



#UsToo STOP ALL FORMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A manifesto for an inclusive and
comprehensive EU gender-based
violence policy for all

#UsToo The most at risk of gender based violence are among the least protected and supported

Together we call on the European Union to adopt a forward-thinking and truly inclusive approach to gender-based violence - that leaves no one behind and strives to achieve real change in the lives of all people, without discrimination. To meaningfully address gender-based violence in the European Union, we must promote inclusion, safety, protection, well-being and effective remedies for those most at risk.

In the lead up to International Women's Day, 8 March, and the expected publication of a draft EU law to address violence against women and domestic violence, the under-signed organisations have adopted this manifesto for a truly inclusive EU law and policy. We welcome the leadership of the European Commission in taking action, and the engagement of the European Parliament, and urge everyone who will be involved in this effort to take an inclusive and intersectional feminist approach.

People facing marginalisation and intersectional discrimination - such as racialised women, women with disabilities, sex workers, those of lower socio-economic status, experiencing homelessness, with precarious or irregular migration status, as well as people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identities and expressions and sex characteristics including trans and non-binary people, are among the most at risk of gender-based violence and least protected and supported by existing efforts to prevent and tackle violence and other harm.

Measures that aim to address gender-based violence by focusing on increasing criminalisation, policing and incarceration can make many people and communities more vulnerable, reproducing structural, institutional and interpersonal discrimination and violence.¹

We urge the European Union decision makers to strive for an ambitious and comprehensive package of legal, policy and financial measures to address gender-based violence and to ensure victims' rights that:

- Centres the perspectives, concerns and recommendations of those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.
- Takes an intersectional and rights-based approach, recognising that to achieve gender equality and freedom from gender-based violence and protect fundamental rights for all, we have to address all forms of violence, in particular when linked to gender, gender identity and expression, sex characteristics, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, age, disability, class, religion and migration status, and that those who experience intersectional discrimination face greater vulnerability to all forms of gender-based violence and domestic violence.²
- Addresses structural and historical harms and drivers of gender-based violence, and underlying issues such as poverty and oppression, including those created, enabled and normalised by states.
 - » Addresses the laws, policies, practices and by-laws that discourage and prevent victims from reporting - such as those that criminalise aspects of sex work including clients, migration and

1 Victoria Law: Against Carceral Feminism. 17.10.2014, Jacobin. Available: <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2014/10/against-carceral-feminism/>

2 Towards Gender Justice Rethinking EU Gender Equality Policy From an Intersectional Perspective. Equinox- Initiative for Racial Justice, 2021

homelessness - or that deny survivors access to essential sexual and reproductive health services, as well as gender-based and intersectional violence perpetrated by police.

- » This requires review and reform of such laws, policies, practices and by-laws as well as specific measures to promote inclusion, safety, well-being, remedy and reparations for particularly affected groups, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, where the increased powers of the police and requirement to present personal identity and vaccination documents increase the risk of policing of marginalised groups.
- Prioritises a social, community and survivor-centred approach over further criminalisation, invests in holistic social and support services, including mental health and sexual and reproductive health care, social protection and harm reduction, information provision, community interventions, and mechanisms that enable people to access services, remedies and stability, including residence status, without conditions or requirements to engage with law enforcement and the criminal legal system. Ensures that all women as well as people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identities and expressions and sex characteristics fleeing violence are able to access safe, suitable and stable accommodation and other support services without furthering the cycle of abuse.
- Addresses harmful practices such as female genital mutilation; human trafficking; and non-consensual medical interventions such as forced abortion, forced contraception, forced sterilisation, intersex genital mutilation, forced gender reassignment, through this rights-based and intersectional feminist approach.
- Ensures safety and protection for people who do wish to engage with authorities and with the criminal legal system, protection from secondary victimisation, including sanctions, penalties and immigration enforcement, and ensures accessibility of the justice system and procedural accommodation for victims, including people with disabilities.
- Does not fall behind, and rather builds upon, existing European standards, including the Istanbul Convention and the Victims' Rights Directive.³

³ The [EU Victims' Rights Directive](#) refers to gender-based violence as "violence that is directed against a person because of that person's gender, gender identity or gender expression or that affects a person of a particular gender disproportionately.

As of 7 March 2022, the manifesto has been signed by the following (alphabetical list):

European/ international networks and organisations

1. Amnesty International
2. ASTRA Network
3. Center for Reproductive Rights
4. Correlation - European Harm Reduction Network
5. Equinox Initiative for Racial Justice (Equinox)
6. EU Civil Society Forum on HIV, TB and Hep
7. Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA)
8. European AIDS Treatment Group
9. European Anti-Poverty Network
10. European Association of Institutes for Vocational Training (EVBB)
11. European Disability Forum
12. European Federation of Organisations working with Homeless People (FEANTSA)
13. European Liberals for Reform
14. European Network Against Racism (ENAR)
15. European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance (ESWA)
16. FAAAT think & do tank
17. Fair Trials
18. GAMBE - supporting migrant women
19. Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women
20. Harm Reduction International
21. HIV Justice Network
22. International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF EN)
23. La Strada International - European NGO Platform against trafficking in human beings
24. Mama Cash
25. Organisation Intersex International Europe (OII Europe)
26. Red Umbrella Fund
27. Regional Implementation Initiative on Preventing & Combating Human Trafficking
28. Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network (SWAN)
29. TAMPEP- European Network for the Promotion of Health and Rights among Migrant Sex Workers
30. TGEU – Transgender Europe
31. The European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex Association (ILGA-Europe)

National level networks and organisations

1. Ação Pela Identidade - **Portugal**
2. ACCEPT Romania – **Romania**
3. Act Up-Paris - **France**
4. ADPARE – **Romania**
5. Alma-TQ - **Kazakhstan**
6. APOYO POSITIVO - **Spain**
7. Asociación Por ti mujer - **Spain**
8. Association for Support of Marginalized Workers STAR-STAR Skopje - **North Macedonia**
9. Association HERA XXI, MA IPPF – **Georgia**
10. Association of Hungarian Sex-Workers (SZEXE) - **Hungary**
11. Association SKUC - **Slovenia**
12. ASTRA-Anti trafficking action – **Serbia**
13. Ban Ying e.V. - **Germany**
14. BASIS-Projekt - **Germany**
15. Bilitis Resource Center Foundation – **Bulgaria**
16. Brazilian association of LGBTQIA+ (ABGLT) - **Brazil**
17. Bundesverband Trans* (BVT*) - **Germany**
18. CATNPUD - Catalan network of people who use drugs - **Spain**
19. Çavaria - **Belgium** (Flanders)
20. Center Women and Modern World - **Azerbaijan**
21. CESI - Center for Education, Counselling and Research – **Croatia**
22. CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality - **The Netherlands**
23. Comitato per i Diritti Civili delle Prostitute – **Italy**
24. Comité de Apoyo a las Trabajadoras del Sexo (CATS) - **Spain**
25. Confederación Sindical de Comisiones Obreras – **Spain**
26. Deutsche Aidshilfe – **Germany**
27. Deutscher Frauenrat/National Council of German Women's Organizations – **Germany**
28. Dharma & Martia - **The United Kingdom**
29. Društvo Legebitra – **Slovenia**
30. Društvo za pomoč in samopomoč brezdomcev Kralji ulice – **Slovenia**
31. E-Romnja Association (The Association for Promoting Roma Women's Rights) - **Romania**
32. Espace P... ASBL – **Belgium**
33. EUFORIA. Familias Trans-Aliadas – **Spain**
34. Euphoria Trans – **Italy**
35. European anti-poverty network Czech Republic - **Czech Republic**

36. Fair Work – **The Netherlands**
37. Family Planning Association of Moldova - **Moldova**
38. Feminist Mobilizations - **Bulgaria**
39. Fondazione LILA Milano - Italian League for Fighting AIDS – **Italy**
40. Fossil Free Culture - **The Netherlands**
41. Foundation Solidarity Works – **Bulgaria**
42. Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V. - **Germany**
43. Fundação Portuguesa “A Comunidade Contra a Sida” - **Portugal**
44. Greek Forum of Refugees - **Greece**
45. Greek Transgender Support Association (GTSA) - **Greece**
46. Gruppo Trans APS - **Italy**
47. Health and social development Foundation - **Bulgaria**
48. Homosexuelle Initiative (HOSI) Wien - **Austria**
49. HPLGBT - **Ukraine**
50. Initiative Group LGBT “Revers” - **Russia**
51. Internationale Vereinigung Intergeschlechtlicher Menschen - OII Germany e. V. - **Germany**
52. KOK - German NGO Network against Trafficking in Human Beings - **Germany**
53. LEFÖ - Counselling, Education and Support for Migrant Women - **Austria**
54. Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany LSVD - **Germany**
55. LGBTI+ Gozo - **Malta**
56. Life Quality Improvement Organisation Flight - **Croatia**
57. LILA Lega Italiana per la Lotta contro l’AIDS - **Italia**
58. Lysistrada Fachstelle für Sexarbeit, Olten, CH - **Switzerland**
59. Metzineres SCCL - **Spain**
60. MIT (Movimento Identità Trans) - **Italy**
61. Moluccan Council of Women (MVR) – **The Netherlands**
62. Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland (MASI) - **Ireland**
63. MozaiQ LGBT Association - **Romania**
64. Mujeres Supervivientes de violencias de género – **Spain**
65. Nacional Association of Travestis and Trans person from brazil - **Brazil**
66. National Ugly Mugs (NUM) – **The United Kingdom**
67. Nationale Armutskonferenz/ EAPN - **Germany**
68. NGO AIDSi Tugikeskus - **Estonia**
69. Österreichischer Frauenring (ÖFR) - **Austria**
70. PION - Prostitueretes interesseorganisasjon i Norge - **Norway**
71. Positive Voice - **Greece**

72. Pro-tukipiste ry - **Finland**
73. RED AMINVI (RED DE APOYO A LA MUJER INMIGRANTE VICTIMA DE LA VIOLENCIA DE GENERO) - **Spain**
74. Red Edition - Migrant sex worker group, Vienna Austria - **Austria**
75. Red Umbrella Athens - **Greece**
76. Red Umbrella Sweden - **Sweden**
77. Right Side Human Rights Defender NGO - **Armenia**
78. Rutgers - **The Netherlands**
79. SeksWerkExpertise - **The Netherlands**
80. Sex Work Polska - **Poland**
81. Sex Workers Alliance Ireland - **Ireland**
82. Sex worker Forum Austria - **Austria**
83. SHOP (Stichting Hulp en Opvang Prostitutie en Mensenhandel) - **The Netherlands**
84. Social Policy, Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Studies Association - **Turkey**
85. Stichting EqualA Foundation - **The Netherlands**
86. Stichting Prostitutie Informatie Centrum - **The Netherlands**
87. STRASS - Syndicat du Travail Sexuel - **France**
88. TAMPEP Nederland - **The Netherlands**
89. TransAkcija Institute - **Slovenia**
90. Transfeminiinit ry - Transfeminina rf - Transfeminines NGO - **Finland**
91. Transgender Infopunt - **Belgium**
92. Transvanilla Transgender Association - **Hungary**
93. TransX - Austrian Transgender Association - **Austria**
94. Ugly Mugs Ireland - **Ireland**
95. UMAR - UniÃ£o de Mulheres Alternativa e Resposta - **Portugal**
96. Vatra Psycho-Social Center - **Albania**
97. Vote for a Woman Foundation (Stem op een Vrouw) - **The Netherlands**
98. WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform - **The Netherlands**
99. Women's resource center,Armenia NGO - **Armenia**
100. Zagreb Pride - **Croatia**
101. И Г Опора ЛЮБВИ - **Russia**
102. Российский Форум секс-работников - **Russia**