

ACTIVITY REPORT

2019 – 2024

FEMM

Committee on Women's Rights
and Gender Equality



European Parliament

Activity Report 2019–2024 – Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM)

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Foreword by Robert Biedroń, Chair

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

As our time in this term's European Parliament ends, it is time we look back at the last 5 years of work in our committee. Saying that we have managed to do a lot would not pay justice to the work you all have put in into the many accomplishments of the FEMM committee these years. That is so because of a historic fact – it has been the most active legislative term since the FEMM committee was created. It is a great success that we all should be proud of. But we very well know, that it is not only the quantity but also the quality of our work that really matters.

We have made history in the area of women's economic independence and empowerment. We managed to unblock and adopt the Women on Board directive, which had been blocked for 10 years. We managed to negotiate the revolutionary Pay Transparency Directive; a key instrument necessary to eliminate the gender pay gap, and finally truly enforce the principle of equal pay, enshrined in the Rome Treaty already in 1957. Hence, anyone can see that if something could not be done, but must be done, the FEMM committee members are the ones to do it.

We should also see progress in the area of tackling gender based violence as a great step forward for the EU that we managed to take thanks to our work. The accession of the EU to the Istanbul Convention was the first step followed with a very strong Directive on Combatting Violence Against Women. Maybe we have not managed to accomplish everything that our committee wanted, but we secured a new, strong legal framework that will improve the protection of European women for years to come. We agreed on the revision of the Anti-Trafficking Directive and introduced new standards for Equality Bodies, both key for protecting European people. We also managed to secure a very strong stance on sexual and reproductive health and rights of women, what as we all know has been so crucial during this Parliamentary term.

This is not a place to list all and every one of our achievements; between all the negotiations, we have delivered many crucial resolutions and opinions; we have organised numerous public hearings and events, including the Gender Equality Week, which became and will remain a tradition in this house. Nevertheless, I hope that when we will look back at these years in our committee, we will not only remember the number of files that we concluded, but also all the fruitful discussions, all the friendships made and the time we have devoted to making this house, Europe but also ourselves better.

I would like to hereby thank you all, members, assistants and staff alike, for your tireless efforts, dedication and devotion to women's rights and gender equality. It has been an honour and a pleasure to work with all of you. Your knowledge, talent and passion have been and will remain a source of inspiration for me and those years spent together – I will never forget. What a journey it has been?! Bravo!

Robert Biedroń
Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights
and Gender Equality



Committee mandate

(based on its competences in the Rules of Procedure, Annex VI)


The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality is responsible for:

1. the definition, promotion and protection of women's rights in the Union and related Union measures
2. the promotion of women's rights in third countries
3. equal opportunities policy, including the promotion of equality between men and women with regard to labour market opportunities and treatment at work;
4. the removal of all forms of violence and discrimination based on sex
5. the implementation and further development of gender mainstreaming in all policy sectors
6. the follow-up and implementation of international agreements and conventions involving the rights of women
7. the encouragement of awareness of women's rights


This document gives an overview of the main activities and initiatives of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality. In addition to providing brief descriptions of the main reports, it includes detailed lists of handled opinions, oral questions and resolutions, missions and ad-hoc delegations, public hearings, interparliamentary committee meetings and other events.


Reports of the Committee


Legislation – Ordinary Legislative Procedure¹

| Title | Reference |
|--|---|
| <p>Amending Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA</p> | |
| <p>The goal for this amending Directive is to improve even more the conditions and standards for victims of crime across the European Union.</p> <p>Following joint work, LIBE and FEMM committees adopted their report on the proposal together with mandate to enter into interinstitutional negotiations, which was announced in the Parliament’s plenary. The Parliament’s mandate for negotiations includes the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • free, easily accessible, safe, confidential and user-friendly way to report a crime, including online • ensures member states provide free legal aid for victims who do not have sufficient means to pay for legal assistance prior to, during and after criminal proceedings • trainings for public authorities that come into contact with victims, such as police officers and court staff, to recognise and deal with victims in a non-discriminatory and professional manner and where relevant, also in a trauma-sensitive, gender-sensitive and child-sensitive manner • ensures that regular awareness-raising campaigns are put in place at national level so that victims are aware of their rights under these rules • gives victims of cross-border crime access to helplines of their choice, including those of other member states • protects the dignity of victims from secondary victimisation and glorification of past crimes or convicted offenders | <p>2023/0250(COD)</p> <p>Joint with LIBE</p> <p>Rapporteur:</p> <p>FEMM: María Soraya RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS (RENEW)</p>  <p>LIBE: Javier ZARZALEJOS (EPP)</p> <p>14/03/2024 Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee</p> <p>10/04/2024 Announcement in plenary to enter into interinstitutional negotiations</p> |


¹ Files in chronological order

| Title | Reference |
|--|---|
| <p>Amending Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims</p> | |
| <p>Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and the Council constitutes the main Union legal instrument on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting the victims of this crime. That Directive sets out a comprehensive framework to address trafficking in human beings by establishing minimum rules concerning the definition of criminal offences and sanctions. It also includes common provisions to strengthen prevention and protection of victims, taking into account the gender perspective. The aim of this amending act is to amend the anti-trafficking Directive (Directive 2011/36/EU) to better protect its victims.</p> <p>Following the work done jointly by FEMM and LIBE committees, the agreement reached in the inter-institutional negotiations between the Parliament and the Council should bring following changes in the revised directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase the means to prevent and combat child trafficking and of other very vulnerable persons such as people with disabilities, refugees or stateless persons; • tackle the online dimension of the crime through the dissemination of sexual content as an aggravating circumstance; • criminalize the use of services with the knowledge that the provider is a victim of trafficking; • strengthen penalties and deterrents for any legal entities involved in such a crime; • be victim-oriented, with improved prevention through training, assistance, support, and protection through specialized units, and finally compensation to victims through voluntary national funds. • ensure that each Member States will establish relevant national action plans and a dedicated national coordinator against trafficking. | <p>2022/0426(COD)</p> <p>Joint with LIBE</p> <p>Rapporteur:</p> <p>FEMM: Eugenia RODRÍGUEZ PALOP (The Left)</p>  <p>LIBE: Malin BJÖRK (The Left)</p> <p>10/10/2023 Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading A9-0285/2023</p> <p>15/02/2024 Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations PE759.031</p> |

| Title | Reference |
|--|--|
| <p>Standards for equality bodies in the field of equal treatment and equal opportunities between women and men in matters of employment and occupation</p> | |
| <p>The proposed legislation was based on two different legal bases with different procedures; therefore, two Commission proposals (Directive and Council Directive) were published. Yet their content is substantively the same. The Parliament had only powers as a co-legislator on the first proposal (COD) through the Ordinary Legislative Procedure, whereas it could give its consent to the latter (APP) through the Consent Procedure. For more information regarding Council Directive (APP) see below under Assent procedure (consent).</p> <p>The agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations on COD Directive establishes new standards for equality bodies and ensures that new anti-discrimination rules are effectively applied and enforced in the EU.</p> <p>Equality bodies will be independent, free from external influence and not receive any instructions from government under the new rules. They also ensure that equality bodies have sufficient human, technical and financial resources to carry out their tasks.</p> <p>The new rules enable equality bodies to better carry out activities to prevent discrimination and to foster equal treatment, such as promoting positive action and gender mainstreaming, taking into account specific situations of disadvantage resulting from intersectional discrimination.</p> <p>Finally, victims of discrimination will have the option to seek an alternative to taking their case to court to resolve their dispute, such as mediation and conciliation, in each member state.</p> | <p>2022/0400(COD)</p> <p>Joint with EMPL</p> <p>Rapporteur:</p> <p>FEMM: Sirpa PIETIKÄINEN (EPP)</p>  <p>EMPL: Marc ANGEL (S&D)</p> <p>10/11/2023 Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading A9-0354/2023</p> <p>11/01/2024 Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations PE757.960</p> <p>10/04/2024 Decision by Parliament, 1st reading P9_TA(2024)0196</p> |


| Title | Reference |
|--|---|
| <p>Combating violence against women and domestic violence</p> <p>This Directive was proposed to provide a comprehensive framework to effectively prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence throughout the Union.</p> <p>Following the work done jointly by FEMM and LIBE committees, the agreement reached in the inter-institutional negotiations is strengthening and introducing measures in the following areas: the definition of relevant criminal offences and penalties, the protection of victims and access to justice, victim support, enhanced data collection, prevention, coordination and cooperation.</p> <p>The provisions of this Directive which relate to the rights of victims should apply to all victims of criminal conduct which amounts to violence against women or domestic violence, as criminalised under Union or national law. This includes the criminal offences defined in this Directive, namely female genital mutilation, forced marriage, the non-consensual sharing of intimate or manipulated material, cyber stalking, cyber harassment, cyber flashing, cyber incitement to violence or hatred, and criminal conduct covered by other Union acts, in particular Directives 2011/36/EU and 2011/93/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, which define criminal offences concerning the sexual exploitation of children and trafficking of human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation.</p> <p>Certain criminal offences under national law fall under the definition of violence against women. This includes crimes such as femicide, rape, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, stalking, early marriage, forced abortion, forced sterilisation and different forms of cyber violence, such as online sexual harassment and cyber bullying. Specific prevention measures of rape are included in this Directive, and the promotion of the central role of consent in sexual relationships.</p> <p>Lastly, a child who witnesses domestic violence, within the family or domestic unit will be considered a victim under this Directive, because child witnesses typically suffer direct psychological and emotional harm that impacts their development. To acknowledge that children who have suffered harm caused directly by having witnessed domestic violence are themselves victims, marks an important step forward in protecting those children suffering because of domestic violence.</p> | <p>2022/0066(COD)</p> <p>Joint with LIBE</p> <p>Rapporteur:</p> <p>FEMM: Frances FITZGERALD (EPP)</p>  <p>LIBE: Evin INCIR (S&D)</p> <p>06/07/2023 Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading A9-0234/2023</p> <p>15/02/2024 Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations PE759.029</p> |

| Title | Reference |
|---|---|
| <p>Strengthening the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work or work of equal value between men and women through pay transparency and enforcement mechanisms</p> | |
| <p>The Directive introduces mandatory obligations for employers from public and private sectors to ensure pay transparency and to reinforce mechanisms that support workers' rights to equal pay and prohibit any direct or indirect discrimination. In practice, it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarifies concepts such as 'pay' and 'work of equal value'; • requires employers to provide all workers with objective criteria for determining salaries and outlining career progression paths • entitles workers to access detailed information about their own pay and the average pay levels within their job categories, segmented by gender, and this information must be provided upon request • includes, for the first time in an EU legislative act, an explicit reference to "non-binary" individuals and incorporates an "intersectional" approach • obliges to report annually on the gender pay gap for companies with more than 250 employees and companies with more than 100 employees should report every three years; smaller companies may voluntarily disclose this information unless mandated by national laws • obliges employers to conduct a joint pay assessment with worker representatives if reported pay disparities exceed 5% without justification by objective factors and remain unaddressed within six months • entitles victims of pay discrimination to claim compensation that includes recovering back pay, related bonuses, and compensation for any additional losses, including moral damages and potential intersectional discrimination impacts, and shifts the burden of proof to the employer in discrimination cases • enables workers to initiate legal or administrative actions to stop infringements and enforce compliance with the rights and obligations pertaining to equal pay <p>This directive shall be transposed in all Member States by the end of 2026.</p> <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2021/0050(COD)</p> <p>Joint with EMPL</p> <p>Rapporteur:</p> <p>FEMM: Samira RAFAELA (RENEW)</p>  <p>EMPL: Kira Marie PETER- HANSEN (Greens/EFA)</p> <p>25/01/2023 Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations PE740.543</p> <p>30/03/2023 Decision by Parliament, 1st reading T9-0091/2023</p> |

| Title | Reference |
|--|---|
| <p>Gender balance among non-executive directors of companies listed on stock exchanges</p> | |
| <p>The FEMM and JURI committees voted to achieve a more balanced representation of women and men among the directors of listed companies by establishing effective measures to accelerate progress towards gender balance, while allowing listed companies sufficient time to make the necessary adjustments to achieve this. It applies to listed companies and does not apply to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).</p> <p><i>Objectives for gender balance on boards</i></p> <p>At least 40% of non-executive director posts or 33% of all director posts should be occupied by the under-represented sex by the end of June 2026.</p> <p><i>Means to achieve the targets</i></p> <p>Listed companies that do not meet the targets should adapt the process for selecting candidates as directors.</p> <p><i>Suspension clause</i></p> <p>The suspension clause would only be available to Member States that have adopted national measures that are demonstrably 'equally effective' as those provided for in the Directive.</p> <p><i>Publication of information</i></p> <p>Listed companies should provide information on the gender representation once a year. Member States should publish a list of listed companies that have met the objectives.</p> <p><i>Penalties</i></p> <p>Member States should lay down rules on penalties applicable to breaches.</p> <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2012/0299(COD)</p> <p>Joint with JURI</p> <p>Rapporteur:</p> <p>FEMM: Evelyn REGNER (S&D)</p>  <p>JURI: Lara WOLTERS (S&D)</p> <p>17/11/2022 Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading A9-0275/2022</p> <p>22/11/2022 Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading T9-0393/2022</p> |


Consent procedure

| Title | Reference |
|---|--|
| <p>Council Directive on standards for equality bodies in the field of equal treatment between persons irrespective of their racial or ethnic origin, equal treatment in matters of employment and occupation between persons irrespective of their religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, equal treatment between women and men in matters of social security and in the access to and supply of goods and services, and amending Directives 2000/43/EC and 2004/113/EC</p> | |
| <p>This Council Directive is linked to “Standards for equality bodies in the field of equal treatment and equal opportunities between women and men in matters of employment and occupation” (COD directive – see above under Legislation - Ordinary Legislative Procedure). The two proposals are substantively identical. Therefore, once the agreement on COD Directive was reached, the text of the consent file (APP) was aligned, and the Council asked Parliament for consent.</p> <p>The FEMM committee recommended that the European Parliament give its consent to the draft Council directive.</p> <p>The proposed Directive aims to set minimum standards for equality bodies, addressing their mandate, tasks, independence, structure, powers, accessibility and resources, to ensure that they can, alongside other actors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effectively assist victims of discrimination to access justice; and • promote equal treatment and preventing discrimination <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2022/0401(APP)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Sirpa PIETIKÄINEN (EPP)</p>  <p>10/04/2024 Decision by Parliament P9_TA(2024)0197</p> |

| | Reference |
|--|---|
| <p>Council decision inviting Member States to ratify the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) of the 2023/2118(INI)</p> | |
| <p>The FEMM and EMPL committees recommended that the European Parliament give its consent to the Council decision.</p> <p>The ILO Convention No. 190 (C190) is the first international treaty to recognise the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment. It sets the obligation to respect, promote and realise this right, as well as minimum standards for tackling harassment and violence to promote a healthy, safe, and equal work environment for all.</p> <p>The Convention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides the first international definition of violence and harassment in the world of work • lays out the scope of the convention, which protects workers and other persons in the world of work including employees, workers irrespective of their contractual status, persons in training, workers whose employment has been terminated, volunteers, job seekers, and job applicants as well as supervisors and employers. The convention applies to all sectors, whether private or public, both in the formal and informal economy, and whether in urban or rural areas • sets out the core principles of the convention, which promotes an inclusive, integrated, and gender-responsive approach to prevent and eliminate violence and harassment in the world of work • requires Member States to define and prohibit violence and harassment in the world of work in laws and regulations and to adopt appropriate measures to prevent it • requires Member States to monitor and enforce laws and regulations laid out by the convention and to ensure easy access to safe, fair, and effective reporting and dispute resolution mechanisms and procedures • requires that Member States, in consultation with social partners, shall seek to ensure that relevant national policies address violence and harassment in the world of work <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2020/0011(NLE)</p> <p>Joint with EMPL</p> <p>Rapporteur:</p> <p>FEMM: Cindy FRANSSEN (EPP)</p>  <p>EMPL: Kira Marie PETER-HANSEN (Greens/EFA)</p> <p>6/02/2024 Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading A9-0040/2024</p> <p>12/03/2024 Council decision T9-0135/2024</p> |


| Title | Reference |
|---|--|
| <p>Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ('Istanbul Convention')</p> | |
| <p>Parliament gave its consent to the EU's accession to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ('Istanbul Convention'), which came into force in 2014 as the first legally binding international instrument on preventing and combating violence against women and girls at international level. It is the first international text that defines violence against women and girls and establishes a comprehensive framework of legal and policy measures for preventing such violence, supporting victims and punishing perpetrators.</p> <p>The Convention recognises violence against women as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women. It covers various forms of gender-based violence, which refers to violence directed against women because they are women or violence affecting them disproportionately.</p> <p>The Istanbul Convention is at the centre of a monitoring system, based on a two pillar monitoring mechanism: (i) an independent expert body (GREVIO), which draws up reports on the themes of the Convention; (ii) a Committee of the Parties (which follows up on GREVIO reports and makes recommendations to the parties concerned).</p> <p>The Parliament gave its consent to two decisions on the EU accession to the Convention:</p> <p>Council Decision (EU) 2023/1075 of 1 June 2023 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence with regard to institutions and public administration of the Union</p> <p>Council Decision (EU) 2023/1076 of 1 June 2023 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence with regard to matters related to judicial cooperation in criminal matters, asylum and non-refoulement</p> <p>Before the draft Council decisions were submitted for consent, Parliament adopted also an interim report requesting the EU accession to the Convention.</p> | <p>2016/0062A(NLE) 2016/0062B(NLE)</p> <p>Joint with LIBE</p> <p>Rapporteur:</p> <p>FEMM: Arba KOKALARI (EPP)</p>  <p>LIBE: Łukasz KOHUT (S&D)</p> <p>15/02/2023 Parliament interim report</p> <p>10/05/2023 Decisions by Parliament</p> <p>01/06/2023 Council decision</p> <p>02/06/2023 Final acts published in Official Journal</p> |



Legislative initiatives

| Title | Reference |
|--|--|
| Identifying gender-based violence as a new area of crime listed in Article 83(1) TFEU | |
| <p>Gender-based violence, including against LGBTIQ+ persons, both online and offline, accompanied by a lack of access to adequate protection, is the most serious manifestation of gender-based discrimination and constitutes a violation of the fundamental rights enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.</p> <p>EU surveys show that one in three women in the EU, or 62 million women, have experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15 and one in two (55%) have been sexually harassed. The World Health Organisation (WHO) reports that worldwide, almost a third (27%) of women aged between 15 and 49 who have been in a relationship have reported that they have been subjected to some form of physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner. Overall, as many as 38% of all murders of women are committed by their intimate partners.</p> <p>The COVID-19 crisis has led to a dramatic increase in gender-based violence, with a 60% increase in the number of emergency calls made by women victims of violence.</p> <p>In response to this situation, Parliament asked the Commission to submit, on the basis of Article 83(1), third subparagraph, of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, a proposal for a Council decision identifying gender-based violence as a new area of serious crime with a cross-border dimension. This would serve as a legal basis for a victim-centred Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council to prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence, both online and offline.</p> <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2021/2035(INL)</p> <p>Joint with LIBE</p> <p>Rapporteur:</p> <p>FEMM: Diana RIBA I GINER (Greens/EFA)</p>  <p>LIBE: Malin BJÖRK (The Left)</p> <p>22/07/2021 Committee report tabled for plenary A9-0249/2021</p> <p>16/09/2021 Decision by Parliament T9-0388/2021</p> |


| Title | Reference |
|--|--|
| <p>Combating Gender-based Violence: Cyberviolence</p> | |
| <p>Parliament stressed that cyber violence against women and LGBTIQ people is a continuation of off-line gender-based violence and that no policy alternative will be effective if it does not take this reality into consideration. Furthermore, there is no harmonised definition of gender-based cyber-violence, which leads to wide disparities between Member States in terms of protection, support and compensation for victims.</p> <p>The Council was invited to activate a passerelle clause by adopting a decision defining gender-based violence as an area of particularly serious crime with a cross-border dimension, in accordance with Article 83(1), third subparagraph, TFEU.</p> <p>EU legislation to combat all forms of gender-based violence</p> <p>Parliament called on the Commission to submit without delay a proposal for a legislative act laying down measures to combat gender-based cyber-violence.</p> <p>The future directive should include minimum rules on the definition of the offence of gender-based cyber-violence and related sanctions and put in place measures to support Member States' action in the field of prevention of this offence and provide for measures to protect and support victims and ensure that they obtain redress.</p> <p>The proposal should include a common definition of cyber-violence based on the definitions contained in existing instruments, such as the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime or the Istanbul Convention.</p> <p>The scope of the legislative proposal should cover any form of gender-based violence committed, assisted or aggravated in part or fully by the use of ICT, such as mobile phones and smartphones, the internet, social media platforms or email, against a woman because she is a woman, or affects women disproportionately or against LGBTIQ people on the grounds of gender identity.</p> <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2020/2035(INL)</p> <p>Joint with LIBE</p> <p>Rapporteur:</p> <p>FEMM: Elissavet VOZEMBERG- VRIONIDI (EPP)</p>  <p>LIBE: Sylvia SPUREK (Greens/EFA)</p> <p>06/12/2021 Committee report tabled for plenary A9-0338/2021</p> <p>14/12/2021 Decision by Parliament T9-0489/2021</p> |


Own-initiative reports - annual activity and monitoring reports

| Title | Reference |
|--|---|
| <p>Equality between women and men in the European Union in 2018–2020</p> | |
| <p>In the report, Parliament stressed that women’s rights are human rights and thus universal and indivisible, as enshrined in the Treaty on European Union and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The struggle for gender equality and the promotion and protection of women’s rights is a truly collective responsibility that requires faster progress and efforts by EU institutions and Member States.</p> <p>This report highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An economy based on equality between women and men • The eradication of gender-based violence • Health, education, inclusion and poverty <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2021/2020(INI)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Sandra PEREIRA (The Left)</p>  <p>28/10/2021 Vote in committee A9-0315/2021</p> <p>15/12/2021 Decision by Parliament T9-0500/2021</p> |


| Title | Reference |
|--|--|
| <p>Gender Mainstreaming in the European Parliament - annual report 2020</p> | <p>2021/2039(INI)</p> |
| <p>In the report, Parliament notes that it should be a leader for gender equality. However, gender mainstreaming is not yet fully integrated into Parliament's practices and rules.</p> <p>Members regretted the fragmented implementation of gender mainstreaming across policy areas and institutions at the EU level. They stressed that gender equality is a joint responsibility that requires action by all EU institutions, Member States and agencies, in partnership with civil society, women's organisations, social partners and the private sector.</p> <p>Noting the lack of quantitative and qualitative data on gender mainstreaming within the EU institutions, the report called for comprehensive gender statistics and for the creation of qualitative indicators on gender equality to collect additional gender-disaggregated data in order to continue improving gender equality.</p> <p>Members welcomed the EIGE's 'Gender-sensitive parliaments' toolkit and the adoption of gender action plans by all Parliament committees but called for better monitoring of the implementation of these plans. It also welcomed the new provision in the Parliament's rules of procedure adopted in 2019, which includes the obligation to adopt an action plan on gender equality aimed at integrating a gender perspective in all the Parliament's activities.</p> | <p>Rapporteurs: Irène TOLLERET (Renew)</p>  <p>Gwendoline DELBOS-CORFIELD (Greens/EFA)</p>  |
| <p>Full summary</p> | <p>25/01/2022 Vote in committee A9-0021/2022</p> <p>10/03/2022 Decision by Parliament T9-0072/2022</p> |


Non-legislative own-initiative reports


| Title | Reference |
|--|---|
| <p data-bbox="240 293 1283 327">Gender aspects of the rising cost of living and the impact of the energy crisis</p> <p data-bbox="240 360 1126 707">The report explored how the COVID-19 pandemic, the rising cost of living crisis and the war against Ukraine have intensified a pre-existing crisis and the precarious working and living conditions faced by many women. The gendered implications of such crises further perpetuate systemic gender inequalities across multiple sectors. This crisis acutely threatens women’s livelihoods, health, well-being, economic independence and access to housing, while limiting their purchasing power and their ability to purchase basic necessities such as food, preventing them from enjoying a decent standard of living.</p> <p data-bbox="240 752 1126 958">Women tend to be the ‘shock absorbers of poverty carrying the main responsibility and mental burden for the planning, purchase and preparation of food for their families and the coordination of various other care and household tasks such as the budget management of poor households and are thus much more impacted by the rising cost of living and energy crisis.</p> <p data-bbox="240 1003 1126 1137">Parliament called on the Commission to promote gender equality in all policymaking and stressed that more needs to be done since a gender perspective is lacking in the main climate, energy and environmental initiatives presented.</p> <p data-bbox="240 1171 419 1205">Full summary</p> | <p data-bbox="1150 360 1350 394">2023/2115(INI)</p> <p data-bbox="1150 432 1342 533">Rapporteur: Alice KUHNKE (Greens/EFA)</p>  <p data-bbox="1150 860 1394 994">30/11/2023 Committee report tabled for plenary A9-0430/2023</p> <p data-bbox="1150 1039 1347 1173">18/01/2024 Decision by Parliament T9-0048/2024</p> |

| Title | Reference |
|---|---|
| <p>Ensuring European transportation works for women</p> <p>Parliament reaffirmed the EU’s commitment to achieving gender equality in transport, underlining that concrete measures are needed to improve the safety, availability, accessibility and affordability of transport services and employment opportunities and working conditions in the sector for women in all their diversity.</p> <p>Stressing the importance of gender mainstreaming in transport for achieving the ecological and digital transitions, Members called for intersectional gender mainstreaming in transport and urban mobility planning, involving women in decision-making processes in order to ensure that transport and city planning effectively meet women’s needs.</p> <p>The resolution regretted the lack of standardised, sex- and gender-disaggregated transport data and gender analysis collected in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation across all modes of transport. The causes of the under-representation of women in the transport sector should also be identified. The employment rate of women in the transport sector is around 22% at EU level.</p> <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2022/2140(INI)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Elżbieta Katarzyna ŁUKACIJEWSKA (EPP)</p>  <p>27/06/2023 Vote in committee A9-0239/2023</p> <p>03/10/2023 Decision by Parliament T9-0339/2023</p> |


| Title | Reference |
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| <p>Regulation of prostitution in the EU: its cross-border implications and impact on gender equality and women's rights</p> | |
| <p>Parliament noted that approaches to address prostitution vary across the EU. The resolution highlighted that the greater the asymmetry between national prostitution legislation within the EU, given that the prostitution markets and its actors operate across borders, the more victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation there are. Member States are called upon to put in place effective measures to reduce the demand for prostitution and, consequently, trafficking in human beings, sexual exploitation and the operations of organised criminal groups. Members stressed the urgent need to improve and better coordinate cross-border cooperation with regard to the collection and exchange of reliable and accurate data, comparable between countries, on prostitution, sexual exploitation, violence in prostitution and the results of exit programmes.</p> <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2022/2139(INI)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Maria NOICHL (S&D)</p>  <p>27/06/2023 Vote in committee A9-0240/2023</p> <p>14/09/2023 Decision by Parliament T9-0328/2023</p> |

| Title | Reference |
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| <p>Sexual harassment in the EU and MeToo evaluation</p> <p>Gender-based violence is both a cause and a consequence of gender inequality, discrimination and the violation of human rights. It is a serious obstacle to the participation of women, girls and other victims in all areas of private and public life, preventing them from fully enjoying their rights and fundamental freedoms. Strongly condemning all forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, and all forms of harassment, in particular sexual harassment, Parliament once again called on the Commission to submit, under Article 83(1) TFEU, a proposal for a Council decision identifying gender-based violence as a new area of crime. It also called for swift ratification by the EU and all Member States of the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women. Sexual harassment must be included as an offence in the field of employment, in accordance with the EU's existing anti-discrimination directives.</p> <p>Members also stressed the importance of combating cyber-violence in the workplace and paying particular attention to women and girls fleeing war, especially those from Ukraine.</p> <p>Members strongly supported the international MeToo movement. Since 2017, the MeToo movement has taken hold in some Member States and that, subsequently, changes have been made by governments and organisations to tackle sexual violence, help victims and address the negative consequences for society. Members noted, however, that in some Member States, there has been little or no progress in this regard and called on Member States to pro-actively design and implement legislation and policies that tackle sexual violence and harassment in our society.</p> <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2022/2138(INI)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Michal ŠIMEČKA (RENEW)</p>  <p>25/04/2023 Vote in committee A9-0178/2023</p> <p>01/06/2023 Decision by Parliament T9-0217/2023</p> |


| Title | Reference |
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| <p>Towards a common European action on care</p> <p>Members noted that it is essential to ensure dignity, independence, autonomy, well-being and participation in social life through quality care throughout life. People in need of care and their carers should have the right to make a real choice about the care services that are appropriate for them and their families, how they are provided (home care, community-based services, patient-centred care, personalised care or other), where they are provided and how often they are provided, with particular attention to providing care and ensuring access to it for people living in remote areas.</p> <p>Parliament called on the Commission to present an ambitious, robust and sustainable European care strategy that builds on everyone's right to affordable, accessible and high-quality care, as well as on other principles set out in the EPSR and EU strategic documents, and the individual rights and needs of both care recipients and carers, and that encompasses the entire life course, targeting and responding to the needs of people at critical periods throughout their lifetime.</p> <p>Members stressed that the strategy should be based on reliable, comprehensive and comparable data that is publicly available. They insisted that the strategy should include concrete and progressive targets with a timetable and indicators to assess progress and tackle inequalities, taking into account the care needs in European societies.</p> <p>The Commission was invited to include comprehensive measures to combat violence and harassment, including all forms of abuse of older persons and abusive acts against carers in the European care strategy.</p> <p>For their part, Member States should ensure that investment in the care economy is included in national recovery and resilience plans, in the Cohesion Fund and in all other relevant EU financial instruments.</p> <p>Parliament recalled the commitments of the EU and the Member States to move away from isolated institutional care and towards community and family-based care, and to promote various models of care and independent living. It called on Member States to use available national and EU funds to accelerate this transition.</p> <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2021/2253(INI)</p> <p>Joint with EMPL</p> <p>Rapporteur:</p> <p>FEMM: Sirpa PIETIKÄINEN (EPP)</p>  <p>EMPL: Milan BRGLEZ (S&D)</p> <p>22/06/2022 Committee report tabled for plenary A9-0189/2022</p> <p>05/07/2022 Decision by Parliament T9-0278/2022</p> |


| Title | Reference |
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| <p>Intersectional discrimination in the European Union: the socio-economic situation of women of African, Middle-Eastern, Latin-American and Asian descent</p> | |
| <p><i>Intersectional discrimination policymaking</i></p> <p>Parliament stressed the importance of developing EU policies to combat and eliminate intersectional discrimination.</p> <p><i>Power and representation</i></p> <p>Parliament called for an increased presence of women in high-level and decision-making positions and for positive action measures, such as temporary quotas, incentive mechanisms and coaching.</p> <p><i>Ensuring equal access and equal rights</i></p> <p>Parliament called, <i>inter alia</i>, for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • awareness-raising actions to combat discrimination in the labour market • combating stereotypes and discrimination and racism from the earliest age • ensuring access to inclusive, quality education, training, skills development and decent work for marginalised girls and women • creating more inclusive education programmes for people with disabilities • creating conditions to effectively prevent labour exploitation, gender-based violence and other forms of abuse • taking into account the specific experience of women victims of intersectional discrimination in the design, implementation and evaluation of asylum, migration and integration policies • ensuring universal and accessible health coverage • ensuring that all climate actions incorporate an intersectional perspective <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2021/2243(INI)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Alice KUHNIKE (Greens/EFA)</p>  <p>16/06/2022 Vote in committee A9-0190/2022</p> <p>06/07/2022 Decision by Parliament T9-0289/2022</p> |

| Title | Reference |
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| <p>Women's poverty in Europe</p> <p>According to estimates for 2019 in the EU-27, women are particularly affected by the risk of poverty, with a poverty rate of 17.1% after social transfers. In 2020, the risk of poverty and social exclusion was higher for women (22.9%) than for men (20.9%). According to Eurostat, 64.6 million women and 57.6 million men currently live in poverty in the EU Member States.</p> <p>Members called for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an ambitious EU anti-poverty strategy • eradicating precarious work • gender mainstreaming • actions against homelessness • actions against gender-based violence • female entrepreneurship • non-gender-discriminatory tax policies <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2021/2170(INI)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Lina GÁLVEZ MUÑOZ (S&D)</p>  <p>16/06/2022 Vote in committee A9-0194/2022</p> <p>05/07/2022 Decision by Parliament T9-0274/2022</p> |


| Title | Reference |
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| <p>Reaching women's economic independence through entrepreneurship and self-employment</p> | |
| <p>Women entrepreneurs and self-employed workers represent an under-exploited source of sustainable economic growth, job creation and innovation potential. Yet women represent only 34.4% of the self-employed in the EU and 30% of its young entrepreneurs. Furthermore, less than 8% of CEOs of large companies are women and only 10% of the top positions in private equity and venture capital firms globally are held by women.</p> <p>The resolution underlined that women's entrepreneurship contributes to increasing women's economic independence and their empowerment, which is an essential precondition for reaching gender-equal societies and should be encouraged and promoted across the EU.</p> <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2021/2080(INI)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Pernille WEISS (EPP)</p>  <p>22/03/2022 Vote in committee A9-0096/2022</p> <p>03/05/2022 Decision by Parliament T9-0139/2022</p> |


| Title | Reference |
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| <p>The situation of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the EU, in the frame of women's health</p> | |
| <p>The resolution noted that sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) fall under the competences of Member States and as such, they have a responsibility to ensure access to a full range of SRHR services. Sexual and reproductive rights (SRR) are recognised as human rights in international and European human rights law and violations of SRHR constitute breaches of human rights. All challenges related to SRHR faced within Member States constitute common European challenges.</p> <p>Numerous reports show that, during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, SRHR services were limited and/or revoked, and there was a disruption in access to essential medical services such as contraception and abortion care, HIV and STI testing, access to female genital mutilation prevention and awareness centres and reproductive cancer screenings, and respectful maternal healthcare, which has had severe implications for women's fundamental right to bodily autonomy.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that there is a need to strengthen the resilience of health systems to such crises, to ensure that services related to SRHR continue to be fully available and are provided in a timely manner.</p> <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2020/2215(INI)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Predrag Fred MATIĆ (S&D)</p>  <p>11/05/2021 Vote in committee A9-0169/2021</p> <p>24/06/2021 Decision by Parliament T9-0314/2021</p> |


| Title | Reference |
|--|--|
| The gender perspective in the Covid-19 crisis and post-crisis period | |
| <p>Parliament urged the adoption of a gender-sensitive approach to the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p><i>COVID-19 health-related aspects and the gender impact</i></p> <p>Parliament called for looking at the differential health impact on women and men, to identify how the virus and treatments might affect women and men differently.</p> <p><i>Gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic</i></p> <p>Members called on Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • address gender-based violence • establish safe and flexible emergency alert systems • update protocols for victims of gender-based violence <p>For its part, the Commission should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop an EU protocol on violence against women in times of crisis and emergencies • promote awareness-raising, information and promotion campaigns • propose a directive to combat all forms of gender-based violence <p><i>COVID-19, economy, recovery and gender impact</i></p> <p>Parliament called for all programmes under the next MFF and the Next Generation EU to incorporate the gender perspective.</p> <p><i>External action</i></p> <p>Parliament highlighted the vulnerable position of women and girls in many parts of the world, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected countries.</p> <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2020/2121(INI)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Frances FITZGERALD (EPP)</p>  <p>09/11/2020 Vote in committee A9-0229/2020</p> <p>21/01/2021 Decision by Parliament T9-0024/2021</p> |

| Title | Reference |
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| <p data-bbox="240 293 1361 327">The impact of intimate partner violence and custody rights on women and children</p> <p data-bbox="240 360 1126 613">Domestic violence is one of the most widespread forms of gender-based violence, as an estimated 22% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their partner, and 43% psychological violence. Women and children are disproportionately affected by this type of violence. In many Member States, lockdown measures during the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a 60% increase in emergency calls from victims of domestic violence.</p> <p data-bbox="240 636 523 669">Parliament called for:</p> <ul data-bbox="288 692 1126 1025" style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling domestic violence without delay • Addressing domestic violence in custody and access decisions • Access to legal protection, emergency shelter and funds for victims • Protection and support for children • Prevention: training of professionals • Combating gender stereotypes and prejudices - education and awareness-raising <p data-bbox="240 1048 421 1081">Full summary</p> | <p data-bbox="1150 360 1353 394">2019/2166(INI)</p> <p data-bbox="1150 432 1353 465">Joint with JURI</p> <p data-bbox="1150 504 1326 537">Rapporteurs:</p> <p data-bbox="1150 575 1406 710">FEMM: Elena KOUNTOURA (The Left)</p>  <p data-bbox="1150 1041 1385 1137">JURI: Luisa REGIMENTI (EPP)</p> <p data-bbox="1150 1176 1401 1279">13/07/2021 Vote in committee A9-0254/2021</p> <p data-bbox="1150 1317 1342 1451">06/10/2021 Decision by Parliament T9-0406/2021</p> |


| Title | Reference |
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| <p data-bbox="240 226 932 257">Gender Equality in EU's foreign and security policy</p> <p data-bbox="240 293 1126 544">Women and girls may experience multiple forms of discrimination and are particularly affected by physical, psychological and sexual violence, poverty, armed conflict and the consequences of climate and health emergencies. Members stressed the need to mobilise, protect and support women in order to achieve lasting peace and security. Women's civil society groups and activists play a critical role in advancing peace and security agendas.</p> <p data-bbox="240 568 1126 705">Furthermore, women remain largely under-represented and undervalued in policy and decision-making processes, including in the field of foreign policy and international security in the EU and worldwide.</p> <p data-bbox="240 730 1126 835">Members called for the integration of the gender equality dimension into the Union's foreign and security, enlargement, trade and development policies.</p> <p data-bbox="240 860 1126 1070">Parliament recalled the pivotal role of women in promoting dialogue, building peace and bringing different perspectives on the meaning of peace and security. It called on the VP/HR, the EEAS and the Member States to safeguard women's rights and ensure their full participation in the various stages of the conflict cycle, as part of the EU's conflict prevention and mediation activities.</p> <p data-bbox="240 1095 421 1126">Full summary</p> | <p data-bbox="1152 293 1353 324">2019/2167(INI)</p> <p data-bbox="1152 365 1385 465">Rapporteur: Ernest URTASUN (Greens/EFA)</p>  <p data-bbox="1152 792 1401 893">16/07/2020 Vote in committee A9-0145/2020</p> <p data-bbox="1152 934 1347 1070">23/10/2020 Decision by Parliament T9-0286/2020</p> |


| Title | Reference |
|---|--|
| <p>Promoting gender equality in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and careers</p> | |
| <p>The EU faces a shortage of women in STEM careers and education. Only two out of five scientists and engineers are women, despite the fact that women make up 52% of the European population and 57.7% of higher education graduates in the EU. Women are particularly under-represented in the information and communication technology sector (18%) and among STEM graduates (36%), with three times as many men as women working in the digital sector.</p> <p>Giving greater visibility to women in STEM and their professional contributions could lead to successful role models and, ultimately, more mainstreaming and ultimately foster inclusion and gender equality.</p> <p>Members focussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing barriers • Promote women's participation through incentives • Education • Digital sector • Careers <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2019/2164(INI)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Susana SOLÍS PÉREZ (RENEW)</p>  <p>22/04/2021 Vote in committee A9-0163/2021</p> <p>10/06/2021 Decision by Parliament T9-0296/2021</p> |

| Title | Reference |
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| <p data-bbox="240 226 1278 257">Closing the digital gender gap: women's participation in the digital economy</p> <p data-bbox="240 293 1126 582">The Gender Equality Index 2019 revealed persistent gender inequalities in the digital sector. Eurostat data for 2018 showed that around 1.3 million people in the EU are studying information and communication technologies (ICT), and that girls and women account for only 17% of all ICT students in the EU. Gender stereotypes strongly influence subject choices, and very few teenage girls in EU Member States (less than 3%) show an interest in working in ICT.</p> <p data-bbox="240 607 756 638">Members called on the Commission to:</p> <ul data-bbox="339 663 1126 804" style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen women's participation in the digital economy • Reduce the digital divide • Combating gender-based violence and cyber violence • Data collection <p data-bbox="240 828 421 860">Full summary</p> | <p data-bbox="1155 293 1350 324">2019/2168(INI)</p> <p data-bbox="1155 367 1398 465">Rapporteur: Maria da Graça CARVALHO (EPP)</p>  <p data-bbox="1155 792 1398 896">12/11/2020 Vote in committee A9-0232/2020</p> <p data-bbox="1155 934 1342 1070">21/01/2021 Decision by Parliament T9-0026/2021</p> |

| Title | Reference |
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| <p data-bbox="240 293 740 327">The EU Strategy for Gender Equality</p> <p data-bbox="240 360 1126 577">Members welcomed the adoption of the Commission communication "A Union of equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025", but regretted that the strategy remains vague on the issue of timelines for several, highly welcomed, measures and that it sets neither concrete gender equality targets to be achieved by 2025 nor clear monitoring tools.</p> <p data-bbox="240 600 687 629">The Commission was called on to:</p> <ul data-bbox="288 656 1126 1055" style="list-style-type: none"> • establish a concrete roadmap with timeframes, targets, an annual review and monitoring mechanism, clear and measurable indicators of success and additional targeted actions • present guidelines on how to effectively implement gender mainstreaming in EU policies, including in budget preparation • systematically incorporate a gender perspective into all stages of the response to the COVID-19 crisis, and to promote women's participation at all levels of decision-making <p data-bbox="240 1077 421 1111">Full summary</p> | <p data-bbox="1150 360 1350 394">2019/2169(INI)</p> <p data-bbox="1150 432 1342 533">Rapporteur: Maria NOICHL (S&D)</p>  <p data-bbox="1150 860 1398 965">09/11/2020 Vote in committee A9-0234/2020</p> <p data-bbox="1150 1003 1342 1137">21/01/2021 Decision by Parliament T9-0025/2021</p> |

Own-initiative reports – implementation reports

| Title | Reference |
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| <p>The EU Gender Action Plan III</p> <p>Parliament welcomed the EU Gender Action Plan III for 2021-2025, which aims to advance gender equality worldwide. However, it regretted that the Council had failed to achieve unanimity on conclusions, owing to objections from four Member States to the word 'gender', thereby obstructing the formal endorsement of the Action Plan. It felt that this was a clear step backwards for gender equality and women's rights.</p> <p>Members stressed that the EU has an important role to play in achieving a gender-equal world through supporting partner countries to address gender discrimination. They called on the EU to lead by example and urged the six Member States that have not yet ratified and implemented the Istanbul Convention to do so without delay.</p> <p>Parliament called for more effective EU commitment and efficient implementation of GAP III in all the Union's external action, and welcomed the fact that 85 % of all new external actions will be required to incorporate gender as a significant or principal objective.</p> <p>The resolution stressed the need for regular, external and independent assessment of GAP III's results at every level and every stage, against the targeted and measurable objectives, as well as sufficient funding.</p> <p>Parliament called for action in seven areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminating all forms of gender-based violence Ensuring access to healthcare for women and sexual and reproductive rights (SRHR) Promoting economic and social rights and equality, and ensuring the autonomy of women and girls Involving women in peacebuilding and security initiatives Ensuring gender-responsive humanitarian action Building a green and digital society Creating a true Generation Equality <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2021/2003(INI)</p> <p>Joint with DEVE</p> <p>Rapporteur:</p> <p>FEMM and DEVE : Chrysoula ZACHAROPOULOU (RENEW)</p>  <p>1/02/2022 Committee report tabled for plenary A9-0025/2022</p> <p>10/03/2022 Decision by Parliament T9-0073/2022</p> |

| Title | Reference |
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| <p>Implementation of Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims</p> | |
| <p>Members stressed the need to establish a coordinated, harmonised and coherent framework at EU level, based on more efficient assessment and follow-up mechanisms, which guarantees that prevention of trafficking in human beings is strengthened, together with support and assistance to victims and their protection, and aims at the complete elimination of trafficking.</p> <p>Regretting the lack of comparable and detailed data on the scale of trafficking across the EU, Parliament called on Member States to increase their efforts and funding for research, analysis and data collection on all forms of trafficking in human beings, as well as to act on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of social media and digital technologies • Victim identification, protection, assistance and support • Trafficking in human beings in the context of asylum and migration • Child trafficking • Other forms of exploitation <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2020/2029(INI)</p> <p>Joint with LIBE</p> <p>FEMM: María Soraya RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS (RENEW)</p>  <p>LIBE: Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR (S&D)</p> <p>27/01/2021 Vote in committee A9-0011/2021</p> <p>10/02/2021 Decision by Parliament T9-0041/2021</p> |

Scrutiny and oversight activities of the Committee

The Committee continued during the 9th term its work on the scrutiny front with regard the implementation of existing legislation, the implementation of the EU budget and other EU policies. Scrutiny activities have been performed through written and oral questions to the Commission, Council or the High Representative and the exchanges of views with Commission representatives, representatives of other institutions and agencies. The regular exchange with the European Commission on the Commission's annual work programme was organised in the context of the so-called "structured dialogue" with Commissioner Dalli, responsible for the FEMM portfolio. In addition to Commissioner Dalli, the Committee exchanged views also with Vice-President Jourová, responsible for values and transparency, Commissioner Johansson, responsible for Home Affairs, as well as other Commissioners on topics falling within their remit.

Hearing of Commissioners

The FEMM Committee, as part of its remit, conducts the hearing of the Commissioner-designate for Equality, and also takes part in the hearings of other Commissioners-designates if their portfolios fall partially within the FEMM Committee's remit.

In 2019, FEMM jointly with the EMPL committee, organised the hearing of Helena Dalli.

Furthermore, FEMM was invited by other committees to participate in the hearings of four Commissioners-designate:

- Dubravka ŠUICA, Democracy and Demography, organised by AFCE
- Nicolas SCHMIT, Jobs and Social Rights, organised by EMPL
- Ylva JOHANSSON, Home Affairs, organised by LIBE
- Jutta URPILAINEN, International Partnerships, organised by DEVE

In addition, as part of the common questions to all Commissioners-designate under the theme "General competence, European commitment and personal independence", each Commissioner-designate was asked to explain how they would implement gender mainstreaming and integrate a gender perspective into all policy areas of their portfolio.

Structured dialogue with the Commission

As part of the work on the preparation of the annual work programme of the Commission in the remit of FEMM, FEMM was inviting each year in spring Commissioner Helena Dalli for a structured dialogue, in line with the [Better Lawmaking Agreement](#) to discuss on the progress made in the area of the committee's remit, upcoming legislative proposals and what still needs to be done. The exchanges of views were feeding into the formulation of the FEMM

priorities for the upcoming Commission were programme, presented each year in autumn.

The structured dialogues with Commissioner Dalli took place in February 2020, February 2021, March 2022, March 2023.

Annual budgetary procedure and Discharge

The FEMM committee has regularly issued its opinions for the annual budgetary procedure for the EU budget, as well as for the annual budgetary discharge procedures every year for the general budget of the EU and for EIGE. Every year the FEMM committee has recommended that discharge be granted to both the Commission on the general budget and to EIGE, whilst also noting the specific circumstances of each year's budget and the political and legal commitments of the Union vis-à-vis gender equality. The FEMM committee has consistently advocated for the proper funding for gender equality, including regarding staffing at EIGE, the collection of quality data, and gender mainstreaming.

Working Group on EIGE

The FEMM Committee had regular and strong cooperation with EIGE through this parliamentary term. This cooperation was even more enhanced by the work of the Working Group on EIGE. On 4 September 2019, the FEMM Coordinators endorsed the composition of Working Group on EIGE, consisting of MEPs from six political groups who expressed their interest in the Working Group. At its constitutive meeting, the Working Group approved its Functioning Agreement, which among others, stated that the decisions will be taken by consensus, that it would meet every six months and that the chairpersonship would rotate. During this term, the Working Group on EIGE met five times and held exchanges with EIGE's Director, with the European Parliament's appointed members of the Experts' Forum of the EIGE and with the Chair of the Management Board of EIGE.

Resolutions winding up questions for oral answer

| Title | Reference |
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| <p>EU priorities for the 64th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women</p> | |
| <p>Although the Beijing Platform for Action was created 25 years ago, many of the challenges identified in 1995 are still relevant today (such as the gender pay and pension gap, low employment rates for women, under-representation of women in decision-making bodies, unequal distribution of unpaid work and gender-based violence).</p> <p>The CSW64 was devoted to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly and the full realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>With this in mind, Parliament recommended Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reaffirm its full commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action and subsequent review conferences and the range of actions for gender equality set out therein • ensure a positive outcome of the CSW64, including the adoption of a set of ambitious commitments for the future, as set out in the Political Declaration • ensure that the EU has a common position and takes firm action to unequivocally denounce the backlash against gender equality and measures that undermine women's rights, autonomy and empowerment in all areas • ensure the full involvement of Parliament and its Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality in the decision-making process regarding the EU's position at the CSW64 • commit to strongly supporting the work of UN Women, a central actor in the UN system working to advance women's rights • strongly engage in Action Coalitions, together with the Commission, and to fulfil its commitment on annual reporting and monitoring in the context of the progress report on the work of the Coalitions for Action <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2019/2967(RSP)</p> <p>Plenary: 13/02/2020</p> |

| Title | Reference |
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| Gender pay gap | |
| <p>The resolution focussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistent payment inequalities between men and women • Equal pay for equal work <p>The resolution called on the Commission to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • come forward with an ambitious new EU Strategy for Gender Equality • revise the Gender Pay Gap Action Plan by the end of 2020, which should set clear targets for the Member States to reduce the gender pay gap over the next five years • remain committed to tabling measures to introduce binding pay transparency measures in the first 100 days of the new Commission’s mandate • promote the role of the social partners and of collective bargaining at all levels (national, sectoral, local and company) in the upcoming pay transparency legislation • present a full analysis of the gender pay gap in the EU institutions on EU Equal Pay Day <p>For their part, Member States were invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthen their efforts to definitively close the gender pay gap • strengthen the protection of maternity, paternity and parenthood in labour legislation • propose measures that increase social protection in the fields of unemployment, sickness, workplace accidents and occupational diseases • implement specific measures to combat the risk of poverty for older women, by increasing pensions but also by offering social support • combat gendered labour market segmentation • promote entrepreneurship, STEM subjects, digital education and financial literacy for girls from an early age in order to combat existing educational stereotypes and ensure more women enter developing and well-paid sectors <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2019/2870(RSP)</p> <p>Plenary: 30/01/2020</p> |

| Title | Reference |
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| <p>25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) (Nairobi Summit)</p> | |
| <p>2019 marked 25 years since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, where the ICPD Programme of Action was adopted by 179 governments, declaring a global commitment to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in line with the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action itself, and consolidating the consensus to place the rights and well-being of the individual at the centre of the reproductive health agenda and demographic planning.</p> <p>ICPD Programme of Action – since 1994</p> <p>Parliament commended the progress that has been made so far in specific areas such as the increasing availability of contraceptives, which has allowed women greater control over fertility, or decreasing maternal and new-born mortality. However, efforts need to be considerably stepped if the objectives of the Programme are to be attained.</p> <p>The resolution welcomed the objective agreed at the Nairobi Summit to mobilise the political will and financial commitments urgently needed to finally achieve zero unmet need for family planning information and services, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls.</p> <p>Parliament reaffirmed that SRHR are grounded in human rights, are essential elements of human dignity, and remain crucial to achieving gender equality. It called for the EU and its Member States to recognise the rights of women and girls to bodily integrity and autonomous decision-making. It condemned frequent violations of women’s sexual and reproductive rights, including the denial of access to comprehensive sexuality education, family planning services, contraceptives and maternal healthcare, as well as safe and legal abortion care. An adequate budget is requested for the above purposes.</p> <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2019/2850(RSP)</p> <p>Plenary: 24/06/2021</p> |

| Title | Reference |
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| <p>MeToo and harassment – the consequences for the EU institutions</p> | |
| <p>According to estimates, one in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence during their adult lives. Up to 55 % of women have been sexually harassed in the EU with 32 % of all victims saying the perpetrator was a superior, colleague or customer. The progress in addressing the issue of sexual harassment after three years of the MeToo movement is not sufficient and there is still a lot to be done, within the EU institutions and beyond.</p> <p>The resolution called for the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to make anti-harassment training available in all official languages or with interpretation and to target outreach activities at individual delegations and political groups • to create a public list of Members who have participated in these anti-harassment training sessions to be published on the website of the European Parliament as a good example for other Members • to improve awareness-raising and the introduction of compulsory training on Parliament’s zero-harassment policy for all people working in its premises • to aim to provide protection against victimisation of or retaliation against complainants, victims, witnesses and whistle-blowers; • to set up a task force of independent experts be set up with a mandate to examine the situation of sexual harassment and abuse in Parliament • to exchange best practices with other institutions in tackling harassment, including anti-harassment policies, guidelines or any new provisions on how to deal with it <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2021/2986(RSP)</p> <p>Plenary: 16/12/2021</p> |

| Title | Reference |
|---|--|
| <p data-bbox="240 226 903 255">The impact of the war against Ukraine on women</p> <p data-bbox="240 293 1126 582">The invasion of Ukraine by Russia forced a large number of people to flee the country. Approximately 5 million refugees had fled from Ukraine to the EU, with an estimated 90 % of refugees being women and children. A further 7.1 million people were displaced internally within Ukraine, including women and children in need of medical and mental health care, employment possibilities, proper schooling for children and accommodation and protection against sexual and gender-based violence.</p> <p data-bbox="240 607 1126 853">Parliament restated its condemnation in the strongest possible terms of Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against and invasion of Ukraine and condemned any war crimes being committed against the civilian population, including women and girls in all their diversity. It praised the solidarity shown by EU citizens, civil society, Member States and the EU itself towards Ukraine and people fleeing Ukraine.</p> <p data-bbox="240 878 1126 1093">The EU should work towards swiftly granting EU candidate status to Ukraine, in line with Article 49 TEU and based on merit, and, in the meantime, continue to work towards the integration of Ukraine into the EU single market along the lines of the Association Agreement in order to adequately protect Ukrainian women and girls.</p> <p data-bbox="240 1117 1126 1332">The Commission was asked to ensure correct and full implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive across all 27 Member States and to make sure that women refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine fully benefit from the rights enshrined therein, especially regarding health services, maternity, childcare and access to the labour market.</p> <p data-bbox="240 1357 1126 1420">Members insisted that all Ukrainian citizens who were forcibly deported to Russia should be immediately returned to Ukraine.</p> <p data-bbox="240 1444 419 1473">Full summary</p> | <p data-bbox="1155 293 1374 322">2022/2633(RSP)</p> <p data-bbox="1155 365 1315 427">Plenary: 05/05/2022</p> |

| Title | Reference |
|---|--|
| <p>The EU priorities for the 67th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women</p> | |
| <p>189 countries across the world, including the European Union and its Member States, committed to working towards gender equality and empowering all women and girls at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. The 67th UN Commission on the Status of Women focuses on innovation and technological change and on education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.</p> <p>The gender dimension of the digital transformation is acknowledged in the EU's Gender Equality Strategy for 2020–2025 and the Gender Action Plan III. Promoting women's equal access to the untapped potential of digital technologies is central to the EU's digital strategy and to sustainable growth.</p> <p>The resolution stressed that women still face structural and cultural barriers when participating in all aspects of the digital transition, which can have a detrimental effect on their access to and position in the labour market. According to Parliament, only a gender-responsive digital transformation can provide the necessary opportunities for changing negative gendered patterns of employment.</p> <p>Among the main recommendations addressed to the Council, Parliament highlighted the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure the full involvement of Parliament and its Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality in the decision-making process on the EU's position at the 67th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and to ensure that Parliament has adequate information and access to the EU position document ahead of the negotiations • condemn in the strongest terms the use of rape and sexual violence as a weapon of war in armed conflicts, specifically their ongoing use in the unjustified attack on Ukraine by Russia, as well as other conflicts such as in the Tigray region in Ethiopia <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2022/2839(RSP)</p> <p>Plenary: 15/02/2023</p> |

| Title | Reference |
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| <p>Resolution on the EU priorities for the 68th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women</p> | |
| <p>The resolution stated that the EU needs to acknowledge its responsibility to include gender perspectives in all areas of its external policies, such as development cooperation, humanitarian aid, trade, agriculture, climate and migration, in order to have an impact on the eradication of global female poverty.</p> <p>Progress made in recent years in the EU in empowering women and fostering an equal society, with initiatives such as transparent recruitment procedures in companies or pay transparency, must be enhanced as they are essential to achieve gender equality, which is particularly important during times of crisis.</p> <p>Among the main recommendations addressed to the Council, Parliament highlighted the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure the full involvement of Parliament and its Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality in the decision-making process on the EU’s position at the 68th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, to ensure that Parliament has adequate and timely information and access to the EU position document ahead of the negotiations • ensure that the EU leads by example and shows strong leadership, while taking a unified position on the importance of empowering women and girls in all their diversity and achieving gender equality worldwide • address the multiple systemic root causes of women’s poverty globally, such as women’s over-representation in low-paid, precarious and part-time jobs, women’s career breaks to care for children and other family members, lack of access to labour markets and employment, the gender pay and pension gap, as well as under-representation of women in political and economic decision-making • ensure equal opportunities in education, in the labour market, as well as in political and economic decision-making, with equal access to economic and financial services, and others. <p>Full summary</p> | <p>2023/2973(RSP)</p> <p>Plenary: 08/02/2024</p> |

Question for oral answer

| Title | Reference |
|---|---|
| Proposal for a directive on improving the gender balance among non-executive directors of companies listed on stock exchanges and related measures (COM(2012)0614) | |
| In the question, FEMM and JURI asked what is the state of play in the Council regarding the abovementioned proposal, including the most recent positions of the Member States? What are the main reasons preventing the reticent Member States from changing their positions? What action does the German Presidency envisage to unblock the file in Council and promote the adoption of a common position? | Jointly with JURI O-000050/2020 Plenary: 25/03/2021 |

Opinions adopted

During the past five years, the FEMM Committee also adopted a large number of legislative and non-legislative opinions. Many of these files fell under the remit of other committees, in particular the LIBE, DEVE and EMPL committees, as well as BUDG and CONT.

| Title | Reference |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Guidelines for the 2025 Budget - Section III | 2023/2220(BUI) |
| Establishing the European Disability Card and the European Parking Card for persons with disabilities | 2023/0311(COD) |
| Human rights and democracy in the world and the European Union's policy on the matter – annual report 2023 | 2023/2118(INI) |
| 2022 discharge: European Institute for Gender Equality | 2023/2152(DEC) |
| 2022 discharge: General budget of the EU - Commission | 2023/2129(DEC) |
| Interim report on the proposal for a mid-term revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021–2027 | 2023/0201R(APP) |
| General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2024 – all sections | 2023/0264(BUD) |
| Extending the list of EU crimes to hate speech and hate crime | 2023/2068(INI) |
| Reducing inequalities and promoting social inclusion in times of crisis for children and their families | 2023/2066(INI) |
| Jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition of decisions and acceptance of authentic instruments in matters of parenthood and on the creation of a European Certificate of Parenthood | 2022/0402(CNS) |
| Guidelines for the 2024 Budget - Section III | 2022/2184(BUI) |
| EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles | 2022/2171(INI) |
| 2021 discharge: General budget of the EU - Commission | 2022/2081(DEC) |
| Laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse | 2022/0155(COD) |
| Implementation of the common security and defence policy – annual report 2022 | 2022/2050(INI) |
| Proposals of the European Parliament for the amendment of the Treaties | 2022/2051(INL) |
| Human rights and democracy in the world and the European Union's policy on the matter – annual report 2022 | 2022/2049(INI) |
| General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2023 – all sections | 2022/0212(BUD) |
| Guidelines for the 2023 Budget - Section III | 2021/2226(BUI) |

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| Energy efficiency (recast) | 2021/0203(COD) |
| A long-term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas - Towards stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas by 2040 | 2021/2254(INI) |
| Human rights and democracy in the world and the European Union's policy on the matter - annual report 2021 | 2021/2181(INI) |
| 2020 discharge : European Institute for Gender Equality | 2021/2129(DEC) |
| 2020 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Commission | 2021/2106(DEC) |
| Amending Directive 2013/34/EU, Directive 2004/109/EC, Directive 2006/43/EC and Regulation (EU) No 537/2014, as regards corporate sustainability reporting | 2021/0104(COD) |
| General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2022 - all sections | 2021/0227(BUD) |
| Single Market For Digital Services (Digital Services Act) and amending Directive 2000/31/EC | 2020/0361(COD) |
| Guidelines for the 2022 Budget - Section III | 2020/2265(BUI) |
| Amending Regulation (EC) No 168/2007 establishing a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights | 2020/0112R(APP) |
| Adequate minimum wages in the European Union | 2020/0310(COD) |
| Temporary derogation from certain provisions of Directive 2002/58/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the use of technologies by number-independent interpersonal communications service providers for the processing of personal and other data for the purpose of combatting child sexual abuse online | 2020/0259(COD) |
| Human Rights and Democracy in the World and the European Union's policy on the matter - annual report 2019 | 2020/2208(INI) |
| Shaping the digital future of Europe: removing barriers to the functioning of the digital single market and improving the use of AI for European consumers | 2020/2216(INI) |
| The protection of persons with disabilities through petitions: lessons learnt | 2020/2209(INI) |
| 2019 discharge: European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) | 2020/2173(DEC) |
| 2019 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Commission | 2020/2140(DEC) |
| Establishment of a Programme for the Union's action in the field of health –for the period 2021–2027 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 282/2014 (“EU4Health Programme”) | 2020/0102(COD) |
| Establishing the InvestEU Programme | 2020/0108(COD) |
| Establishing a Recovery and Resilience Facility | 2020/0104(COD) |

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| Amending Regulation (EC) No 168/2007 establishing a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights | 2020/0112(APP) |
| A strong social Europe for Just Transitions | 2020/2084(INI) |
| Determination of a clear risk of a serious breach by the Republic of Poland of the rule of law | 2017/0360R(NLE) |
| Shaping digital education policy | 2020/2135(INI) |
| Implementation of Council Directive 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation in light of the UNCRPD | 2020/2086(INI) |
| The gender dimension in Cohesion Policy | 2020/2040(INI) |
| Guidelines for the 2021 Budget - Section III | 2019/2213(BUD) |
| Implementation of the Dublin III Regulation | 2019/2206(INI) |
| Artificial intelligence in education, culture and the audiovisual sector | 2020/2017(INI) |
| Old continent growing older - possibilities and challenges related to ageing policy post 2020 | 2020/2008(INI) |
| The impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations in developing countries | 2020/2042(INI) |
| Report on the implementation of National Roma Integration Strategies: Combating negative attitudes towards people with Romani background in Europe | 2020/2011(INI) |
| Situation of Fundamental Rights in the European Union - Annual Report for the years 2018-2019 | 2019/2199(INI) |
| Reducing inequalities with a special focus on in-work poverty | 2019/2188(INI) |
| General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021 - all sections | 2020/1998(BUD) |
| Human rights and democracy in the world and the European Union's policy on the matter - annual report 2018 | 2019/2125(INI) |
| 2018 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Commission | 2019/2055(DEC) |
| 2018 discharge: European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) | 2019/2089(DEC) |
| General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020 - all sections | 2019/2028(BUD) |
| Establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the Common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) | 2018/0216(COD) |

Fact finding and outreach activities

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

The FEMM committee regularly organised ad-hoc delegations to the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the UN (New York).

| Title | Date |
|--|-----------------|
| <p>Virtual mission to the 65th session of the CSW, New York, USA</p> <p>The priority theme of the session was “Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”. The review theme was “Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development”.</p> | 15 - 26/03/2021 |
| <p>Virtual mission to the 66th session of the CSW, New York, USA</p> <p>The priority theme of the session was “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes”. The review theme was “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work (agreed conclusions of the sixty-first session)”</p> | 14-25/03/2022 |
| <p>Mission to the USA: 67th session of the CSW, New York, and Washington D.C.</p> <p>Subjects that were touched upon during all the delegation’s meetings in the US were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the priority theme of the CSW67: participation of women in the digital economy, development of artificial intelligence in a gender non-biased way, combating cyberviolence, and education and empowerment of women and girls in the STEM sector; • how to combat the global backlash against women’s rights, access to sexual and reproductive health and rights including safe and legal abortion, sexual violence in conflict and use of rape as weapon of war, the fight against gender based violence, including cyberviolence, as well as sexuality and relationship education for boys, and EU bilateral and multilateral cooperation to advance gender equality and women’s rights | 6-10/03/2023 |
| <p>Mission to the USA: 68th session of the CSW, New York</p> | 18-22/03/2024 |

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| <p>The delegation went to take part in the 68th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (the CSW68), focused on 'Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective' as well as to participate in side-events, briefings with the EU Ambassador, EU and international partners and non-governmental organisations.</p> | |
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Other missions and ad hoc delegations

| Title | Date |
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| <p>Joint DEVE-FEMM ad-hoc delegation to the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25</p> <p>During the three-day UN International Conference, MEPs participated in different sessions and took part in discussions on advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights, which are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. They also met, <i>inter alia</i>, Dr. Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director, youth champions from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and representatives of local NGOs. In parallel, MEPs also participated in a parliamentary forum on health, rights and development, where they discussed parliamentarians' commitment on these three subjects with national parliamentarians and high representatives from UN bodies.</p> | 12–14/11/2019 |
| <p>FEMM Mission to Zagreb, Croatia</p> <p>The Croatian Presidency organised a high-level conference "Participation of women in the labour market - benefit for the society"; the mission also looked at the comprehensive situation of women in Croatia.</p> | 29–31/01/2020 |
| <p>Virtual mission to the Generation Equality Forum, Paris</p> <p>The Generation Equality Forum is a civil-society centred, global gathering for gender equality convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the governments of Mexico and France. Attended by Heads of State, the Paris Forum convened governments, international organisations, civil society, youth, the private sector and activists from the entire world to make concrete, ambitious and sustainable commitments towards achieving gender equality.</p> | 30/06/2021 – 02/07/2021 |
| <p>FEMM Mission to Reykjavik, Iceland, 3–5 November 2021</p> <p>The visit to Iceland provided a unique opportunity for an exchange of views and best practices between the authorities and civil society of Iceland and the Members of the European Parliament with focus on the gender pay gap, implementation of the pay transparency</p> | 3–5/11/2021 |

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| legislation and other aspects related to promoting gender equality, work-life balance and career opportunities. | |
| Virtual mission to Reykjavík Global Forum – Women Leaders | 9-10/11/2021 |
| The Reykjavík Global Forum (the Forum) is a gathering and networking event where women leaders discuss and share ideas and solutions on how to further advance society. The European Parliament was invited to send a delegation of two women MEPs and submit a 2-minute “National Delegation Statement” on the theme of “Pathways to build a more equitable future”. | |
| Mission to The Hague, The Netherlands | 23-25/05/2022 |
| The mission provided Members with practical experience of the Netherlands with regard to preventing and combatting trafficking in human beings. European and international levels dimension with the missions and means deployed by European agencies and the International Criminal Court were explored as well, especially with the situation of new risks and needs for women and children fleeing Ukraine in terms of location, identification, prevention and protection. | |
| Ad-hoc delegation to Ethiopia | 20-22/09/2022 |
| This mission was extremely timely as it took place just a few weeks after the resumption of hostilities in the Tigray region. Due to this specific context, the objective of the programme was broadened to cover the dramatic situation faced by women and girls in the conflict zone, where sexual abuses have been widely reported. The other objectives of the mission were to engage with key stakeholders on the issue of female genital mutilation and on policies put in place to fight gender-based violence and to promote gender equality and women empowerment in Ethiopia and on the African continent. | |
| Mission to Warsaw, Poland | 02-04/11/2022 |
| The mission provided Members with practical and detailed information about the experience of women and girls in Poland in terms of sexual and reproductive health and rights, also in the context of the refugees fleeing the war against Ukraine - the latter being mainly women and children (90%), especially at risk. | |
| Mission to Madrid, Spain | 20-22/02/2022 |
| Members of the Delegation participated in numerous meetings focused on the developments in gender equality policies: cases on sexual consent law, care and dependence law and the fight against trafficking and sexual exploitation. | |
| Mission to Copenhagen, Denmark | 15-17/05/2023 |
| The mission provided the Members with information on the developments in women's entrepreneurship policies in Denmark. It emphasized the importance of a change at all levels to promote | |

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| women's entrepreneurship and create an ecosystem that welcomes and inspires women entrepreneurs, benefiting society through innovation, job creation, and exports. | |
| Ad-hoc delegation to Bogotá, Colombia | 19-23/06/2023 |
| The mission was dedicated to the success stories countering the backlash against women's rights and the progress made in the implementation of the gender perspective of the 2016 Peace Agreement between the Colombian government and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), the world's first agreement to have a gender perspective at its core. The mission was also focused on the proposals of the government regarding the right to abortion, which had been de-penalised in February 2022 by a Constitutional Court decision which made Colombia the country with one of the most progressive legal frameworks in Latin America and worldwide. | |

Public hearings

| Title | Date |
|--|------------|
| Violence against women: state of play in the Member States and exchange of best practices | 18/11/2019 |
| The EU Strategy for Gender Equality | 4/12/2019 |
| Women on Boards with JURI | 21/09/2020 |
| Trafficking in human beings with LIBE | 26/10/2020 |
| Beating Breast Cancer: Challenges and opportunities with BECA | 27/10/2020 |
| Women and digitalisation with AIDA | 28/10/2020 |
| Sexual harassment in the EU institutions | 09/11/2020 |
| Women in Belarus with D-BY | 12/11/2020 |
| Combating Gender based Violence: Cyber Violence with LIBE | 30/11/2020 |
| Women's Rights Defenders | 07/12/2020 |
| Gender aspects of precarious work | 25/01/2021 |
| Attacks on abortion rights and breaches of the Rule of Law in Poland with LIBE | 24/02/2021 |
| Financing of anti-choice organisations with INGE | 23/03/2021 |
| Empowering women entrepreneurs and investors | 19/04/2021 |
| Pay Transparency with EMPL | 22/04/2021 |
| Attacks on abortion rights and breaches of the Rule of Law in Poland with LIBE | 24/02/2021 |
| Istanbul Convention - 10th anniversary, including the impact of the withdrawal of Turkey with LIBE | 25/05/2021 |
| Socio-economic position of women | 25/05/2021 |
| Addressing inequalities in developing countries with DEVE | 26/05/2021 |
| Various aspects of women in poverty following the COVID impact | 15/06/2021 |
| Enhancing gender equality through common European action on care | 27/10/2021 |

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| Afghan Women as Peace Builders and Community Leaders with D-AF | 28/10/2021 |
| Regulation of prostitution in Europe | 06/12/2021 |
| Ensuring European transportation works for women | 25/01/2022 |
| Countering the anti-gender movement | 10/02/2022 |
| Women in Economics and Finance: Debate on the next challenges in the EU with ECON | 28/02/2022 |
| Exchange of views with 2003 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dr Shirin Ebadi on the situation of women in Iran with D-IR | 15/03/2022 |
| A European Care Strategy with EMPL | 24/03/2022 |
| Situation of women refugees from Ukraine with LIBE | 21/04/2022 |
| Women's rights in Afghanistan | 10/05/2022 |
| Combating gender based violence online with LIBE | 10/05/2022 |
| Sexual violence and rape as abuses of power | 13/10/2022 |
| Sexuality and relationships education of boys | 25/10/2022 |
| Implementation of the temporary protection directive in the EU with LIBE | 07/11/2022 |
| Consequences of the de facto abortion ban in Poland with LIBE | 17/11/2022 |
| Exchange of views on legal aspects of the situation of women in Iran and on current developments with D-IR | 24/11/2022 |
| Combating trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation with LIBE | 29/11/2022 |
| The conditions of women and girls in Afghanistan with the Delegation for relations with Afghanistan | 21/03/2023 |
| UNODC global report on trafficking in persons 2022 with LIBE | 25/04/2023 |
| The backlash against women's rights | 25/04/2023 |
| Equality in the EU - Exchange of views with Equinet | 24/05/2023 |
| Gender aspects of defence, peace and security | 24/05/2023 |
| Women's reproductive health and specificities | 19/09/2023 |
| Pay Transparency, gender pay and gender pension gap | 23/10/2023 |
| Gender mainstreaming in the EU budget with BUDG and CONT | 23/10/2023 |
| Elect her - how to support women's political participation with AFCD | 24/10/2023 |
| The situation of women in Belarus with D-BY | 24/10/2023 |
| Women in Finance and Economics with ECON | 24/10/2023 |
| The Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls with DEVE | 07/11/2023 |
| Municipalism and gender equality policies in the EU | 29/11/2023 |
| Harmful practices in the EU towards women and girls with disabilities with EMPL | 29/11/2023 |
| Gender Mainstreaming and EU climate policy | 07/12/2023 |
| Advancing the Bi-regional Pact for Care between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean with DEVE | 24/01/2024 |
| The Implementation of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme (CERV) with LIBE | 14/02/2024 |

Meetings with National Parliaments

The FEMM committee engages with direct dialogue with national parliaments at committee level, most notably (but not limited to) hosting the Inter-parliamentary Committee Meetings (ICMs) on the occasion of International

Women's Day. These meetings bring together MPs and MEPs from corresponding committees, to discuss matters of common concern.

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| <p>International Women's Day 2021 - We are strong: Women leading the fight against Covid-19</p> <p>60 MPs from 26 national Parliaments and Norway recognised the valuable work of women (representing almost 80% of the healthcare staff, social assistance and childcare workers) in the frontline fighting against the pandemic. However, women remain less paid than men and their work considered less valuable. Furthermore, domestic violence increased during the lockdowns.</p> | <p>04/03/2021</p> |
| <p>Eliminating Violence against Women</p> <p>Four sessions explored the state of affairs in policy and practice in focused areas of gender-based violence: sexual violence as a weapon of war; preventing and combating violence against women and girls with disabilities; cyberviolence; the Istanbul Convention.</p> | <p>30/11/2021</p> |
| <p>International Women's Day 2022 - An ambitious future for Europe's women after COVID-19: mental load, gender equality in teleworking and unpaid care work after the pandemic</p> <p>This IWD took place the after the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the programme was amended to address that, with the participation of the Chair of the Verkhovna Rada's Committee on EU integration, Klympush-Tsintsadze. The IWD exchanged experiences and best practices in advancing women's empowerment during crises.</p> | <p>03/03/2022</p> |
| <p>The rights of Ukrainian women fleeing the war</p> <p>The ICM consisted of two panels: Panel I under the title "Situation of Ukrainian women refugees with regard to reception conditions, protection measures and safety risks" jointly organised by FEMM and LIBE committees, and Panel II under the title "Ukrainian women fleeing the war: Access to social protection and the labour market, housing, childcare facilities and education" jointly organised by FEMM and EMPL committees.</p> | <p>12/07/2022</p> |
| <p>Gender Mainstreaming</p> <p>The purpose of the event was to exchange views on matters related to gender equality in the context of parliamentary life, with a special emphasis on gender mainstreaming in Parliaments. There were two main topics chosen for this event: "Anti-harassment protocols, their implementation and sanctions" and "Gender Action Plans".</p> | <p>08/12/2022</p> |
| <p>International Women's Day 2023 - Gender aspects of Energy poverty</p> <p>The IWD focussed on the explosion of energy poverty particularly affecting single mothers and single women. It explored ways and means in which gender equality considerations can be integrated into policies and initiatives at the EU, national, and local levels.</p> | <p>01/03/2023</p> |

International Women's Day 2024 - Women in Sport

07/03/2024

The IWD focussed on "Women in sport", who are fighting to ensure that their achievements are recognised equally to their male counterparts, breaking down stereotypes in certain sports that are typically seen as a man's world. Reports on abuse scandals affecting women in sports in a variety of fields are well known, as well as the fight of women for equal financial rewards and status. The ICM explored how women in sport have gained ground, yet still face specific hurdles, and discuss the way forward.

Workshops

| Title | Date |
|--|------------|
| Gender aspect of trafficking in human beings | 18/02/2020 |
| Women's access to abortion care in the EU | 12/10/2020 |
| Gender mainstreaming in the recovery | 16/03/2021 |
| Gender-based violence in education | 10/05/2021 |
| Three years after #Metoo | 25/05/2021 |
| Women and cancer prevention | 16/06/2022 |
| Feminist economy: tools to design the economy that works for women | 13/10/2022 |
| Women in Sport | 29/11/2022 |
| Menstrual Poverty | 08/12/2022 |
| Legal protection and support of orphans | 19/07/2023 |
| Differences in pension schemes | 19/09/2023 |

Gender Mainstreaming

According to Parliament's Rules of Procedure, FEMM Committee is responsible for the implementation and further development of gender mainstreaming in all policy sectors. Gender mainstreaming is firmly established in Article 8 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union: *"In all its activities, the Union shall aim to eliminate inequalities, and to promote equality, between men and women."*

As a monitoring tool, the FEMM committee draws up a regular report on gender mainstreaming in the work of the European Parliament. A standing FEMM rapporteur for gender mainstreaming in the European Parliament has been in place since 2016, and has also been involved in the work of the High-Level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity. In the legislative term 2019-2024, there were two FEMM standing rapporteurs for gender mainstreaming, Ms Irène TOLLERET (Renew) and Ms Gwendoline DELBOS-CORFIELD (Greens/EFA).

Gender Mainstreaming Network

In accordance with Parliament's resolution of 13 March 2003 on gender mainstreaming in the European Parliament, each parliamentary committee appoints one of its Members as the Member responsible for gender mainstreaming. Since 2009, these designated Members have also formed part of the Gender Mainstreaming Network and during the 8th legislative term, the delegations have appointed their own Members responsible for gender mainstreaming, who have also taken part in the activities of the network.

The Gender Mainstreaming Network meets regularly, around 2–3 times per year. It is chaired by the FEMM Chair and supported by the FEMM secretariat. It is a forum for exchanging information on ongoing files of interest from a gender equality perspective and for sharing best practices.

During the 9th parliamentary term, the Gender Mainstreaming Network met 11 times.

Gender Action Plans

Parliament's Rules of Procedure foresees that: *"The Bureau shall adopt a gender action plan aimed at incorporating a gender perspective in all Parliament's activities, at all levels and all stages. The gender action plan shall be monitored bi-annually and reviewed at least every five years."*

In addition to that, almost all European Parliament Committees and Subcommittees have prepared their [Gender Action Plans](#). Nine of them monitored the implementation of these Gender Actions Plans.

Gender Equality Week

In spring of 2020, the FEMM Committee decided to invite the committees of the European Parliament to hold for the first time European Gender Equality Week in October 2020 (during week 44).

2020 was a special year, marking the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This important milestone provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the achievements and future challenges for the advancement of girls' and women's rights and gender equality.

During the 4 days of the first European Gender Equality Week in 2020, 12 Committees were involved, and 13 events were organised. EIGE also joined with the launch of Gender Equality Index 2020 through the online conference. One more Committee and two Parliamentary delegation organised events later, but lined them to the GEW.

The FEMM committee organised the second edition of the Gender Equality Week in October 2021, in which all parliamentary committees and delegations were invited to hold events addressing gender equality in their areas of competence. In the 2021 edition, 16 committees and 6 delegations participated, and 21 events were organised. As part of this Week, FEMM also organised a side event for the Conference on the Future of Europe: "Building an inclusive economy for women in the green and digital transformation".

The third European Gender Equality Week took place on 24–30 October 2022. This year 16 committees and 2 delegations were involved, and 17 events were organised.

The fourth Gender Equality Week took place on 23-27 October 2023. The overarching topic of this year's GEW was "what's next" – looking at what we have achieved so far, as well as also looking at what else needs to be done. This year the FEMM Chair also sent a letter to the national parliaments informing about the initiative and inviting them to join the initiative (some national parliaments responded positively). 17 committees and 4 delegations were involved and 27 events (25 during the Week and 2 subsequent events in November) were organised by the Parliament in this edition.

Each year the European Gender Equality Week is getting better and bigger. The evidence of that is that in the Bureau meeting of 10 July, the President proposed to turn this initiative into a standing annual event of the European Parliament and to ask the Secretary-General to set up an administrative Task Force to support its organisation. Through the years, the European Gender Equality Week became also an all-inclusive Parliament's initiative. In addition to committees and delegations, individual MEPs held events, as well as political groups and almost all DGs of the Parliament contributed to this initiative either by organising events or facilitating them with various services. A big number of external stakeholders also joined this initiative.

Annex

Committee Members

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/femm/home/members>

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Relevant websites

Legislative Observatory

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/home/home.do>

Presentations from the public hearings

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/femm/events/events-hearings>

Studies

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/femm/supporting-analyses/latest-documents>

EPRS - European Parliamentary Research Service

<http://www.eprs.sso.ep.parl.union.eu/eprs/auth/en/1161.html>

Think Tank

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/home.html>

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