

EU Guidelines on violence and discrimination against women and girls (2008)



Guidelines mark the EU's clear political will to treat the subject of women's rights as a priority and to take long-term action in that field

EU HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDELINES

1. Death Penalty
2. Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
3. Human rights dialogues with third countries
4. Children and armed conflict
5. Human rights defenders
6. Promotion and protection of the Rights of the Child
7. Violence against women and girls and combating all forms of discrimination against them
8. Promoting compliance with IHL

GUIDELINES ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THEM

Focus on:

- Prevention
- Protection and support
- Prosecution of perpetrators

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Promote gender equality and combat discrimination (legislation, public policies)
- Collection of data and development of indicators (boost national capacities, identify institutional and other tools)
- Devising effective, coordinated strategies and promoting institutional mechanisms
- Combating impunity of perpetrators, access to justice for victims

EU INTERVENTION TOOLS – general approaches

Political tools to...

- encourage ratification of CEDAW and withdrawal of reservations as well as relevant regional instruments
- encourage and support submission of reports to CEDAW committee

EU INTERVENTION TOOLS – general approaches

- encourage women's rights defenders and women's organisations to work on public policies
- Universal Periodic Review
- promote development of new pertinent regional and international instruments (e.g. on laws that discriminate against women)

Dialogue and consultations with women's rights defenders and women's organisations

- encourage summoning of UN SR on violence and the follow up to recommendations
- combat impunity & monitor cases
- support women's rights defenders and female HR defenders
- promote and support awareness raising campaigns, particularly geared to men and boys
- promote and support campaigns focusing on systematic neglect - eg birth registration

EU INTERVENTION TOOLS – Individual cases

The EU will consider taking specific measures if it becomes aware of individual cases of exceptional gravity, in particular violence perpetrated or tolerated by the State contrary to international commitments

EU INTERVENTION TOOLS – Individual cases (criteria)

- **Most blatant cases**
- **Perpetrators are unlikely to be held responsible**
- **Victims have no access to justice**
- **Recurrent, systematic or large-scale practice**
- **Resulting from discriminatory laws and practices**
- **Female human rights defenders**

EU INTERVENTION TOOLS – implementation channels

- **Specific dialogues on human rights, other dialogues**
- **HR reporting**
- **EU special representatives**
- **International fora**
- **Bilateral and multilateral cooperation**

30 June 2010, Brussels - Declaration by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, on behalf of the European Union on Femicide:

"The EU will actively support the sharing of best practices and cooperation within Latin America and is willing to offer its cooperation on this field in the search of remedies to eliminate violence against women, by means of political support, legislative cooperation and concrete measures: These measures may include the creation of national data bases, the publication of gender educational programs and manuals, standardizing of protocols, development of expertise or any other adequate action."

Declaration by the High Representative,
Catherine Ashton, on behalf of the European
Union on the International Day for the
Elimination of Violence against Women, 25
November 2010

Joint Statement by the High Representative
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-
president of the European Commission
Catherine Ashton and European Commission
Vice-President Viviane Reding on the
International Women's Day

Declaration by the High Representative
Catherine Ashton on and VP Viviane
Reding on International Day against
Female Genital Mutilation

Statement by EU High Representative
Catherine Ashton on the proposed
legislation on women's shelters in
Afghanistan (20 February 2011)

EU Heads of Mission's declaration on the assassination of Ms. Marisela Escobedo Ortíz, woman activist in Chihuahua, Mexico (December 2010)

Statement of the European Union on the murders of the journalists Ana María Marcela Tarce Viveros and Rocío González Trápaga (September 2011)

EU INTERVENTION TOOLS – Country reports

- No pilot countries – worldwide coverage
- 130 reports elaborated 2009-2010, approximately 90 of them with proposed strategic actions

EU INTERVENTION TOOLS – Funding

- EIDHR allocates more than 60 million Euro are allocated each year to EU Delegations around the world for small-size projects implemented by local CSO. The projects selected range from € 10.000 to € 300.000.
- Between 2007-2010 around 20% of EIDHR projects were promoting and protecting women and girls' rights across the world either as a specific or as a secondary priority (in total 240 projects, circa 40 million euros).

- Protecting women against domestic violence in Mexico
- Support in the fight against sexual abuse and other forms of abuse suffered by young girls in domestic service in the City of Kigali (Rwanda)
- Addressing domestic violence and trafficking in the urban poor communities and 'red light districts' of Angeles City and Olongapo City (Philippines)
- Addressing trafficking from human rights perspective, provision of shelter and legal assistance (FYROM)

Regional / global actions and campaigns:

- FGM, in Africa
- Early and forced marriages, in Asia
- 'Honor crimes' in Middle-East and North Africa
- Sexual violence and rape in armed conflict, in countries concerned

- Joint high-level event in N.Y. with UN Women (UNGA 2011)
- Collaboration with regional bodies
- Human rights dialogues and field visits

- Elaboration of country-specific human rights strategies
- Increased action on individual cases
- EU Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development (strong focus on VaW)
- Review of EU human rights policy (focus on the coherence of internal-external actions)

Examples of country-specific action points

- **Uruguay:** Undertake an analysis of the real situation on the ground, and examine the work of the different governmental levels involved in addressing domestic violence; formulation of education programmes and / or pilot projects in affective and sexual health education; training and awareness programs in GBV for judicial, law enforcement and health staff.

Examples of country-specific action points

- **El Salvador** (specific focus on femicide): reinforcement of the National Mechanism for Women by supporting areas of public advocacy and institutional strengthening of the National Women's Policy and Action Plan 2005-2009; policies on gender and plans for equal opportunities developed and implemented in 30 municipalities.
- **Guyana**: At the UPR hearing in May 2010, several EU member states highlighted especially the need for more concrete action on VAW.

Examples of country-specific action points

- **Nicaragua:** Support the development of a common conceptual framework among government institutions and civil society on gender violence including monitoring indicators.
- **Panama:** creation of specific infrastructure in which to receive victims of VAW

Examples of country-specific action points

■ Guatemala:

- Annual work programmes in place since 2005 on VaW (Gender Table)
- Revised national public policy on gender equality (2008-2023)
- Revision and approbation of the Law against Femicide
- Specific Commission for Femicide in Guatemala

Examples of country-specific action points

■ Guatemala:

- Model of special criminal courts (training of justice operators)
- International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala
- Awareness-raising campaigns, mapping of organisations
- Strategic Plan of the Judicial System for the Implementation of the Law on Femicide

MUERTE VIOLENTA DE MUJERES

