



9.2.2015

0004/2015

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on establishing a European Year on Combating Violence against Women

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Lapse date: 9.5.2015

**0004/2015**

**Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on establishing a European Year on Combating Violence against Women<sup>1</sup>**

1. The expression 'violence against women' denotes all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering for women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.
2. Violence against women encompasses crimes that disproportionately impact on women, such as sexual assault, sexual harassment, rape, stalking and domestic violence, and is a violation of women's fundamental rights with respect to dignity, equality and access to justice.
3. Violence against women is a major obstacle to gender equality and is one of the most widespread human rights violations, knowing no geographical, financial, cultural or social barriers.
4. Violence against women is a severe problem in the EU, where one out of three women is a victim of sexual and/or physical violence.
5. The Commission is hence called upon to establish in 2016 a European Year on Combating Violence against Women.
6. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> Under Rule 136(4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, where a declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament's component Members, it is published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.