



LOBBY EUROPEEN DES FEMMES EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

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EWL Newsflash
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Editorial

The Vienna Forum on Trafficking in Human Beings: unheard voices of women's survivors

EWL participated in the **Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking on 13 - 15 February 2008**, which is part of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT). The UN.GIFT was conceived to join forces and coordinate the global fight on human trafficking, on the basis of international agreements reached at the United Nations. To date over 110 countries have signed the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. The Vienna Forum brought together more than 1000 delegates from governments, international organisations, private sector (business & corporations) and few NGOs to strategize on ways to end human trafficking and facilitate a global exchange of strategies and best practices.

EWL issued a joint statement with the Coalition against Trafficking in Women (CATW), Equality Now to express concern that the Forum was not fully addressing the causes and specific dimensions of trafficking in women for sexual exploitation and shying away from addressing the commercial sex industry and its dependence on human trafficking. Grassroots women's groups around the world have been at the forefront of the fight against trafficking in women, with very little financial support. While reports indicate that the Vienna Forum costs over \$4million, very little consideration was given to survivors of sex trafficking or to the groups on the frontline who advocate for, rescue and assist these women.

While reports indicate that the Vienna Forum costs over \$4million, very little consideration was given to survivors of sex trafficking or to the groups on the frontline who advocate for, rescue and assist these women, **like the Nordic Baltic pilot project.**

The Statement stresses that in order to combat the trafficking in women, governments and the United Nations must address sex discrimination and put into place and adequately fund measures that ameliorate the socio-economic, political and legal conditions of women and girls. States must also exhibit the political will to develop effective tools to prosecute traffickers, protect trafficking victims, and fully address the demand for women and children for sexual exploitation. As is set out in the UN Palermo Protocol, governments are obliged to adopt or strengthen legislative or other measures to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, which leads to trafficking. The Statement also underlines that criminalizing the demand for prostitution, as has been done in Sweden, South Korea, and Nepal, is, the most effective way to address the problem of sex trafficking. For more information, please contact centre-violence@womenlobby.org

EWL- LEF, 18 rue Hydraulique, B-1210 Bruxelles
Tel. +32 2 217 90 20 – Fax: +32 2 219 84 51 - e-mail: ewl@womenlobby.org
Website: <http://www.womenlobby.org>

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EWL News

EWL participation in 2008 United Nations Commission on Status Women – A EWL delegation will participate in the 2008 session of the Un Commission on the Status of Women. This session will deal with the following themes: **Thematic issue:** Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women; **Review theme:** Women's participation in conflict prevention, management, conflict resolution, an in post-conflict peace-building; **emerging issue:** Gender perspectives in climate change. EWL activities will include the organisation of a side event on 28.02.08 (13.30-15.00, Church Center to the UN) on “Financing for Women's Rights, A European Perspective”; political work on the agreed conclusions and linking with European, NGOs and decision-makers. Click [here](#) for more information.

EWL action in support of women's sexual rights in Lithuania - In Lithuania, a proposal of an anti-abortion law presented by the conservative parliamentarians threatens the possibility for women to access abortion services. It is proposed to bring it up for discussion and voting in the spring session of the Parliament. The adoption of the proposal would mean an important backlash for the country and for women's rights placing Lithuania among three other countries in Europe (Ireland, Malta, and Poland) with the most restrictive abortion law. The women's movement in Lithuania protested against this threat to women's sexual rights and call for support. EWL sent a letter to the Lithuanian government and encourage women's organisation to join this action. Click [here](#) for more information.

Karen Serres, EWL Board member (representing COPA) is chairing the **working group** of the **Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men** on the **revision of Directive 86/613**, relating to equal treatment of self-employed, agriculture (assisting spouses) and the protection of self employed women during pregnancy and motherhood. This Directive has not been updated since adoption in 1986. The main issues relate to ensuring that a mandatory social security protection coverage is guaranteed in each Member State and that each partner in a shared business (self-employed sector/agriculture) are given legal joint ownership and joint responsibilities. This is crucial for women who remain unprotected while providing an essential role in ensuring the viability of the self-employed business and who are left without a legal status as well as limited if any, social security protection (in terms of maternity leave, pension rights, sick benefits, etc) in situations of divorce, separation and on the death of her partner. EWL [contributed](#) to the working group; the Advisory Committee is expected to comment on the proposals of the working group in March.

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EWL Representation

- Cécile Gréboval, EWL Policy Director represented EWL at a meeting of the French regions on equal opportunities in Amiens (France) on 12.02.08.
- Rada Boric, EWL Policy Officer, participated in the Regional Conference on Legal Reform on Domestic Violence organised by the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation and Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights and Governance Program on 12-14.02.08 in Sofia.
- Thérèse Murphy, EWL Executive member, represented the EWL in the conference on Managing Demographic Change in Europe organised by the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament on 14.02.2008 in Brussels.

- Colette De Troy, Director of the EWL policy Action Centre on Violence and Marlene Parezan, Board member, participated in the UN Forum on Trafficking on 13-15.02.08 in Vienna.
- Kirsti Kolthoff represented EWL at the conference “Life Quality and Competitiveness” in Madrid on 21.02.08.
- The **EWL delegation to the 2008 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women** (25.02-07.03.08) will be composed of Martine Levy (head of delegation first week), Iluta Lace, Kirsti Kolthoff (head of delegation second week), Mojca Kleva, Myria Vassiliadou and Cécile Gréboval.

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EWL Civil Society Representation

Platform of European Social NGO's - EWL is an active member of the Platform of European social NGO's. The Platform currently has three internal working groups: Social Policy, Fundamental Rights and Services of General Interest. EWL attended a meeting of the Social Platform on issues of reconciliation of work and private life on 11 February. The meetings of the fundamental rights and anti discrimination working group was held on 26 February. Kirsti Kolthoff was part of the Social Platform delegation to the Troika and the Informal Employment Ministers meeting on Flexicurity in Slovenia at the end of January to discuss issues relating to equality between women and men in the context of flexicurity, young people and older workers for which a joint [document](#) was prepared.

Multiple Discrimination Group - The objective of the working group is to promote effective responses to multiple discrimination at European and national level.

EU Civil Society Contact Group - EWL is member of the EU Civil Society Contact Group that brings together seven large rights and value based NGO sectors - environment, social, development, women, culture, human rights and public health.

EESC Liaison Group with Organized Civil Society - EWL is member of the NGO Liaison group of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).

EWL is member of the **NGO Platform on EU Asylum and Migration Policy** initiated by the UNHCR to discuss and exchange information on the development of immigration policies and legislation at European level. The EWL participated at the meeting of the migration sub-group of the Platform on 5 February.

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European & International News in Brief

Troika and Informal Employment Ministers meeting on Flexicurity- This meeting took place in Slovenia at the end of January to discuss issues relating to equality between women and men in the context of flexicurity, young people and older workers. In the twelve set of conclusions that emerged from the meeting, commitments include pursuing the goal of gender equality in all labour market segments and in labour legislation, eliminating the pay gap in the context of the Lisbon Strategy, reconciling professional, family and private life and strengthening intergenerational solidarity to ensure a life-cycle approach to flexicurity. Click [here](#) for more information.

European Court of Human Rights finds a rights violation in homosexual adoption case - A judgment from the European Court of Human Rights (the Court), *E.B. v. France* was given regarding adoption by a woman in homosexual relationship in France, where it is allowed for single persons to apply for adoption. The woman made an application for authorisation to adopt, which was refused on the grounds of lack of a paternal referent and the ambivalence of the applicant's partner's commitment to the adoption. The applicant's sexual orientation was at the centre of the discussions of her application and present at every stage of the proceedings, having an impact on the assessment of her application. The Court finds that she has suffered an unjustifiable difference in treatment, as the domestic authorities made an unacceptable distinction based on considerations of her sexual orientation, thus a breach of art. 8 (the right to private life), in conjunction with art. 14 prohibiting discrimination is found. You can find the case at the ECHR [website](#).

The European Commission adopted on 23 January 2008 its report on equality between women and men 2008. Women are continuing to drive employment growth in Europe, but remain disadvantaged on the labour market in relation to men, says the report. Despite higher educational attainment, women continue to be employed less and paid less than men. The 2008 report on Equality between women and men will be transmitted to EU leaders at the Spring Summit on 8-9 March.

European Commission report on Women and men in decision-making in 2007: analysis of the situation and trends. This report presents an assessment of the current situation of men and women in decision-making across Europe and developments over recent years.

Report of the European Commission on gender mainstreaming of employment policies. The report on gender mainstreaming of employment policies prepared by the Expert Group on Gender, Social Inclusion and Employment (EGGSIE) analyses in detail how gender mainstreaming is implemented in the employment policies of 30 European countries (EU-27 and the EEA-EFTA countries). It also presents concrete examples of gender mainstreaming implemented over the last few years in the countries covered. Please, click [here](#) to download the report.

Margot Wallström fed up with EU 'reign of old men'. EU communications commissioner Margot Wallström has said she is fed up with the "reign of old men" in Brussels corridors, saying public opinion in Europe will not take lightly to the backroom scheming between EU hot-shots. Please, click [here](#) to read more.

Ombudsman said NGOs can help EU institutions do their job better. The European Ombudsman, P. Nikiforos Diamandouros, has underlined the importance of non-governmental

organisations (NGOs) in pointing out possible instances of maladministration in the EU institutions. Click [here](#) for more information.

The Council of Europe adopted on 30 January the Recommendation **on the inclusion of Gender Differences in Health Policy**. Please, click [here](#) to read the text adopted.

The right to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support for migrants and ethnic minorities in Europe. On June 2007 a conference on “The rights to HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support for Migrant and Ethnic minorities in Europe: The community perspective was held in Lisbon”. The [recommendations](#) adopted are designed to represent the various voices from migrant communities. It is another opportunity to show the important linkages between HIV/SRHR and Migration and the need to have an integrated approach in any HIV national strategy. The recommendations will be presented during the International AIDS Conference in Mexico and the Eastern European and Central Asian AIDS Conference in Moscow, 2008. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

Women act for sustainable peace and gender equality in Africa. UN-INSTRAW (the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women) participated in the High-Level Policy Dialogue on National Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Africa in February 2008 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. UN-INSTRAW launched two new projects in Africa that aim to support the implementation of [UNSCR 1325](#), by calling for the full and equal participation of women in all peace and security initiatives, along with mainstreaming of gender issues in the context of armed conflict, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

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News from the European Parliament

Report on women in prison adopted by the Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Committee. The report on the Situation of women in prison and the impact of the imprisonment of parents on social and family life, by Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou (EPP-ED), was adopted on 28 January. It draws the attention to the fact that prisons still remain geared towards male prisoners and tend to ignore the specific problems of women in prison. The report will be voted by the plenary in Strasbourg in March. Please, click [here](#) to read the report.

Civil Liberties Committee backs Morten Kjaerum for director of the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA). MEPs in the Civil Liberties Committee selected Morten Kjaerum from Denmark as their first choice for director of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency on 11 February, after a public hearing with the two candidates short listed by the European Commission. The other candidate was Dario Carminati. The final choice will be made by the Agency's Management Board. The EU Council was to hold similar hearings with both candidates on the same day afternoon. The FRA's management board will make the final appointment, taking Council's and Parliament's opinions into account. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

The **ALDE Conference "Stop child sex tourism and the sexual exploitation of children"** took place in the European Parliament on 13 February. The aim of the conference was to explore how the EU can contribute to stop child sex tourism and the sexual exploitation of children inside as well as outside the European continent. For more information contact [Marzullo Isabella](#).

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Update on Violence against Women and Women's Human Rights

Physicians call for zero tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation across the world. Serious concern about the increasing tendency for female genital mutilation (FGM) to be carried out by medical personnel has been expressed by the World Medical Association. Please, click [here](#) for more information. The 6th February was the international day against Female Mutilation.

UN Human Rights expert on violence against women to visit Saudi Arabia. Prof. Yakin Ertürk, Special UN Rapporteur on Violence against Women, will conduct an official visit to Saudi Arabia, at the invitation of the Government, from 4 to 13 February 2008. During the visit, the Special Rapporteur will meet with Government authorities, civil society representatives, United Nations officials and individual victims of violence against women. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

Gender Matters - A manual on addressing gender-based violence affecting young people - A manual aimed to assist educators and youth leaders work on issues of gender and gender-based violence with young people. This publication presents theoretical information, methods and resources for education and training activities, along with concrete exercises that users can put into practice in their daily work. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

A deafening silence. Hidden violence against women and children by Patrizia Romito. This book analyses male violence against women and children, and the mechanisms society develops to push it out of sight. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

Human Rights Watch World Report 2008. Human Rights Watch surveys the human rights situation in more than 75 countries. Human Rights Watch identified many human rights challenges in need of attention, including atrocities in Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia's Ogaden region, Iraq, Somalia, Sri Lanka, and Sudan's Darfur region, as well as closed societies or severe repression in Burma, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Libya, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam. Abuses in the "war on terror" featured in France, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, among others. Please, click [here](#) to download the report.

International Save the Children Alliance publication - Child Protection in Emergencies. Priorities, Principles and Practices. There are currently 250-300 million children affected by humanitarian crises and disasters globally, often at risk of sexual abuse and exploitation, physical harm, separation from their families, psychosocial distress, gender-based violence, recruitment into armed groups and other forms of harm. The publication brings up the special vulnerable position of girls and women, especially in relation to the widespread sexual abuse in crisis situations, as sexual exploitation, rape and harmful traditional practises. The publication show ways to combat these problems, by reducing risks in different ways, creation of a humanitarian setting, training for officials, support services, inclusion of children in protection strategies and training for young boys and girls relating to gender-based violence. For more information, please contact [Save the Children Sweden](#).

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Events

European launch of The **International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (iKNOW politics)**, 03.03.08. The event will take place in the European Parliament in Brussels. For more information, contact brusselslaunch@iknowpolitics.org.

On 5 March a conference on **At What Cost?: Women, Wars, Weapons and Conflict Prevention. 2008 International Women's Day Seminar** will be held in Geneva, Switzerland organised by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). It will be an NGO conference for briefings, discussion and strategising on gender, security and preventing conflict, and will be an opportunity to learn from experts on Security Council resolution 1325, gender and military budgets, landmines, small arms, nuclear weapons and security policy. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

On 7 March Conference on **Prostitution Policy: New Directions** organised by Enterprise Support Unit. It will be a joint one-day conference with The Poppy Project, presenting and discussing some of the key issues associated with prostitution. Please, contact info.esu@lsbu.ac.uk for further information.

60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Reclaiming the UDHR Campaign. This NGO campaign is led by [The Elders](#) project, and is being held in conjunction with the [UN's celebration](#) of this anniversary. In the month of March, using International Women's Day (8 March) as an anchor, the Center for Women Global Leadership (CWGL) will take the lead through highlighting a spectrum of women's human rights issues and the importance of women's leadership in realizing human rights for all. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

On 2-4 July 16th European Social Services Conference on **Shaping the future of local services in Europe.** The annual European Social Services Conference is an important event for all those concerned with planning and delivering European social care and health to the highest standard. With over 30 multi-lingual plenary and workshop presentations, the conference provides an opportunity to understand the changes taking place and for the exchange of ideas, experience and 'best practice'. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

The Second II International Conference on Community psychology on Building participative, empowering & diverse communities organised by The Sociedade Portuguesa de Psicologia Comunitária will be held in Lisbon from 4th to 6th June 2008. The conference main theme will be delivered through a number of key thematic areas such as: Community organizing, systems change, policy change, creating new settings, training, evaluation, prevention, advocacy, collaboration, networking, strengthening relationships and globalization and north/south dialogue. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

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Publications - Web Sites

Que sais-je ? La parité, by Réjane Sénac-Slawinski (French)- This book looks at the particularity of the the French « parity laws » which apply to political elections, in particular at communal level. It compares them to the variety of strategy put in place around the world to compensate the under representation of women in political life. Collection Que sais-je / PUF (n°3795)

The Report from the European Conference of the German EU Presidency “Let's share the benefit – with gender budgeting towards social justice and equal opportunities” held on 4-5 June 2007 is now available. Please, click [here](#) to get it.

Women in Islamist Movements: Towards and Islamist Model of Women's Activism. Islamist women are increasingly involved in political processes and could spawn a full-fledged Islamist movement for women's rights, finds the new study by the Carnegie Endowment. The

authors, Carnegie scholars Omayma Abdellatif and Marina Ottaway, argue that women's participation in Islamist movements reflects a growing trend toward women's activism in the Arab world, though quite different from Western norms. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

Girls count: a global investment & action agenda – Center for global development. One person in eight is a girl or young woman age 10–24. Young people are the fastest growing segment of the population in developing countries, and their welfare is a fundamental input for key economic and social outcomes. But girls in developing countries face systematic disadvantages over a wide range of welfare indicators, including health, education, nutrition, labour force participation, and the burden of household tasks. Because of deprivation and discriminatory cultural norms, many poor girls are forced to marry at very young ages and are extraordinarily vulnerable to HIV, sexual violence, and physical exploitation. Lacking a full range of economic opportunities and devalued because of gender bias, many girls are seen as unworthy of investment or protection by their families. Please, click [here](#) to read the whole report.

WEDO publication: Changing the Climate: Why Women's Perspectives Matter. Unquestionably, climate change will affect everyone. But women are the most vulnerable and the best poised to curb the effects of climate change. Yet, they have remained invisible in these efforts. Governments' main tools for tackling climate change -mitigation measures to slow down global warming and adaptation measures to decrease the consequences- are not yet reaching the most affected populations, particularly women. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Feminist Blogs: independent alternatives to the malestream media is a community of web logs by self-identified feminists, women's liberationists, womanists, and pro-feminist men, using free software to syndicate our web logs, in order to raise awareness, bring together feminist voices, and promote cross-linking and discussion between feminist bloggers. Please, click [here](#) to visit it.

ENAR, the European Network against Racism has a **new website**. ENAR is an EU-wide network of more than 600 organisations working to combat racism in all the EU member states and acts as the voice of the anti-racist movement in Europe.

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Funding, Training, Call for Papers, Jobs

EPIM, the European Programme for Integration and Migration, initiated in 2005 by a group of key-foundations from different European countries has announced its launch of call for project-proposals in 2008. Grants are available for short-term (up to 18 months) and long term projects (up to three years). Please, click [here](#) for more information.

The new European Social Fund (ESF) round: 2007-2013. Some 75 billion euros will be allocated to the EU Member States through the ESF. Public administrations, NGOs, social partners and enterprises whose objectives are to either improve access to employment, social inclusion, or develop education and training in their region can submit their projects to their ESF Managing Authority in order to receive funding. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

African Women's Development Fund is a fundraising and grant-making initiative, which aims to support the work of the African Women's movement. AWDF funds local, national, sub-regional and regional organisations in Africa working towards women's empowerment. The AWDF is an institutional capacity-building and programme development fund, which aims to help build a culture of learning and partnerships within the African women's movement. In

addition to awarding grants, the AWDF attempts to strengthen the organisational capacities of its grantees. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

Minority Rights Group International calls for applications for their 5-day International Workshop on the Rights Based Approach to Development to be held in Budapest from 8th to 13th April 2008, as a part of our programme on Promoting Development in Europe: Towards a Critical Mass and Beyond. The deadline for application is 29 February; click [here](#) to download the application form. For more information contact development.workshop@mrgmail.org or click [here](#).

Women in science and technology. In preparation of the Sociology of Science and Technology network Workshop, which will take place in Zagreb (Croatia), on 5-6 June 2008, a call for papers has been launched on the role of women in science and technology (S&T). The deadline to submit proposals is on 29 February. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

Institute for Research on Women (New Jersey, US) call for applicants for the IRW Global Scholars 2008 -09 on The Culture of Rights/The Rights of Culture. The **deadline** to submit applications is on **1 March**. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

On 5-6 June the First EPWS Annual Conference **‘Women Shaping Science’** organised in collaboration with BASNET, the Baltic States by the network Women in Sciences and High Technology will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania. EPWS cordially invites you to submit your proposals for sessions and for the presentation of posters. **The deadline** to submit the proposals is on **8 March**. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

Linköping and Örebro Universities, Sweden, are the base for the "Centre of Gender Excellence - Gendering Excellence (GEXcel). A **Visiting Fellows Programme** has been organised to attract scholars, who will carry out thematically organised, joint gender research. In 2008-09, one of the research themes is ‘Deconstructing the Hegemony of Men and Masculinities’. The **deadline** to submit the proposals is on **14 March**. Proposals are invited from postdoctoral scholars. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

Feminist grassroots media in Europe. This is a call for contributions for a proposed edited volume of “Feminist Grassroots Media in Europe: An anthology”. The Feminist Grassroots Media in Europe anthology proposes to address the lack in research, bringing together activists and academics to re-evaluate existing theoretical frameworks and to portray activist projects in light of feminist media production. The anthology aims to represent feminists from a diversity of age cohorts, backgrounds, races, classes, genders, geo-social regions and political priorities. The abstracts should be submitted to book@grassrootsfeminism.net by **17 March 2008**.

WWSF PRIZE for women's creativity in rural life. The Women's World Summit Foundation invites you to submit nominations for its 15th annual PRIZE for women's creativity in rural life, honouring creative and courageous women and women's organisations working to improve the quality of life in rural communities around the world. The **deadline** to submit proposals is on **31 March**. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

On 22-23 August a conference **on Women Religious and the Political World** will be held in the University of Galway, Ireland. Papers are invited on the theme of 'Women Religious and the Political World'. How do women religious conceive the political world? What kinds of political activity (in the broadest sense) do women religious engage in? **The deadline to submit the papers is 31 March**. Please, contact marielouise.coolahan@nuigalway.ie for more information

CECOP, the European Confederation of workers cooperatives, social cooperatives and social and participative enterprises, is looking for a **policy officer** for the secretariat in Brussels. Please, click [here](#) for more information. The **deadline** to present the candidatures is on **29 February**.

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