated feminists and the unwavering support of the EWL members and staff, we stand poised to make strides towards a more inclusive and empowered future for all. Together, we embark on this journey, united in our commitment to realizing our shared vision.



9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to express our deepest gratitude for the invaluable contributions to the EWL AGORA Young Feminist Summer School 2023 by diverse individuals, organisations, sponsors, and partners who contributed to the event's success.

We are deeply grateful for the involvement of the inspiring keynote speaker **Barbara Hendricks**, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador. Her time, expertise and passion for the cause of gender equality is overwhelming. Her presence greatly enriched the experience for all the participants. Her message that “feminism is not a noun; it’s a verb” resonated deeply with all participants, and served as a powerful reminder that feminism requires continuous effort and dedication. Barbara Hendricks’s wisdom and commitment to social justice was a wonderful example for all the young feminists.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the **Members of the European Parliament** who participated in the EWL informal gathering. Special thanks to Kira-Marie Peter-Hansen, Delara Burkhardt, Manon Aubry, and Ms. Mutyebele Ngoi for sharing their valuable contributions. Your presence and insights greatly enriched our discussions.

A great thank you to the **EWL Membership** for recognising the importance of bringing in younger and more diverse voices into its work, creating stronger links with young feminists, fostering an intergenerational dialogue allowing for mutual learning.

Thank you to the **EWL Executive Committee** for their presence at the relaunch of AGORA after five years. The captivating stories, expertise, and encouraging words shared by the EWL leadership made a profound impact on the young participants who gathered from all corners of Europe.

A warm thank you to the **EWL funders** for recognising the relevance of equipping and empowering young feminists with confidence, skills, experience and a network to become change-makers in their communities. Equally, their support to channel resources and advocate to stop VAWG in Europe is crucial to the European women’s movement.

The EWL wants to again express its gratitude for the warm welcome and lecture at the to the feminist “**RoSa library**”. The library’s dedication to feminism and gender equality resonated deeply with EWL Members and AGORA participants. We would like to thank them for their contributions to our programme, and we hope to find more opportunities to engage with the RoSa Library in the future.

Thanks to **Amazon** for hosting our Young Feminist Summer Camp. The support and kindness of the team was exceptional and allowed for the smooth implementation of the programme. The inviting venue and the charming courtyard undeniably played a pivotal role in establishing a secure and comforting atmosphere, essential for delving into the sensitive subject of Violence against Women.

Heartfelt thanks to our extraordinary **facilitators** who skilfully navigated the participants through an exceptionally diverse, intense, and exhilarating week. Their serene and reassuring kindness was unwavering, consistently placing the young feminists and their experiences at the forefront of our collective focus. Their guidance was invaluable and greatly appreciated.

A special thanks to **Lucie Havelange** whose photos captured the memorable moments and beautifully conveyed the spirit of empowerment and unity felt at AGORA. We look forward to sharing these treasured memories with the participants, and our wider EWL community.

A thank you goes out to the entire **EWL staff**, with special appreciation for the dedicated "**AGORA team**." Their tireless efforts and dedication were crucial in crafting a diverse and enriching week filled with lectures, workshops, trainings, and informal gatherings. This opportunity wouldn't have been possible without their hard work and commitment.

And finally, a heartfelt thank you goes out to all the **young feminist participants** for entrusting us with their stories and for their openness in connecting with complete strangers to forge a network. Your dedication and significant contributions to numerous discussions have been truly commendable. We appreciate your willingness to continue this important journey. Special thanks also go to the facilitators of the "Empowerment Café" for their pivotal role in this enriching experience.

The AGORA experience has left an indelible mark on the participant's journey as budding feminists but also shapes EWL as an organisation.



About the European Women's Lobby

Founded in 1990, the European Women's Lobby (EWL) is the largest European umbrella network of women's associations representing more than 2,000 organisations in the EU coming together to campaign for their common vision of a Feminist Europe. The EWL has members in 26 EU Member States, four Candidate Countries (Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Moldova, Turkey), Iceland and the United Kingdom, as well as 17 European-wide organisations representing the diversity of women and girls in Europe.

Together with our members, we aim to influence the general public and European Institutions in support of women's human rights and equality between women and men.

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**BRUSSELS,
DECEMBER 2023**

ANNEX

ANNEX 1: AGORA 2023 Programme

Where: Brussels

When: 4 – 8 September

MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER: WELCOME & COLLABORTATION PRINCIPLES

TIME	SESSION
13:30	MEETING POINT: Hotel Lobby (Late arrivals directly to the AGORA venue)
13:45	REGISTRATION OPEN
14:00	SESSION: WELCOME & COLLABORTATION PRINCIPLES <ul style="list-style-type: none">● GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER● PROGRAMME OF THE WEEK● MEETING CHARTER & CREATING A SAFE SPACE● EXPECTATIONS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE WEEK● DEFINING CORE TOPICS/ YOUNG WOMEN NEEDS
17:30	SESSION: HARVEST
19.30	DINNER AT AMAZONE Meeting point Hotel Lobby 19:15

TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER: EUROPEAN WOMEN MOVEMENT – POLICY DEBATE

TIME	SESSION
09.30 - 10.00	SESSION: MORNING CHECK IN Harvest & Check-in: Harvest of the Need & Connecting to Purpose
10.00 - 11.00	SESSION: EWL POLICY PRIORITIES WELCOME NOTE – Iliana Balabanova (President of the EWL) EXPERIENCE SHARING – EWL Executive Committee
11:00– 12:15	SESSION: GUEST SPEAKER: Barbara Hendricks
12:15	GROUP PICTURE
12.30 - 13.30	LUNCH
13 :30 – 14 :30	SESSION: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG) This session aims to illustrate the overall situation of violence against women and girls in Europe and explore actions on EU level that combat VAWG. Special focus will be on tools like the Istanbul Convention and the Proposal for a Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence.

15.00 – 16.30	<p>SESSION: PARALLEL WORKSHOPS</p> <p>1. Sexual Exploitation in Europe This workshop on sexual exploitation facilitated by the EWL President Iliana Balabanova will allow participants to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the concepts of sexual exploitation, prostitution and human trafficking; • Get the main facts and figures around these forms of violence; • Get familiar with the EWL work on these topics; • Demystify the concept of “choice” used by so-called pro “sex-work” activists. <p>The participants do not need to have prior knowledge on the topic to register for this workshop. However, they are kindly asked to bring a phone or a computer as interactive tools will be used during the session.</p> <p>2. #HerNetHerRights - Online forms of violence against women and girls In this workshop, we will discover the forms and effects of online violence against women and girls and how everything is connected to the overall continuum of male violence against women. We will share what the EU is trying to do to protect women and girls online and discuss participant’s experiences in the digital sphere.</p>
16.30 - 17.00	<p>SESSION: HARVEST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection sharing • Checkout
18:30	<p>Meeting point at Hotel Lobby - Common walk to EWL Office</p>
19.00	<p>DINNER & DRINKS EWL office, 18 Rue Hydraulique, 1210 Brussels Informal intro talk (EU elections)</p> <p>EWL will introduce the activities it foresees for the 2024 EU elections campaign. The evening will be an opportunity for participants to exchange in groups on their vision of political engagement while reflecting on standing for elections. These discussions will also enable participants to decide whether they wish to organise their own actions to support the EWL campaign.</p> <p>Considering that most participants do not have any experience running for office, as well as the informal nature of the evening, the discussions are envisioned as a broad exchange on the topic to share opinions and start sparking reflection. In particular, we aim to motivate the young women to be active in politics in general and see what causes drive them, what they would want from EU and why they would be active in EU elections.</p> <p>If their agenda allows, female politicians will be joining participants to exchange on their experiences.</p>

WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER: OPEN SPACE & MENTORING

TIME	SESSION
09.30 - 10.00	<p>SESSION: MORNING CHECK IN Harvest of Yesterday & Connecting to Today</p>
10.00 – 13 :00	<p>SESSION: PROJECT AND BEST PRACTICE EXCHANGE Open Space Empowerment Cafe: Participant-led in parallel working sessions,</p>

	<p>Central Theme: VAWG</p> <p>In the Empowerment Cafe, our very own AGORA participants will lead a series of interactive workshops centred around subtopics within the theme Violence Against Women. 3 parallel sessions will occur simultaneously, where you throughout the morning will be able to participate in a total of 3 workshops around topics related to: preventing harassment/violence in universities, violence in relationships, roleplaying, online violence and how to mainstream women with disabilities into the Feminist movement.</p>
13.00 - 14.00	LUNCH
14.00 - 15.00	<p>SESSION: PLENARY FEEDBACK</p> <p>Follow up learning on Empowerment CAFE Open Space</p>
15.00 - 17.30	<p>SESSION: YOUNG WOMEN MENTORIG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHAT IS MENTORING: Concepts of Mentoring • SUCCESS STORIES: Examples & Best Practise • FRAMEWORKS FOR MENTORING PROJECTS and STRUCTURES • GROUP DISUCSSION • PLENARY: Sharing - Recommendation
17.30 - 17.45	<p>SESSION: HARVEST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection sharing • Checkout
18:40	Meeting Point Hotel Lobby
19.00	DINNER at Super Fourchette

THURSDAY 7 September: COMMUNCIATION, STRUCTURE & PRACTICE + Pro-Action Cafe

TIME	SESSION
09.30 - 10.00	<p>SESSION: MORNING CHECK IN</p> <p>Harvest of Yesterday & Connecting to Today</p>
10.00 - 13:00	<p>COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP</p> <p>Briefing on different ways of campaigning and introduction into the 16 Days of Activism</p>
13.00 - 14.00	LUNCH
14.00 - 16.30	<p>YOUNG WOMENS VOICES - 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN ACTION PLANNING</p> <p>Group work on planning and development of actions and activities to support the campaign to end violence against women and girls</p>
16.30 – 17:00	SESSION: HARVEST (tbc)
17:30 – 18:30	The RoSa Library Tour “Feminist Library” (Meeting Point tbc)
19.00 - 23.00	DINNER , Wolf (Gift Cards)

FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER: HARVEST

TIME	SESSION
Before 10:00	Hotel Check out
10.00 - 10.30	Check-in
10.30 - 11.30	SESSION: ALUMNI NETWORK
11.30 - 12.30	SESSION: EVALUATION & REFLECTION Collective Recap of the Summer Camp: Central Question (What are key insights 'How can we foster a stronger and truly inclusive feminist leadership to ensure we work in solidarity to shift mind sets and transform power?')
12.30 - 13.00	SESSION: HARVEST <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reflection sharing● Checkout
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch & departures

Hotel:

Motel One Belgium Brussels
Rue Royale/Koningsstraat 120
1000 Bruxelles/Brussel

Conference Venue

Amazone vzw asbl
Rue du Méridien 10, 1210 Bruxelles

EWL Office

18 Rue Hydraulique, 1210 Brussels, Belgium

ANNEX 2: Safe Space and Meeting Charter Session notes

Empowering Voices at Agora: Creating Safe Spaces

Introduction

In the spirit of empowerment and inclusivity, AGORA hosted a dynamic session titled "Creating Safe Spaces." The session was led by the facilitator Jojo who provided an open forum for participants to explore and discuss the vital elements that contribute to nurturing a safe and inclusive environment within the community.

Session-Highlights

The session began with a warm welcome and emphasised that participants had the freedom to engage actively or passively, respecting individual choices. The Facilitator introduced the concept of safe spaces and encouraged participants to actively contribute to the collective understanding.

An insightful brainstorming activity took centre stage, where participants enthusiastically shared their thoughts on what constitutes a safe and inclusive space. The flipchart captured a mosaic of ideas and perspectives, revealing the multifaceted nature of safe spaces.

Following this interactive dialogue, participants were invited to reflect on the discussion. They pondered whether any crucial elements were overlooked or if any aspects should be excluded from the definition of safe spaces.

Throughout the session, the facilitator reiterated the importance of announcements, reaffirming the participants' autonomy to engage or disengage at any point, ensuring a truly inclusive environment.

The session concluded on a high note, with all participants, including facilitators, symbolically pledging their commitment to safe spaces by signing a dedicated poster. This act was a visual representation of the collective responsibility to create and maintain safe, inclusive spaces.

Key-Takeaways

The Safe Space Session at Agora proved to be a resounding success. It not only highlighted the importance of nurturing safe spaces within the community but also underscored the significance of empowerment through dialogue and active engagement.

Conclusion

The "Creating Safe Spaces" session was a testament to the power of collective dialogue and commitment. Participants left the session with a renewed dedication to promoting and respecting safe spaces within the community. It served as a poignant reminder that empowerment begins with each one of us and extends to all those around us.

ANNEX 3: Barbara Hendricks's Empowering Dialogue: “Catalysts for Change”

Introduction:

Barbara Hendricks, a prominent figure in feminist activism, shared her wisdom and insights. Her session was an open invitation to young feminists for an engaging and enlightening dialogue. EWL was honoured to have Barbara lead the discussion and trusted her to shape it as she saw fit.

Session-Highlights:

Barbara Hendricks encouraged participants to join her for an informal dialogue, sharing their experiences and posing questions. This candid conversation unfolded in front of the entire AGORA community, fostering a sense of collective learning. The dialogue covered various vital topics, notably focusing on feminist activism and the significance of mobilising for European elections. Barbara's messages resonated deeply with the audience and conveyed the following key takeaways:

- **Women's Leadership:** Barbara emphasised the transformative power of women's leadership, highlighting the immense difference it can make in society.
- **Not Born a Feminist:** She shared her personal journey, admitting that she wasn't born a feminist, underlining the importance of personal growth and evolution.
- **Empowerment:** Participants were encouraged to see themselves as the heroes of the next narrative, emphasizing the need for self-empowerment and the courage to script their stories.
- **Allergy to Inequality:** Barbara expressed her inherent aversion to inequality, inspiring participants to confront and challenge it wherever it exists.
- **Activism as Action:** Activism, Barbara argued, is not a mere label but an action – it means saying 'no' when needed, even in the smallest situations, all while keeping one's values intact.
- **Embracing Change:** Change, she reminded, often begins when one door closes, opening new opportunities and horizons.
- **Feminism Defined:** Barbara invited participants to reflect on their personal definitions of feminism, stressing its core as the pursuit of equal treatment.
- **Unity and Friendship:** She emphasised that men are not the enemy, nor are other women. Instead, women should be viewed as valuable resources and allies.
- **Joy of Life:** The session concluded on an optimistic note, celebrating the joy of being alive and looking forward to the future.

Conclusion:

Barbara Hendricks's session was a powerful reminder of the importance of feminist activism and women's leadership. Her words resonated deeply with the young feminists, leaving them inspired and motivated to continue their vital work. It was a testament to the enduring relevance of feminist principles and the need for collective action to drive positive change.

ANNEX 4: Combating violence against women and girls

With a steadfast commitment to combating violence against women and girls, this critical mission stands at the heart of EWL's core values and objectives. It is in this spirit that the overarching theme of AGORA 2023 has been carefully chosen. EWL takes pride in presenting a comprehensive overview to equip participants with a profound understanding of this paramount issue.



Overview of two sessions

TUESDAY

- Continuum of violence against women
- Overall situation : few key figures
- Policy actions to combat violence:
 - Istanbul Convention
 - EU Directive on VAWG (Ongoing!)
- Share thoughts and reflections

THURSDAY

- ⇒ Advocacy and comms tools
 - ⇒ Examples of VAWG c...
- ⇒ Develop comms materials on the EU Directive

Sexual Exploitation

Online violence against women

TRIGGER WARNING

It's Okay to Take a Break

Radical Self Care

Women's organisations driver for change to disrupt the continuum of VAWG



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9sm3vHsup0>

The continuum of violence against women and girls

From obvious violations of women's rights (femicide, physical violence, rape, commercialisation) to subtle forms of control over women's lives and sexuality, objectification and hypersexualisation of our bodies.

All forms of male VAWG have the **same goal**: to silence women, maintain them in a subordinate place, and to maintain hierarchical roles between women and men.

There is not a single area in any woman's life where she is not exposed to the **threat or reality** of acts of male violence.



'THE MECHANISM OF VIOLENCE IS WHAT DESTROYS WOMEN, CONTROLS WOMEN, DIMINISHES WOMEN AND KEEPS WOMEN IN THEIR SO-CALLED PLACE.'
EVE ENSLER, FOUNDER OF V-DAY

Figures and facts to give a slight overview



62 million

women in the EU have experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15.

End all forms of violence against women and girls.



43% of all women in the EU experience psychological violence by a partner since the age of 15.

End all forms of violence against women and girls.

Women with disabilities are more likely

40%

to be the victims of domestic violence than women without disabilities.

End all forms of violence against women and girls.



1 in 4

women in Europe over the age of 60 has experienced abuse or violence in the last 12 months.

End all forms of violence against women and girls.



Almost one in two women victims (47%) have never told anyone, whether that be the police, health services, a friend, neighbour or colleague. Disclosed violence is only a fraction of the reality.

Figures and facts to give a slight overview

FESTIVAL BAR PARTY

83% of young women (aged 16-29) in the EU avoid certain situations or places for fear of being physically or sexually assaulted.

EU Agency for Fundamental Rights
Crime, Safety and Victims' Rights (2021)



HOME OFFICE STREET

4 in 10 incidents of violence against women occur at home. **2 in 10** incidents occur in public. **1 in 10** incidents occur at work.

EU Agency for Fundamental Rights
Crime, Safety and Victims' Rights (2021)



PARTNER FRIEND RELATIVE

2 in 10 women in the EU have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or a friend. **3 in 10** by a relative or family member.

EU Agency for Fundamental Rights
Crime, Safety and Victims' Rights (2021)



Only **22% of women** in the EU who experience intimate partner violence report it to the police.

EU Agency for Fundamental Rights
Crime, Safety and Victims' Rights (2021)



44% of Europeans are not willing to intervene when witnessing intimate partner violence. **35%** would not call the police.

EU Agency for Fundamental Rights
Crime, Safety and Victims' Rights (2021)



Figures and facts to give a slight overview

1 in 2 women in the EU have experienced sexual harassment. **1 in 10 women** have experienced sexualised violence. **1 in 20 women** have been raped

EU Agency for Fundamental Rights
Violence Against Women: an EU-wide Survey (2014)



1 in 5 Europeans say that women make up or exaggerate claims of abuse or rape, and that violence against women is often provoked by the victim.

European Commission
Special Eurobarometer 449: Gender-based Violence (2016)

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ABUSE

Every second woman in the EU has experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15.



In Sweden, **4 in 5** women have experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15.

Every **7** minutes a woman is raped in France, that is **205** rapes each day.

Figures and facts to give a slight overview

No comparable info on femicide:



End all forms of violence against women and girls.

At least two women are killed every day in the EU by an intimate partner or family member.

European Institute for Gender Equality
Gender Equality Index Report 2022



UN data: It is estimated that 87,000 women worldwide are being killed each year just because they are women. Every 10 years the equivalent of a city the size of Marseille, Amsterdam or Zagreb disappears from the world.

Quiz on International instruments to end VAWG

1979

Let's bring them to chronological order:

Beijing Declaration and Platform for action 12 areas:
VAWG structural problem cause and consequence of gender inequalities

1992

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating VAW and DV, **Istanbul Convention**

CEDAW- Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women

MAPUTO Protocol
Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa

1995

CEDAW G **Recommendation 19 on VAW**

CEDAW G **Recommendation 35 on GBV**

Belém do Pará Convention
Inter-American Convention on VAW

1994
-
1995

SDG Target 5.2.1 |
Eliminate violence against women and girls

2003-
2005

2011
-
2014

2015

2017



Istanbul Convention



What is the Istanbul Convention about?
(2 of these statements are not completely accurate)

- 4Ps approach: Prevention, protection, prosecution, coordinated policies
- Recognises violence against women as a structural problem, human rights violation, cause and consequence of inequality
- Is a legally binding tool: signatories must transpose the text of the Convention in their legislation as a piece of law
[It is a legally binding instrument to the State Parties: while are periodically evaluated by GREVIO, but there are no sanctions for not compliance. Istanbul Convention can be used in jurisprudence and strategic litigation].
- It covers women victims of violence but also all victims of domestic violence
- It recognises the role of NGO's and women's organisations

Istanbul Convention



What is the Istanbul Convention about? (2 statements are not completely accurate)

- It provides standards for the definitions of the following crimes: psychological violence, physical violence, stalking, sexual violence (including rape), forced marriage, female genital mutilation, forced abortion and forced sterilisation, sexual harassment.
- It defines violence against women and girls that takes place in the online space [It covers violence that occurs in every sphere; but it doesn't provide specific definitions]
- It has provisions on support to victims: shelters, helplines, general and specialist support services, including rape crisis centers
- It establishes mechanisms for protection: risk assessment, risk management; barring orders and restraining orders.
- On custody rights: it forbids the perpetrator to have contact with the child of a victim [Not exactly, it asks to take into account incidents of violence when setting custody/visiting rights]

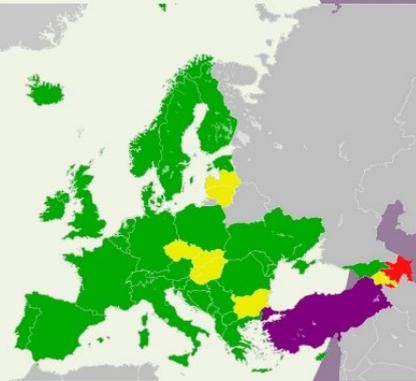
Istanbul Convention



Bulgaria
Czechia
Hungary
Latvia
Lithuania
Slovakia

Turkey withdrawal

To know more about the impact of the Istanbul Convention See here :
<https://www.womenlobby.org/Towards-a-Europe-free-from-male-violence-against-women-and-girls>



AT EU LEVEL



Would you remember what were in 2017 our main demands at EU level?

EU's accession to the Istanbul Convention **Achieved in 2023, Although it has been done only in two areas of exclusive competence of the EU**

EU Directive to end violence against women and girls **In negotiation!!!**

EU's Coordinator on violence against women and girls **In negotiation!!! (part of the European Parliament's proposal for a Directive)**



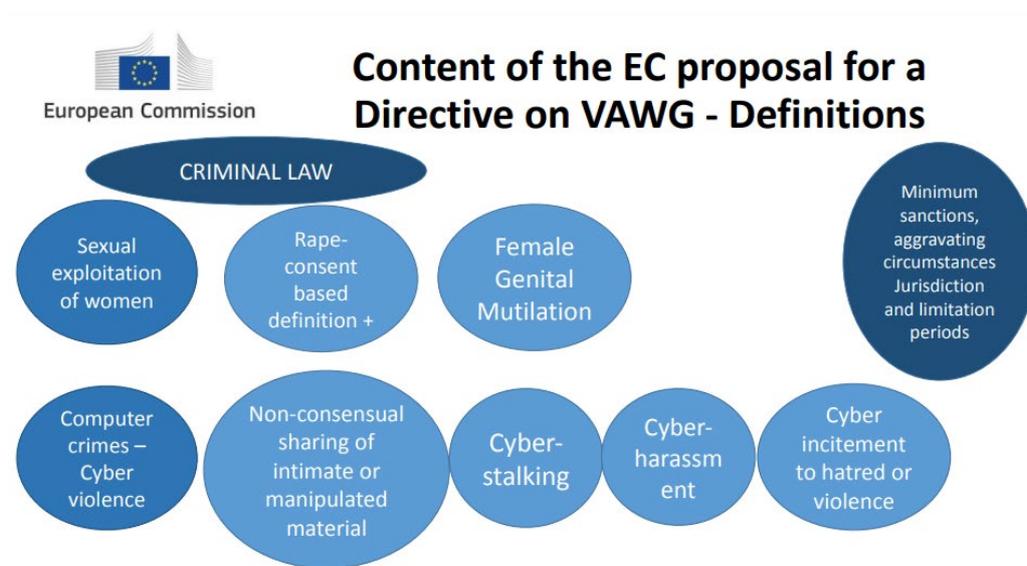
The EC proposal for a Directive on VAWG and DV

Why advocating for this Directive is so important (I):

The [EC Proposal](#) for a Directive on VAW and DV is an essential first step into the right direction and the EWL is advocating for its swift adoption and implementation. The proposal for a Directive combines:

- harmonisation of **criminal definitions on 6 forms of VAWG** e.g. **rape (based on lack of consent)**, FGM and four forms of cyberviolence: **Non-consensual sharing of intimate or manipulated material, cyberstalking, cyberharassment, and cyber-incitement to hatred.**
- A set of specific **minimum rules on victims protection, support and access to justice for all** victims of violence against women or domestic violence (as per national definitions and on top of Victim's rights Directive).
- Some aspects on **prevention and data collection** (administrative data - role of EIGE reinforced- and obligations to do periodic surveys)

More info on next slides.





Content of the EC proposal for a Directive on VAWG

European Commission

Strengthen victims' access to justice for all victims of VAWG and DV (On top of VRD)	
Rules on reporting VAWG (accessibility- residence status)	Online reporting mechanisms- Accessibility for children - Prohibiting transferring info on residence status on migration
Rules on investigation and prosecution	Expertise of units Prompt response and investigation Ex officio proceedings for rape cases
Individual risk assessment and protection and support needs of victims	Upon first contact of the victim – risk emanating from offender + further risk multiple discrimination On regular basis and protection measures assessed
Obligations for referral to appropriate support services	Support services contact victim for support, timely and coordinated manner, child victims
Emergency and barring protection orders	Against offenders and suspects- Breaches □ penalties
Protection of victims during criminal proceedings	During criminal investigation and court proceedings, enquiries on sexual conduct of victim are not permitted
Guidelines for law enforcement & judicial authorities	Remove materials online –orders to intermediary services



Content of the EC proposal for a Directive on VAWG

European Commission

Victim support to victims of VAWG and DV, and specific to rape and FGM victims (complementing Victims rights Directive, specific rights acknowledging specific needs/particularities)	
Specialist support services- Accessible and also considered essential services in times of crisis	
Rape crisis centers or sexual violence referrals	Support for victims of FGM
External Counselling services victims of sexual harassment at work- advise and legal remedies	
National helplines 24/7 free of charge; online- harmonised EU number	
Shelters or interim accommodation, shall address specific needs of women victims of DV and sexual violence+ children; regardless of residence status. Also essential services	
Protection to child victims and safe spaces of children visiting parent offenders	
Safeguards for victims with special needs	

The EC proposal for a Directive on VAWG and DV



Why advocating for this Directive is so important (II):

- This Directive will be a truly **binding instrument** - part of EU LAW:
 - Member states will have the obligation to transpose it into national legislation – a way of having to transpose the provisions of the Istanbul Convention if the text adopted in the Directive is as good.
 - European Commission can launch infringement procedures and sanctions
 - Court of Justice – MS to fulfill obligations under EU law
 - This Directive will be part of the Aquis Communautaire for accessing countries

- It opens up options for future other instruments on VAWG using same legal basis

The EC proposal for a Directive on VAWG and DV

Why advocating for this Directive is so important (II):

We can get it if we put our efforts on it!!

This time the Council of the EU has to proceed on a **majority basis**

VS the **unanimity** that was required at first for EU accession to Istanbul Convention (that lead to blockage for years)

VS the **unanimity** that will be required to get violence against women included in the list of Eurocrimes

Therefore:

- Putting now pressure at Member States Level for a qualified majority is 

Process for adopting the Directive on VAWG and DV



DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS- PROPOSAL WATERED DOWN

EWL Statement on Directive and rape article sent to 16 MS & others



MEMBER STATES – QUALIFIED MAJORITY

Ministers of Justice in charge in most cases

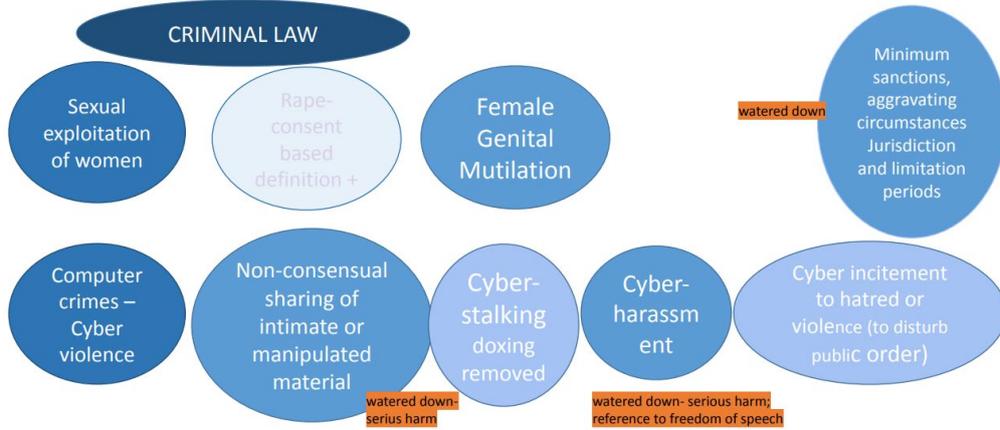
Technical discussions- COPEN (final meeting 17 May).

May: General Approach adopted (confirmed on 9 June):

There is back up for the Directive (enough majority) but it **waters down the proposal of EC**.

- **Article on rape ruled out!!** ⇒ Declaration of Belgium, Italy, Greece & Luxembourg
 - Articles on online VAWG reduced (serious harm reference and freedom of expression)
 - Less protection mechanisms (Member states shall be replaced by may/are encouraged),
 - No survey obligations - Less of a gender sensitive perspective
 - Remove reference to sex
 - Children witness not considered victims
 - Removes mention to sexual harassment; removes age of consent
 - Deletes some aggravating circumstances like: having committed suicide after an act of violence or use of drugs or alcohol over the victim

Content of the COUNCIL General Approach



European Parliament FEMM and LIBE

ENHANCED PROPOSAL COMPARED TO initial European Commission PROPOSAL

FEMM – Frances Fitzgerald, EPP, Ireland **LIBE- Evin Incir, S&D, Sweden**

December - Draft report of the two rapporteurs + EMPL+BUDG+DROI

January- Presentation of the report – a good piece as a starting point!!

30 January- Deadline for amendments (1400 amendments - many MEPs and rapporteurs took on board EWL proposals)

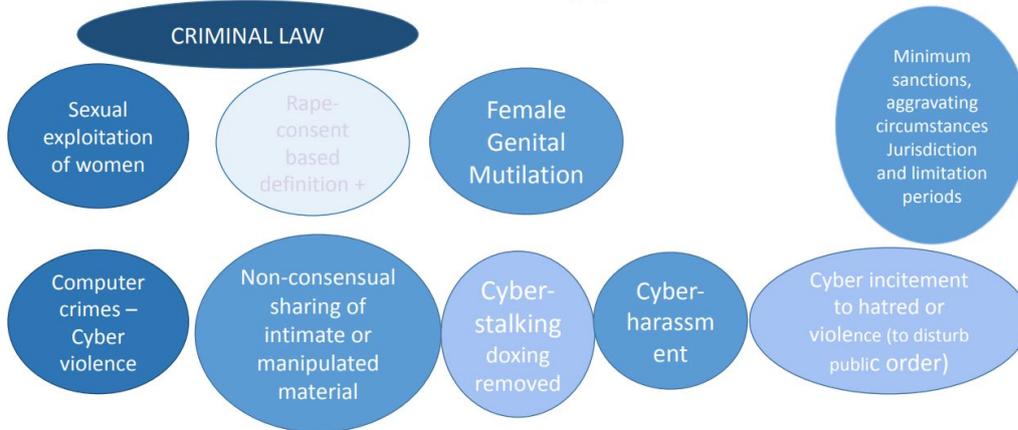
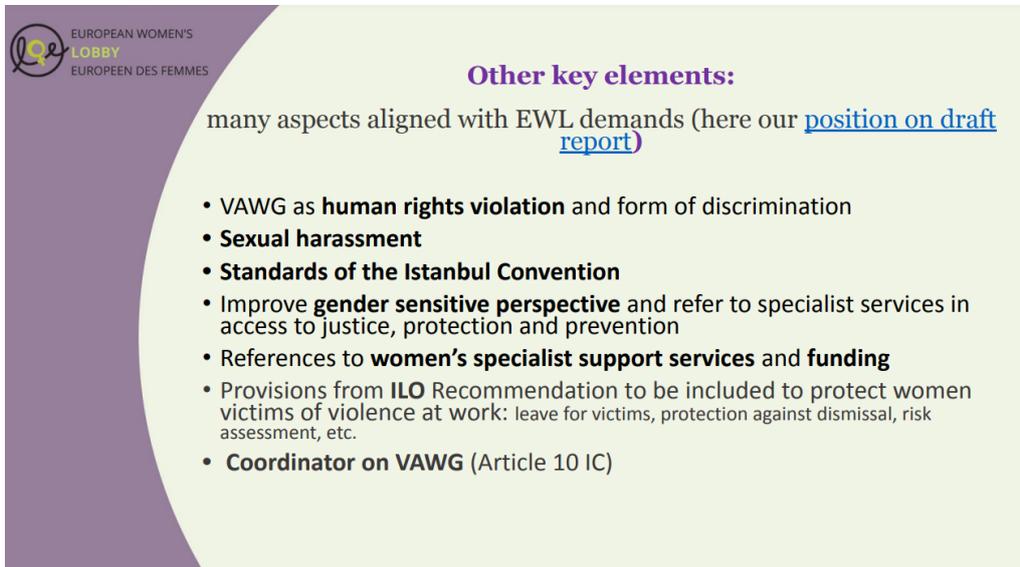
Working on compromise amendments for several months- Difficult negotiations

Vote on 28 June in LIBE and FEMM - successful

Adopted in Plenary in 13 July. [Here the text adopted](https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2022/0066(COD)&l=en)

[https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2022/0066\(COD\)&l=en](https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2022/0066(COD)&l=en)

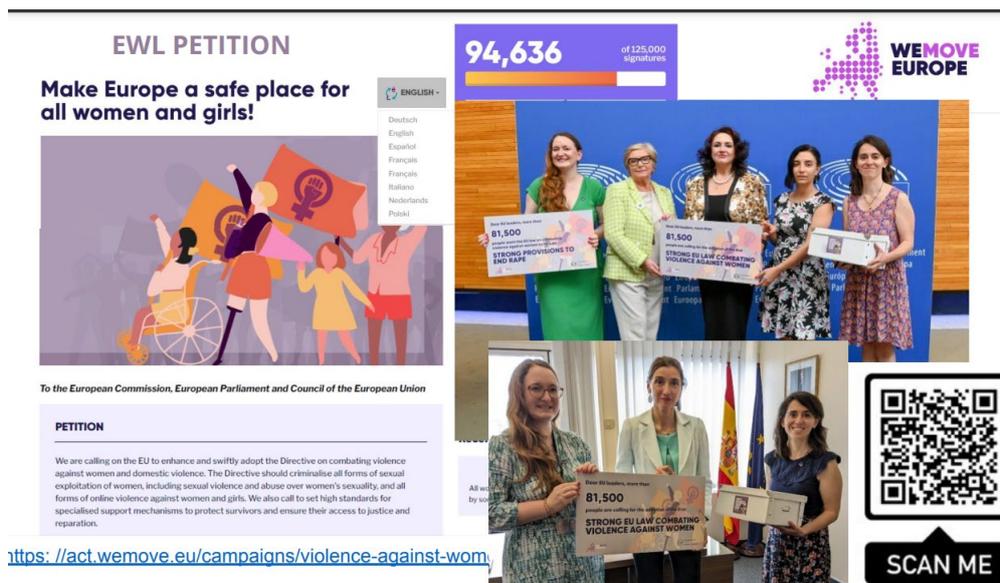
Content of the COUNCIL General Approach

Other key elements:

many aspects aligned with EWL demands (here our [position on draft report](#))

- VAWG as **human rights violation** and form of discrimination
- **Sexual harassment**
- **Standards of the Istanbul Convention**
- Improve **gender sensitive perspective** and refer to specialist services in access to justice, protection and prevention
- References to **women's specialist support services and funding**
- Provisions from **ILO Recommendation** to be included to protect women victims of violence at work: leave for victims, protection against dismissal, risk assessment, etc.
- **Coordinator on VAWG** (Article 10 IC)



EWL PETITION

Make Europe a safe place for all women and girls!

94,636 of 125,000 signatures

WEMOVE EUROPE

ENGLISH -

- Deutsch
- English
- Español
- Français
- Italiano
- Nederlands
- Polski

To the European Commission, European Parliament and Council of the European Union

PETITION

We are calling on the EU to enhance and swiftly adopt the Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence. The Directive should criminalise all forms of sexual exploitation of women, including sexual violence and abuse over women's sexuality, and all forms of online violence against women and girls. We also call to set high standards for specialised support mechanisms to protect survivors and ensure their access to justice and reparation.

<https://act.wemove.eu/campaigns/violence-against-wom>

81,500 people are calling for the adoption of the Directive on Combating Violence Against Women

STRONG EU LAW COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

SCAN ME

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES

Outline of actions MS level - TOWARDS TRIO NEGOTIATIONS

OBJECTIVES:

- More **Member States** become vocal in support of the Directive to be able to reach **POLITICAL AGREEMENT**
- GET The **MOST** Comprehensive and strategic **European Parliament** Resolution possible
Milestones: Successful votes in Committees and Plenary
- European Commission** willing to stand for their proposal and for enhancing
- More **Member States** are open to enhance the Council proposal during Trialogues
- More **Member States** become vocal in support of the article on rape based on consent; **Support Declaration**
- Spanish Presidency** on board to enhance the Directive proposal



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES

Outline of actions MS level - PARALLEL NEGOTIATIONS- TRIALOGUES

Council of the European Union

All that have been expressing support to the rape article – Possibility to support the Declaration

Croatia, Finland, Slovenia Spain and Belgium (Incoming Presidencies)

Countries that could become more vocal towards the Directive and the article on rape

Austria, Cyprus, **France**, **Germany**, Ireland, Netherlands and Portugal Sweden

All countries that have ratified the Istanbul Convention (except Poland)

Other initiatives on VAWG at the moment

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES



European Commission



European Parliament

- EC proposal for a revised Directive on Trafficking in human beings:
- EC Recommendations on harmful practices (postponed)
- EC proposal for a revised Directive on Victims' rights (postponed)
- EC Regulation Laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse
- Opinion on Revised Directive on THB – LIBE Committee- MEP Malin Bjork
- INI on Regulation of Prostitution – MEP Maria Noichil
- INI on sexual harassment in the EU and me too evaluation

This multifaceted presentation was complimented with a session on relevant tools for an awareness raising campaign.

ANNEX 5: Workshop on the forms of online violence against women

The first part of the workshop focused on how to recognise the forms of online violence against women.

After giving some concrete examples of online violence such as mob attacks, we highlighted how online violence affects women as physical violence and how widespread it is, especially among young women. With a small quiz we asked participants to link the correct definition to each type of cyber-crimes like the non-consensual sharing of intimate or manipulated material, cyber stalking, cyber harassment, online impersonation etc. Then, we describe how the EU Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence, currently under negotiations at EU level, recognizes some of these cyber-crimes (articles 7-10).

Subsequently, participants engaged in group discussions to share their experiences of cyber violence, including reflections on how they felt and how they reacted.

The second part of the workshop focused on how to prevent and how to react to it, outlining the legal framework at EU level and some examples of national law that recognizes some forms of online violence like the non-consensual sharing of intimate images. We also presented EWL work on the topic, mainly #HerNetHerRights report and its further developments. Finally we gave some tips to improve our routine for safety online.

We also reminded that the Internet is not only a place where we could be at risk, but also a community-building environment and an opportunity for feminist activism, like it has been for campaigns such as #MeToo, #TimesUp, #ImWithSanna.

Similarly to the offline world, the digital world should be a space of equality, justice, respect, rule of law, non-discrimination, freedom of expression and safety.

ANNEX 6: Combating sexual exploitation in Europe – figures, facts, challenges

Focusing on two forms of sexual exploitation: prostitution and human trafficking

Sexual exploitation covers a lot of acts since it covers all acts of "actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another" (WHO definition). The Workshop focused on two main forms of sexual exploitation that the EWL is actively combatting: a) Prostitution and b) Human trafficking for purpose of sexual exploitation

How can we define these two forms of violence?

With the Brussels Call, which is an initiative co-launched by the EWL, we defined prostitution as the outlined below. We voluntarily define it from the point of view of the so-called "sex-buyer" to highlight the coercion and inherent violence that is in prostitution and to put back the responsibilities on the shoulders of the person exploiting the precarity of the person in prostitution.

When it comes to human trafficking, you can see below the definition of the OSCE which also insists on the vulnerability of the person exploited as they define human trafficking as a process done with the intention to (in this case, sexually) exploit and involving linked actions such as recruitment, movement and maintenance of a person who is coerced or deceived into this situation, often because of its vulnerable position.

Definitions

- **Prostitution:** "The purchase of a sexual act which can be defined as intentionally soliciting, accepting or obtaining a sexual act from a person, in exchange for remuneration, the promise of remuneration, the provision of a benefit in kind or the promise of such a benefit" (Brussels Call).
- **Human trafficking:** "Human trafficking is a process done with the intention to (in this case, sexually) exploit and involving linked actions such as recruitment, movement and maintenance of a person who is coerced or deceived into this situation, often because of its vulnerable position (OSCE)".

[These are theoretical definitions but what does it mean in reality?](#)

Testimonies from victims and exploiters

To face the realities, we need to listen to survivors of human trafficking and prostitution and need to get rid of the narratives finding excuses to the exploiters. Before moving to testimonies from victims and exploiters a trigger warning is shared, due to the sensitivity of the content.

"My frame of reference when it comes to sex was disrupted from an early age due to grooming and sexual violence. I said yes to being assaulted and exploited, not because I wanted to but because it was the only thing I knew." SURVIVOR

"It wasn't until after the exploitation had stopped that I could look back and see the horrible situation I was in. When I was being exploited, I couldn't afford to do that. I needed to protect myself from realizing the misery I was forced to live in." SURVIVOR

"Thank god for whores, so I don't have to hurt or force someone I actually like." SEX BUYER

"I used to laugh and say that I'd like to sell sex. But in reality, it was a survival strategy to cope with all the traumatic memories. In fact, I wanted to end my own life." SURVIVOR

"I'll buy you for 20 dollars. You're fourteen, right?" PIMP

"Can you bring your dog so that he and my dog can fuck you together." PIMP

22% of sex buyers believe that once they pay they can do whatever they want. 25% of sex buyers express a normalized attitude towards rape.

68% of women in prostitution met the criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

*You can find the whole campaign of the Swedish Women's Lobby on the website of the Brussels'Call: brusselscall.eu

About German exploiters

- Not less than **55%** of German sex buyers admitted to having observed or paid a pimp or trafficker and **39%** of German sex buyers declared felt entitled to do whatever they wanted to a woman in prostitution after paying for her.
- *"There was one who really beat up one of his women. Really hard. With the first two or three times in the face and thrown her against the wall".*
- *"It's like having a cup of coffee, when you're done you throw it out."*
- *"It's like renting an organ for 10 minutes".*
- We also find advertisements in Germany that are totally disconnected of the concept of consent as they include sentences like *"Sex will all women as long as you want, as often as you want and the way you want".*

*Men who pay for sex in Germany and what they teach us about the failure of legal prostitution: a 6-country report on the sex trade from the perspective of the socially invisible 'freiers' By Melissa Farley, Inge Kleine, Kerstin Neuhaus, Yoanna McDowell, Silas Schütz, Saskia Nitschmann : <https://prostitutionresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Sex-buyersEnglish-11-8-2022.pdf>



Who are the persons in prostitution? Who are the exploiters?

- 90% of persons in prostitution are women and girls while 97% of sex buyers are men.
- It is crucial to underline women and girls because in Europe, 75% of women in prostitution are between 13 and 25 years old.
- It is a form of violence affecting disproportionately migrant women as they make up to an average of 70 to 80% of prostituted persons in European countries.

About migrant women: These are women coming from countries outside the EU like Nigeria and South America but we talk also about migration inside the EU as our latest publication shows that in Germany, only 20% of those in prostitution are of German nationality as the majority comes from Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary. It is a crucial point because it underlines how prostitution nourishes itself from poverty and precarity and on how the concept of choice can be questionable as economic alternatives are missing.

- 66% of Glasgow sex buyers were married or living with a partner. 50% of New Zealand sex buyers were married or partnered. More than half (56%) of the freiers we interviewed in Germany had a wife or girlfriend, a percentage that was comparable to UK (52%).
- Sex buyers are aware that women are prostituted as a result of economic coercion. Some of the German sex buyers [we] interviewed explained the overwhelming stress of poverty among prostituted women.
- Men often select specific women in prostitution on the basis of racial/ethnic stereotypes.

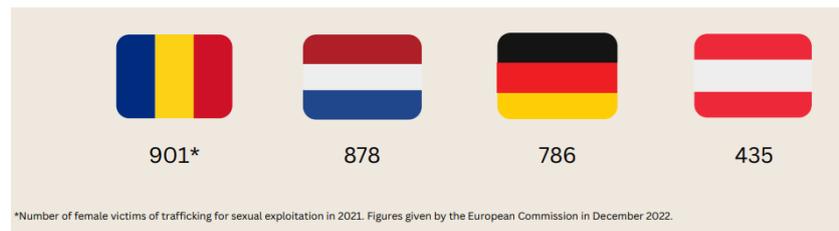
- A pimp earns in average 110 000 euros per year and per woman in prostitution.

Prostitution and human trafficking

51% of cases of trafficking in the EU are for sexual exploitation purposes. Women and girls are the main victims as they represent 87% of the persons trafficked for this particular purpose.

The European Commission recognises that among the high-risk sectors for sexual exploitation, as in previous years, we can find “prostitution, escort agencies as well as the pornography industry”.

We can notice that countries that have opposite legislations to the Equality Model rank on top positions as per the number of female victims of trafficking:



It is important to underline the direct link between prostitution and human trafficking because trafficking for sexual exploitation would not exist without the demand for prostituted women. Studies show clearly that: with legalisation of prostitution = international human trafficking inflows

In other words: The more visible and normalised the sex trade gets, the more opportunities there are for pimps and traffickers to expand their exploitation.

Current legislative opportunities at the European level

- **The update of the Anti-Trafficking Directive**

Currently, legislators are working on an update of the AT Directive that was launched in 2011. For the update, the proposal made by the European Commission does not include an abolitionist approach. However, the rapporteurs at the European Parliament want to include this abolitionist perspective by including an amendment "encouraging Member States to criminalise the purchase of sexual acts as a tool for preventing and combatting human trafficking" which is an amendment that we support.

- **The initiative report on prostitution**

There is also a non-binding instrument that will be voted at the European Parliament: the initiative report on prostitution drafted by MEP Noichl (S&D, Germany). This report is abolitionist and has very good and protective amendments for women in prostitution as it encourages Member States to adopt the Equality Model in their legislation.

How can you help?

- Contact MEPs from your countries and ask them to vote in the favour of the initiative report on prostitution
- Contact MEPs from your countries and ask them to include an abolitionist perspective in the AT Directive
- Share abolitionist materials on social media and tag MEPs

The EWL's work on these forms of violence

The EWL is very active on the abolitionist front. We are advocating for the so-called Equality Model (sometimes called Nordic Model)

Advocating for the Equality Model

- Legal model first introduced in Sweden in 1998
- Based on:
 1. The **decriminalisation of all those directly affected by prostitution**
 2. The development of **real alternatives and exit and support programmes** for those in prostitution
 3. The **criminalisation of pimping and trafficking**
 4. The **criminalisation of the purchase of a sexual act**
 5. The **recognition of the link between prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation**
 6. Policies of **prevention and education + promoting equality and positive sexuality**
- Currently implemented in **Sweden, Ireland, France, Norway, Israel.**



ANNEX 7: Empowerment Café notes

In the Empowerment Cafe, the AGORA participants lead a series of interactive workshops centred on subtopics within the theme Violence Against Women. Three parallel sessions occurred simultaneously, where throughout the morning one was able to participate in a total of nine workshops around topics related to: preventing harassment/violence in universities, violence in relationships, roleplaying, online violence and how to mainstream women with disabilities into the Feminist movement.

Session 1 10:00 – 11:00	Laura Boland	Tackling Sexual Violence on University Campuses
Session 1 10:00 – 11:00	Uzoamaka Asiegbu	Challenges women with disabilities face in Europe & How to Mainstream into the Feminist Movement
Session 1 10:00 – 11:00	Rita da Silva Lourenço	Gender-based Violence in Relationships
Session 2 11:00 – 12:00	Birta Honnudottir	Empowering Teenagers: Preventing Gender-Based Violence and Promoting Healthy Relationships
Session 2 11:00 – 12:00	Aikaterini Karyda	Cyber violence and the value of consent
Session 2 11:00 – 12:00	Markéta Brabcová	Consent -sexual harassment in firms/ universities, its forms and tools of prevention.
Session 3 12:00 – 13:00	Elsa Nogueira	Image Based Sexual Abuse with young people and Dating Violence
Session 3 12:00 – 13:00	Gloria Tarno Luque	Creating Anti-Harassment Protocols
Session 3 12:00 – 13:00	Sukaina El Outa	Step Forward on Gender session (Role-Play)

Key Takeaways from the sessions

Laura Boland - Tackling Sexual Violence on University campuses

In this workshop, we focused on the critical issue and responses to tackling sexual violence within university environments. The session encompassed three key areas:

- **Student Activism:** We delved into the vital role student activism plays in raising awareness, advocating for change, and creating safer spaces on campuses. Through case studies and interactive discussions, participants gained insights into effective strategies for mobilizing student communities.
- **Bystander Intervention and Fostering a Culture of Consent:** Participants learned about the power of bystander intervention in preventing and responding to incidents of sexual violence. We also explored the essential steps for cultivating a consent culture, promoting healthy relationships, and establishing clear boundaries within the campus community.
- **Current Approaches of Universities:** This segment provided an overview of the existing approaches and policies employed by universities to address sexual violence. We examined best practices, potential areas for improvement, and explored collaborative efforts between institutions, students, and advocacy groups.

Through a combination of interactive activities, case studies, and facilitated discussions, this workshop equipped participants with practical knowledge and actionable strategies to contribute to the creation of safer, more inclusive university environments. Together, we worked towards eradicating sexual violence from our campuses and fostering a culture of respect and support.

Uzoamaka Asiegbu - Challenges women with disabilities face in Europe & How to Mainstream into the Feminist Movement

In her Masters' study, Uzoamaka delved into the challenges faced by women with disabilities in Europe. The findings highlighted a significant gap in understanding and addressing the unique and exacerbated issues experienced by this demographic. For instance, in Poland, while non-disabled women were advocating for abortion rights, women with disabilities were grappling with societal stereotypes that rendered them as asexual beings, consequently marginalizing them from important discourses. Paradoxically, this portrayal of disabled bodies as asexual left disabled women vulnerable to abuse and fetishization by their non-disabled counterparts.

The objective of this session was to explore strategies for integrating them into the broader feminist movement on the continent, thereby fostering a more inclusive and intersectional approach to gender equality advocacy.

Some core topics

- Intersectional discrimination
- Lacking accessibilities for reporting
- Forced sterilisation

Rita da Silva Lourenço - Gender-based violence in dating

The workshop aimed to share insights on how violence can manifest in subtle ways. Rita emphasized that gender-based violence in relationships transcends the boundaries of domestic settings, occurring within personal relationships and those of acquaintances. The session created an environment that encouraged participants to engage in informal discussions and acquire knowledge in an interactive manner through testimonials and self-reflection.

Markéta Brabcová - How to be an active bystander (and a heroine!)

This workshop covered the crucial topics of consent, sexual harassment in firms and universities, and effective tools for prevention. Drawing from the presenter's expertise and research, she provided valuable insights into the various forms of sexual harassment and practical strategies for mitigating these issues within organizational settings. A key point of discussion was the bystander effect and following the Five D's (document, delegate, delay, distract, direct) to intervene.

Aikaterini Karyda - The Value of Consent

The workshop focused on the theme of cyber violence and the significance of consent within interpersonal relationships. It was pointed out that cyber violence has become a prevalent form of abuse, particularly affecting women and LGBTQ+ individuals. The workshop was designed to inform and educate participants about consent and facilitate discussions on how we talk about consent in

relationships. Additionally, interactive activities were incorporated to underscore the critical importance of consent in various aspects of everyday life.

Birta Honnudottir - Empowering Teenagers: Preventing Gender-Based Violence and Promoting Healthy Relationships

Drawing from her experience in online gendered violence prevention with teenagers, Brita took the lead in conducting a workshop on the subject. She explored the theme of "Empowering Teenagers: Preventing Gender-Based Violence and Promoting Healthy Relationships". The workshop aimed to delve into effective approaches for engaging with teenagers, including strategies to tackle the underlying causes of online violence and foster positive dynamics within relationships.

Sukaina El Outa - Step Forward on Gender session (Roleplay)

In this workshop participants were given various roles and encouraged to respond to scenarios based on their character. After the role play, the group shared common reflections about privilege and intersectionality.

Gloria Tarno Luque - Anti Harassment Protocols

The workshop focused on the creation of anti-harassment protocols, engaging the student community within campuses or universities in this endeavor. Additionally, participants worked on the development of communication activities within university classrooms. These activities aimed to encourage victims of sexual harassment to come forward and initiate the protocols that had been established for such incidents.

Elsa Nogueira - Image Based Sexual Abuse with young people and Dating Violence

The workshop provided an in-depth exploration of two critical topics: dating violence within intimate relationships and Image Based Sexual Abuse concerning young individuals. Delving into these subjects, participants gained comprehensive insights into the complexities and nuances surrounding these forms of abuse. The session aimed to equip attendees with a deeper understanding of the dynamics at play in intimate relationships and shed light on the prevalence of Image Based Sexual Abuse among young people. Through engaging discussions, case studies, and interactive activities, the workshop fostered an environment conducive to learning and reflection on these crucial societal issues.

ANNEX 8: Mentoring Session Notes

SUMMARY

The session on mentoring commenced with an overview of mentoring concepts, followed by an examination of success stories and mentoring projects frameworks. Subsequently, participants engaged in group discussions and later convened in plenary to share their recommendations. This comprehensive session provided valuable insights and strategies for effective mentoring.

WHAT IS MENTORING?

Mentoring is a developmental relationship between two individuals, typically referred to as the mentor and the mentee. In this dynamic, the mentor, who is usually more experienced and knowledgeable in a certain field or aspect of life, provides guidance, support, advice, and wisdom to the mentee. The aim of mentoring is to help the mentee grow personally, professionally, and academically by sharing insights, knowledge, skills, and perspectives gained through the mentor's own experiences. It's a beneficial exchange for both mentor and mentee, fostering development and learning.

CONCEPTS OF MENTORING?

One to one mentoring

One-to-one mentoring is a personalized relationship where a mentor guides and supports a single mentee, tailoring advice to their specific goals and challenges. It fosters deep learning and a strong mentor-mentee bond for impactful development.

Group Mentoring

Group mentoring involves a group of people in a mentoring relationship who meet together, in a structured way, for a defined length of time. Group mentoring is a mentoring approach where a mentor provides guidance, support, and expertise to a group of mentees collectively, rather than in one-on-one interactions. In this context, a mentor engages with a small group of individuals who share common goals, interests, or challenges. The mentor facilitates discussions, shares knowledge, offers advice, and fosters a collaborative learning environment within the group.

Peer to peer mentoring

Peer mentoring, is a form of mentoring where individuals with similar levels of experience or expertise support and guide each other's growth and development. In this context, peers, who may be colleagues, classmates, or individuals in the same field, engage in a mutual learning relationship. It encourages knowledge sharing, skill exchange, and collaborative problem-solving among peers. This approach is often valuable for building camaraderie, fostering a sense of community, and facilitating learning through relatable experiences.

Cyber Mentoring

E-mentoring or online mentoring is a mentoring relationship that takes place through digital platforms and communication tools. Mentors and mentees engage in mentoring interactions via email, video

calls, messaging apps, online forums, or other virtual channels. This approach offers the flexibility to connect and learn regardless of geographical locations and time zones.

SUCCESS STORIES

YWCA Mentoring

Case study from the Norwegian YWCA movement - National Board of YWCA-YMCA of Norway:

- Quota system ensuring 30% of board members are below 30 at the time of election
- Working group between President and Vice-President now includes one additional representative under the age of 26.
- Buddy system in preparation for Board meetings
- Young representatives at forefront of international meetings
- Intergenerational mentoring program

Austrian Young Women Mentoring

Austrian National Youth Council, «Genderize!» a mentoring programme for young women in the field of politics. The participants were young women («mentees») between 18 and 30 years of age, from various backgrounds and who share an interest in politics in a broad sense. The mentees accompany experienced working women («mentors») in the fields of politics, civil society and culture for a one year period.

WHY A FRAMEWORK OR STRUCTURE?

A clear structure gives a common frame to all participants, which provides formality and boundaries that work to complement what the mentoring relationships have to offer. Among the advantages of a shared framework programme are exchange, visibility and the opportunity to create momentum. It also allows for ongoing monitoring, structured evaluation and in a final step – improvement of future projects.

- Project Plan – Budget – Fundraising
- Call for Mentors (open call? Reach out?)
- Call for Mentees (Applications, screening, interviews if needed)
- Matching Process for Mentoring Couples (Define your matching parameters....Personality Profile, political views, Motivation, CV...location, availability)
- Conflict management: Allow for set up of supervision structures and conflict management tools throughout programme period.
- Launch event: Kick off meetings allows for the introduction of the framework programme/ team/ schedule, training for participants and “getting to know each other session; defining collaboration framework and signature of Mentoring Agreement; present past success stories, media event opportunity
- Mid-term evaluation: Monitoring moment, networking and exchange.
- Closing event: Conclusion, final evaluation, presentation of highlights and lessons learned and recommendations, media moment, certificate

- **Mentee Training:** creating peer structures that may compensate for not functioning mentoring couples – creating a common goal for the team for the programme period
- **Mentor Training:** Networking Moment, ensuring involvement, supporting relationship development

GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The Participants split into groups to discuss different topics as outlined below

- What kind of mentoring profiles and topics would you need to further develop as a feminist?
- Do you have any best practice mentoring concepts to share from your network?
- What would an EWL Mentoring training programme look like?

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Clear Structure and Formality:** Implement a structured framework that provides a common foundation for all participants, offering formality and boundaries that complement the mentoring relationships.
- **Comprehensive Skill Building:** Design the mentoring project to encompass both hard and soft skill development. This may involve providing leadership, confidence-building, career guidance, safe space creation, active listening, and advocacy training.
- **Incorporate Psychological Support:** Ensure that the mentoring project or framework allows for psychological support and includes planned mental health check-ins.
- **Establish Clear Goals and Objectives:** Implement a Mentoring Agreement or Charter that enables the setting of explicit goals and objectives for the mentoring relationship.
- **Mentee-Led Process:** Structure the mentoring project to be driven by the needs of young women, empowering them to take the lead.
- **Empower Both Mentor and Mentee:** Establish a framework that empowers the mentoring relationship as a two-way process, supporting the development of both the mentee and the mentor.
- **Topics of Focus:** Consider incorporating career mentoring and addressing the challenging dynamics between job commitments and volunteer activities for young activists.
- **Promote Appreciative Communication:** Foster an environment of appreciative, non-authoritarian communication between mentees and mentors. Hold regular mentor-led discussions to facilitate this.
- **Diverse Mentor Pool:** Aim for cross-sectorial and intersectional mentoring by ensuring the Mentors Pool reflects the diversity of EWL Members, providing mentees with a broad range of perspectives and experiences.
- **Diverse Mentoring Formats:** Include various mentoring formats or hybrid concepts (such as one-on-one, group, peer, and cyber mentoring) to cater to the different needs of Mentors and Mentees.
- **Consider Speed Dating Mentoring:** Explore the possibility of incorporating speed dating mentoring as an engaging and efficient way to facilitate mentor-mentee connections.
- **Organize Networking Events and Common Trainings:** Arrange events that facilitate networking between mentors and mentees, while also providing opportunities for common training sessions to enhance learning and development.

ANNEX 9: Alumni Session Notes

The participants were provided with a presentation encompassing a recap of the Agora's "Herstory," as well as previous reflections on the envisioned role, structure, and potential EWL engagement within an Alumni Network.

AGORA HERSTORY

Since launching the project in 2015, EWL has hosted four summer camps, bringing together a total of nearly 200 young women to Brussels for 5 days of learning and exchanging. In November 2019 EWL hosted a workshop on the EWL Young Women's Engagement Strategy for 29 participants including EWL Board Members, members of national coordinations and Europe-wide organisations, AGORA alumnae, EWL staff, as well as independent participants. The objective of the workshop was to review EWL's engagement with young women thus far and put forward suggestions for the ways in which the EWL can collectively and strategically work with and for young women.

PREVIOUS AGORA RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 2019 WORKSHOP

- Formation of an informal body of young women to ensure young women's participation in the development of the next EWL Strategy, and then later on creation of a more permanent structure within EWL for a sustainable engagement of young women;
- Data collection on young women's engagement at EWL for evidence-based actions in the future;
- Continuing, in different forms and levels (international & national), AGORA-like trainings and events, to create a young constituency and to convey more information about the EWL, the feminist movement, international mechanisms on gender equality and how to utilise them;
 - Creating empowering and informative tools (such as mentorship schemes, online tools and training/events etc.) to increase the knowledge and interest of young women, as well as women who are new to the feminist movement;
 - Making EWL more accessible, and making this accessibility and diversity more visible in communications materials of EWL;
 - Setting quotas, within EWL decision-making structures, for young women and also other groups of women who are currently less represented in EWL's structures;
 - Increased collaboration with other movements to provide feminist perspective and become more visible.

On the potential role of the network, participants shared similar ideas

- Support each other and have a safe space for feminists across Europe to share their thoughts, issues, challenges but also exchange on good practice and guidance on issues;
- Share information including advertising projects, finding partners/participants for projects, sharing materials, job and research opportunities, etc.
- Strengthen EWL's mandate and contribute to EWL's campaign and advocacy, including advising EWL on young women's issues· Organise meetings including European and national gatherings and creating connections with people living in the same country or working or wishing to work on the same subject;
- Develop projects and/or run campaigns;
- Strengthen and give visibility to the European feminist movement;
- Be source of expertise on different topics.

On the collaboration between this potential AGORA alumni network and EWL as a whole, participants had different views, which can be summarized as:

- Advisory group to EWL on young feminist issues with clear avenues for advising EWL and its governance structures but not a formal organisation.
- Independent network but with links to EWL, including some support to set up and maintain the network and clear tools for dialogue.
- Formalise the network (e.g. they set it up as an organisation) and eventually apply for membership of EWL.

Previous National Follow up

In Belgium, the Vrouwenraad, the Dutch section of EWL's Coordination in Belgium, organised their own 'AGORA', called the feminist lab. EWL staff provided advice and support to the Vrouwenraad to start the work, and the programme and framing was inspired by the AGORA. 30 young feminists based in Belgium gathered in Brussels in September 2018, and they are organising it again this year.

In the Netherlands, the participants from the 2018 edition of the AGORA met with members of the Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad, EWL's National Coordination, to share their experiences and create connections. The Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad is now planning their own national AGORA in May 2019, using several tools and concepts from the European AGORA with the input and assistance of participants from AGORA 2018.

In Greece, a member-supported participant, a lawyer by training, went back home after the AGORA full of ideas and ambition; after publishing an article in Greece about her experience, she made connections with another lawyer and together they are setting up in Greece a free service for women who have experienced domestic violence; she is also currently working to create a youth section of the EWL Greek Coordination, with the support of the EWL Board Member.

The key short- mid and – long term recommendation of the workshop fed into the development of the Draft Young Women Engagement Plan, shaping the AGORA within a multiannual young engagement The draft plan also mentions the further development of Alumni-Networks and mentorship/shadowing programmes.

ALUMNI NETWORK 2023 BRAINSTORMING

Participants were encouraged to consider insights from previous Agora editions, but also welcomed to openly share and develop their own ideas. This approach aimed to blend established knowledge with fresh perspectives, creating a collaborative and innovative environment for discussion.

The core brainstorming questions:

- How could an AGORA Alumni Network look like?
- What would be its role?
- What would be its Structure?
- What would be the link with EWL?
- How could an Alumni Network facilitate the young women engagement with EWL members?

The participants shared their ideas on the role and structure of an Alumni network in a plenary session.

- **Facilitating Sustained Connections:** The Alumni network will establish a platform for young feminists to maintain meaningful and long-lasting connections beyond initial interactions at Agora 2023. This could be achieved through regular communication channels, such as online forums, webinars, and periodic meet-ups, creating a space for ongoing dialogue and mutual support.
- **Promoting Knowledge Exchange:** An integral aspect of the Alumni network's role will be to foster a culture of continuous learning and information sharing. This could be done through curated resources, workshops, and thematic discussions, participants will have access to a wealth of knowledge on a diverse range of topics relevant to feminist discourse.
- **Catalysing Collaborative Initiatives:** The network will actively encourage collaborative projects among its members. By identifying common goals and interests, participants will have the opportunity to embark on joint ventures, whether it be advocacy campaigns, research endeavors, or community-based initiatives. The network will serve as a nexus for coordinating these collective efforts.
- **Empowering Emerging Voices:** Recognizing the importance of amplifying the voices of young feminists, the Alumni network will provide a supportive platform for alumnies to develop their leadership skills, articulate their perspectives, and engage in meaningful activism. This empowerment will extend to a diverse range of areas, including public speaking, advocacy strategies, and community organizing.

Through these core roles, the network aspires to create a vibrant and dynamic community of young feminists, bound by shared values and a collective commitment to advancing gender equality and women's rights.

During the brainstorming session, participants explored various potential structural frameworks for an Alumni network:

- **Online Community:** Participants unanimously recognized the importance of establishing an online platform as the initial step towards reconnection post-Agora 2023. Questions arose regarding the choice of platform (e.g., Google Drive), potential support from EWL in setup, considerations for financial aspects (including payment), platform development, and user training. The consensus was that thorough research and assessment are required to identify the most suitable online platform.
- **In-Person Meetings:** The participants underscored the significance of face-to-face interactions in fostering genuine connections and a sense of community. It was acknowledged that planning such meetings would necessitate fundraising activities to cover associated costs.
- **Hybrid Meeting Formats:** It was agreed that hybrid meeting formats present a good blend, offering online accessibility for young feminists in remote areas, while also providing opportunities for alumni to convene in person. This format would allow participants to join remotely at different points during the exchange.
- **Informal Formats:** Participants expressed an interest in informal meeting formats and gatherings, such as those organized during the second evening of the program. An informal gathering, potentially involving different "AGORA Alumni generations" and/or participants ("Meet an Alumni"), was identified as an excellent opportunity to cultivate new relationships.

- **Volunteer Committees:** The participants collectively recognized the importance of establishing various volunteer committees to drive further development within the network. These committees could play a crucial role in advancing the network's initiatives and objectives.
- **Frequency of Meetings:** The frequency of meetings was a topic of discussion. The consensus leaned towards the feasibility of bi-annual "plenary" meetings, seen as a pragmatic approach to ensure regular and meaningful engagement among network members.

Link with EWL

- **Event Invitations from EWL:** Participants expressed a keen interest in receiving event invitations from EWL. These invitations could be valuable opportunities to participate in discussions, workshops, and other activities organized by EWL that align with the collective mission of the network.
- **Updates on Ongoing Campaigns:** Staying informed about EWL's ongoing campaigns was identified as a crucial aspect of maintaining an active and engaged partnership. Participants emphasized the need for regular updates and information sharing regarding the progress and impact of EWL's campaigns, enabling network members to actively support and contribute to these initiatives.
- **The European Women's Lobby (EWL) Newsletter:** A subscription to the NL offers timely updates on gender equality, women's rights, and advocacy efforts. It provides policy insights, highlights ongoing campaigns, and notifies subscribers of events and opportunities for engagement. The Newsletter empowers Alumnis with resources for advocacy, showcases achievements, and fosters a community dedicated to advancing women's rights. By subscribing, the young feminists stay informed and actively contribute to the pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment.
- **Potential Topics:** The discussed topics for the alumni network include job opportunities, fundraising, interview preparation, expert workshops, and the development of topic subgroups. It was decided to initiate a survey to gather input on potential categories for the alumni network. This survey will serve as a valuable tool in tailoring the network's offerings to the specific needs and interests of its members.

NEXT STEPS

Following the debate, the group agreed on the initial steps required to progress with the ideas generated. Several dedicated young women volunteered to take charge of specific tasks, while the committed EWL staff also affirmed their support by outlining various next steps. This collaborative effort sets a promising foundation for the practical implementation of the discussed initiatives.

Online Platform Assessment by Klára Hlavačková (Deadline: 15 October): Klára Hlavačková will conduct an assessment of potential online platforms to ascertain their suitability for the Alumni network. This evaluation will encompass key factors such as user-friendliness, accessibility, and scalability.

Development of Survey on Relevant Topics Led by Ana Mafalda Azevedo: Ana Mafalda Azevedo will spearhead the creation of a comprehensive survey aimed at identifying the most pertinent and pressing topics of interest to members of the Alumni network. This survey will serve as a critical tool in tailoring the network's offerings to the specific needs and interests of its members.

Establishing Contact with Focal Points for EWL - Beatriz Penteadro Rodrigues and Giulia Grandin:

Beatriz Penteadro Rodrigues and Giulia Grandin will take the lead in establishing and maintaining open lines of communication with the designated focal points at EWL. This ensures seamless coordination and mutual understanding between the Alumni network and EWL.

Creation of Agora 2023 Mailing List by EWL:

EWL will take the initiative in setting up a dedicated mailing list for Agora 2023 participants. This platform will serve as an invaluable means of communication, facilitating the dissemination of updates, information, and opportunities pertaining to the Alumni network.

Outreach to Past Alumni Networks with Contact Survey by EWL:

EWL will proactively reach out to past Alumni networks, seeking valuable insights and feedback through a structured contact survey. This outreach initiative aims to leverage the collective wisdom and experiences of previous networks, enriching the development of the new Alumni network.

EWL Newsletter:

EWL will share an invitation to participants of Agora 2023, encouraging them to register for the EWL Netherlands Newsletter. This step aims to enhance networking opportunities and empower participants to actively participate in EWL's events and initiatives.

Dissemination of AGORA Recommendations among EWL Members:

EWL will actively share the recommendations generated during Agora 2023 with its broader membership base. This ensures that the valuable insights and proposals generated during the event are integrated into the broader discourse and advocacy efforts of EWL.

3. **Resource Building:**
Did the provided tools and materials empower you to navigate challenges more effectively as a young feminist?
4. **Skills Reinforcement:**
Were you able to strengthen your existing skills and develop new ones during the program, thereby enhancing your ability to make a more substantial impact?
5. **Safe Space Creation**
Did the program succeed in creating an environment where you felt comfortable expressing yourself freely, fostering openness and trust among participants?
6. **Networking**
Did the program facilitate connections with a diverse group of fellow young feminists, thereby expanding your collaborative opportunities?
7. **Exchanging**
Were you able to effectively share experiences, ideas, and perspectives with others, contributing to a rich exchange of insights and learnings?
8. **Empowering**
Did the Agora program help foster a sense of confidence and agency within you as a young feminist, empowering you to drive meaningful change?
9. **Encouraging Activism and Engagement**
Were you motivated by the program to actively engage in advocacy and initiatives, thereby taking on an active role in promoting change and social action?
10. **Hungry for more knowledge?**
Did a particular topic, session, or discussion resonate with you on a deeper level?

Discussion:

- The programme was really packed, it was always good to have some more time to discuss peer to peer
- Being overwhelmed in the group and by the content as well as the social time, but because the group has been so amazing, this lesson has started to be overcome.

ANNEX 11 – Daily Harvest Check-in and Check-out

Check-in to Harvest of the Need & Connecting to Purpose: At the beginning of each day, participants engage in a check-in to foster connection and self-awareness, sharing their current thoughts and feelings. This practice helps set the tone and purpose for the upcoming discussions.

Check-out to Reflect and Be Mindful: At the end of each day, a check-out activity encourages participants to reflect on their learning, experiences, and takeaways. This mindful reflection provides closure and a sense of direction as participants leave the session

Monday check in Quote Reflection: Share a thought-provoking feminist quote and ask participants to reflect on how it resonates with them and their experiences. This can lead to meaningful discussions and insights.

"I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own." - Audre Lorde. She was a self-described "black, lesbian, feminist, socialist, mother, warrior, poet," who dedicated her life and talents to confronting all forms of injustice, as she believed there could be "no hierarchy of oppressions".

Monday check out - During the check-out session, participants share their current state of mind by sharing a pose, reflecting on their experiences and insights gained from the seminar

Tuesday check in: Participants were reminded that during this day sensitive topics that could potentially trigger emotional responses are dealt with. Everyone was encouraged to engage with this content mindfully and seek support if needed.

Tuesday Check out: Reflection Small Group sharing: Divide participants into small groups and ask each group to discuss one key idea or concept from the day. After the discussion, bring the whole group back together to share highlights from their group discussions.

Wednesday check in: Song Sharing: Play a short feminist-related song or share lyrics that reflect the theme of the seminar. Ask participants to discuss how the lyrics resonate with them and relate to their own experiences.

Chosen song: Rise Up by Andra Day

Wednesday check out: To close our day on an uplifting note, we're going to end with the power of music. As the music plays, I invite you to reflect on a personal role model who inspires you. Visualize their qualities and achievements, and let their essence energize and guide you.

Thursday check in: Today we use our purple book, the book of feminist thoughts

Future Action Planning: Encourage participants to think about how they can apply what they've learned from the seminar in their everyday lives. Have them share one action they plan to take based on their new insights.

Use pen and paper, draw what tool or resources you need for your future action plan

Thursday check out: Check out to go, as participants will be in the city, therefore think about Share a Highlight or Challenge: Invite participants to share a highlight from the previous day(s) or a challenge they are currently facing. This can help set the tone for the day and create a supportive atmosphere.

Friday check in: Share check out to go from Thursday evening and slide into the evaluation of this week

Friday check out: evaluation of the whole week as check out



ANNEX 12 - AGORA 2023 Recommendations

CONTEXT

During the AGORA 2023 Empowerment Café, EWL provided an open space for participants lead parallel working session. This series of interactive workshops centered around subtopics within the theme Violence Against Women. Following the Empowerment Café, a plenary discussion was held with the goal of formulating specific recommendations.

The young feminist participating to the EWL AGORA 2023 encourage EWL Members to step into an open dialogue with young women in their networks across Europe.

DEBATE

We believe that any action addressing issues related to VAWG, gender equality, and women's rights in Europe, shall

- effectively demonstrate and eradicate structural violence against young women and girls across all aspects of life
- prioritize the concerns of young women in all their diversity, taking into account the intersectional perspective of VAW. This shall include for example the specific VAWG issues for: women and girls with disabilities in all related activities; of victims of trafficking (as defined in the trafficking protocol); of migrant women in prostitution; of women falling beside legal definitions; women in refugee camps; discussing labour violence against migrantwomen
- consider various structural frameworks of VAW within their respective national, social, and cultural contexts
- promote an open discourse on gender identity
- Provide the full inclusion and representation of LGBTIQ+ communities

- Ensure the creation of a safe space to discuss inclusive language as young feminist need to lead a debate on GI.
- promote an inclusive dialogue on VAW that involves men and addresses topics such as toxic masculinity. This requires the creation of a safe space for women and men that may be affected by discriminatory paradigms.
- Ensure an open dialogue with all relevant stakeholders
- A discussion on transitioning from the legal term "victims" to empowering terminology like "survivors".
- Relate with the upcoming EIGE focus on feminist and the Green Deal: Push for discussion and specific actions to gender-sensitive climate adaptations and mitigation across Europe, also considering dimensions of disability, age, socioeconomic status and other risk multipliers. We want to highlight that climate justice stands for everyone.

TOOLS

To facilitate an informed, intergenerational, and intersectional dialogue and a knowledge based approach on activism, young feminists need accessible, clear, and comprehensive information. This includes...

- clear definitions of a catalogue of all forms of VAW against young women and girls
- an accessible knowledge management and sharing system and space
- educational material and trainings models
- a practical guide towards active citizenship and feminist activism
- guidelines or mainstreaming practices
- translation of relevant information in different languages and simple visual format
- training of multipliers
- empower and engage young activists, establishing a network of well-informed spokespersons.

We encourage EWL to reach out to young feminist, lift them up and use their dedication and potential to fight violence against women.

ANNEX 13 – Closing Message



Message to the AGORA participants from Mary Collins, Acting Secretary General of the European Women's Lobby

Dear AGORA participants,
Dear Young Women of Europe,

I am sorry I cannot be with you in person today to feel that extraordinary energy in the room, which I witnessed earlier this week. I know you have had an incredible – and intensive – week with lots of workshops, discussions, ideas and proposals.

On behalf of the European Women's Lobby, I would like to thank you most sincerely for all your input and work.

Your recommendations will be brought to the attention of our members and as we move along, we will explore ways of taking them on board. Your voices will be heard.

As you are about to return to your own countries, please bring the collective inspiration of the past week with you. Do not hesitate to contact our members in your country, as we would like to see you engage in our organisation. As it was said many times this week, you are the present and the future. Seize the power! Engage in feminist leadership!

You have an opportunity to make your voices heard and to engage in the European elections, which will take place all over the European Union in June 2024.

A democratic, feminist Europe is what we aim to achieve. Europe does matter. It matters to all of us. Together we can make this happen.

We are by your side. We count on you but you can also count on us.

Our intergenerational collective bond is sealed, as testified by the certificate you are about to receive.

I am sure that you will join me in sincerely thanking the facilitators Nina and JoJo and the EWL team, particularly Lena, Caitlin, Mirta and Stef.

I wish you a safe journey back to your countries.

Our journey together has just begun.

Thank you once again.

Stay in touch.