

# The European Women's Lobby

Working together for women's rights and gender equality in Europe



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S  
**LOBBY**  
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES

Pierrette Pape  
**EWL Acting Coordinator**

# The situation of women in Europe

- ✓ Members of the European Parliament: **35%**
- ✓ Women in national parliaments: **22%**
- ✓ Women in national government: **26%**
- ✓ Feminisation of poverty: **26.9%** (against 24%)
- ✓ **22%** women poor over 65 years (16% for men)
- ✓ **16%** average gender pay gap
- ✓ **39%** average gender pension gap
- ✓ **63%** employment rate – close to pre-crisis levels
- ✓ **Two-thirds** of women work part-time
- ✓ **1 in 3** women experience male violence (physical, sexual, psychological)
- ✓ **1/5** women experienced rape
- ✓ **7** women die every day from male domestic violence
- ✓ **9 out of 10** women in prostitution would like to exit prostitution but feel unable to do so



# Why a European Women's Lobby?

- ✓ No real equality between women and men
- ✓ Discrepancies of legislation and reality
- ✓ Need for women's organisations to ally, share information, develop common action
- ✓ Women's voice and advocacy at European level
- ✓ **Together, we can make a change!**



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# The voice of women in Europe

- ✓ The largest umbrella organisation of women's associations in the EU
- ✓ National co-ordinations in 31 European countries and 20 Europe-wide member organisations (migrant women, women farmers, women lawyers, trade unions, etc.)
- ✓ Concentrating on European level, but activities range from local to international level
- ✓ **Aim to promote women's rights and gender equality in Europe**



# EWL membership



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# Working with...

- ✓ European Parliament
- ✓ European Commission
- ✓ Council of Ministers
- ✓ Advisory Bodies
- ✓ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)
- ✓ Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)
  
- ✓ **NGOs:** Social Platform, European Civil Society Contact Group



# EWL secretariat in Brussels



Celebrating the vote of the EP resolution on prostitution!



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# Women and decision-making



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# EWL 50/50 Campaign: No modern democracy without parity



I VOTE.  
I CHANGE.  
I VOTE FOR EQUALITY.



**EU**2014

[www.paritydemocracy.eu](http://www.paritydemocracy.eu)



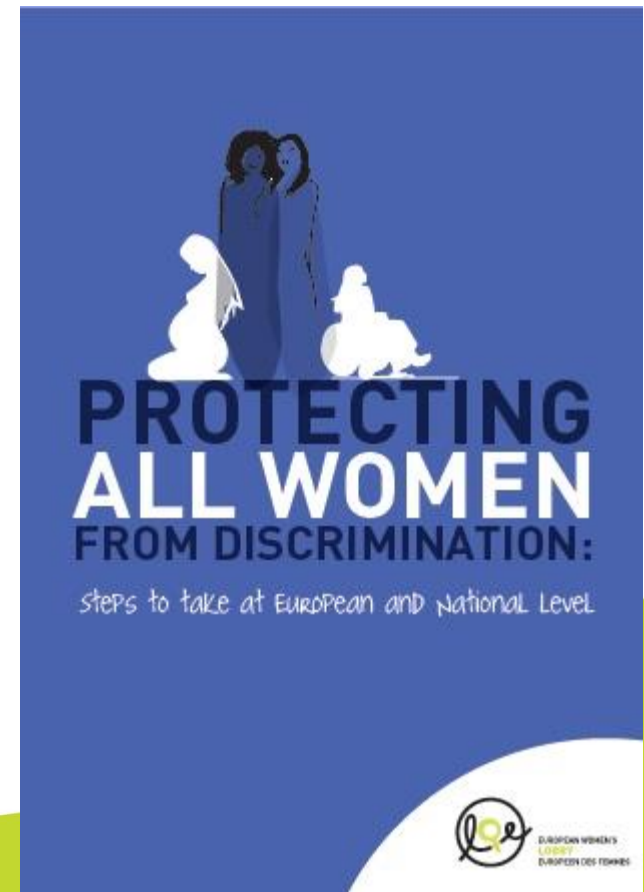
# EWL European Political Mentoring Network 2013-2014



# Immigration, Integration and Asylum Women's Diversity, Anti-discrimination



**EUROPEAN NETWORK  
OF MIGRANT WOMEN**



# Economic and Social Policy from a feminist perspective

- ✓ Women earn an average of 16% less than men
- ✓ Women's pensions are on average 39% less than men's
- ✓ Women are four times more likely than men to work part-time
- ✓ Almost a quarter of women are at-risk-of-poverty



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# EWL Actions on socio-economic policies

- Gender pay gap
- Women's pensions

## Ticking clocks -

Alternative 2012 Country-Specific Recommendations to strengthen women's rights and gender equality in the Europe 2020 Strategy



# The impact of austerity measures on women's rights and gender equality



## The price of austerity -

The impact on women's rights and gender equality in Europe



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New EWL video clip:



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# Violence against Women

- ✓ An estimated one in five women has been a victim of domestic violence
- ✓ 7 women die every day from male domestic violence
- ✓ 9 out of 10 women in prostitution would like to exit prostitution but feel unable to do so



# EWL observatory on violence against women



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# #EndVAWinEurope

# MAKE MY YEAR!

**Act now to  
end violence  
against women  
in Europe.**



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## BRUSSELS' CALL

*Victor Hugo*

HE WOULD HAVE SIGNED...

## WHAT ABOUT YOU ?

"THEY SAY THAT SLAVERY HAS DISAPPEARED FROM EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION. THAT IS INCORRECT. IT STILL EXISTS, BUT NOW IT WEIGHS ONLY ON WOMEN, AND IT IS CALLED **PROSTITUTION**."

Victor Hugo, 1862.



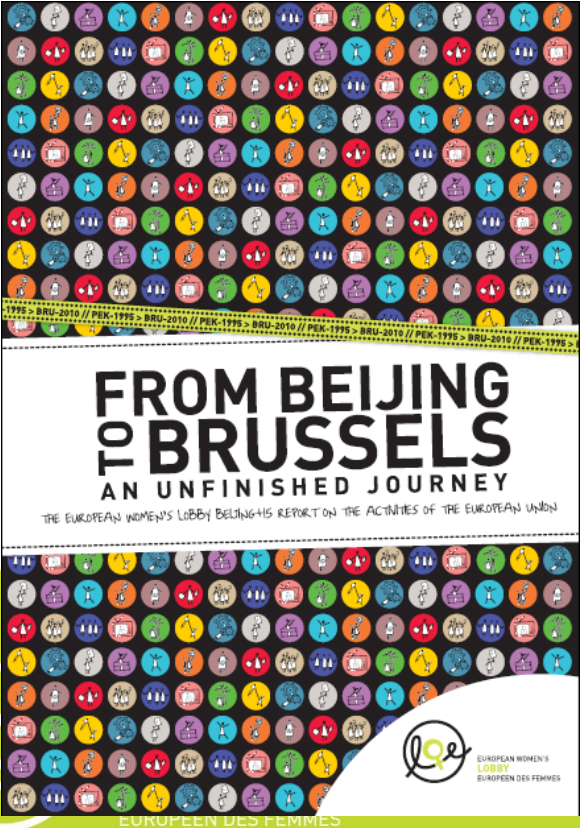
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TOGETHER FOR A EUROPE  
**FREE FROM PROSTITUTION**

#Endprostitution  
#brusselscall



# Our work at international level



# Women's Watch 2012 - 2013

**A feminist appraisal of the situation of women's rights in 30 countries** looking both at legislation and statistical data regarding:

- ✓ Women in decision-making
- ✓ Women's economic independence and care responsibilities
- ✓ Violence against women and women's sexual and reproductive health and rights



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## European Women's Lobby MANIFESTO

# European Parliament elections 2014

**Act now for her future, commit to gender equality!**

- A comprehensive framework to achieve gender equality
- Sustainable funding for gender equality
- Credible EU policies on gender equality at international level
- Women's economic independence
- Parity democracy
- A caring society
- A Europe free from violence against women
- Diverse in equality

**@EuropeanWomen #EP2014 #EuropeanWomensVoice**



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# EWL action to mobilise voters



## You care for **her** future? Vote in the **2014** European elections!

Why is it important to vote? The European Union is a key player in terms of democracy and social change.

By voting at the European elections in May, you decide who represents YOU in the European Parliament. The candidates you choose are your supporters for the next five years. They define European politics, take on the present and shape the future of women and girls, men and boys in Europe!

The outcome of the elections will also have an impact on the face of the new European Commission which has key lawmaking powers and can make proposals towards real change for people in Europe.

The European Union supports gender equality through legislative acts and support to national developments.

European laws or directives call for equal treatment on the basis of sex and include equal pay for equal work, employment rights, an end to sexual harassment at work and to discrimination in goods and services. We now have tools for the protection of women victims of violence and more participation of women in decision-making is being discussed.

The European Commission has initiated legislation and research, and supported campaigns and activities at national level.

The Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee of the European Parliament plays a key role by sending out strong messages which determine policies in Europe.

"For a Europe that promotes women's rights, solidarity, dignity, respect and equality!"

### On 25 May, I vote.

The European Women's Lobby calls for a strong commitment to gender equality. Read our [manifesto!](#)  
[www.womenlobby.org](http://www.womenlobby.org) @EuropeanWomen #EuropeanWomensVoice #EP2014



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# 2014: Challenges ahead

- ✓ Impact of the crisis and austerity measures on women and on women's organisations (funding)
- ✓ Weakening/disappearance of institutional mechanisms for gender equality and women's rights
- ✓ Climate of conservatism and anti-feminism
- ✓ Impact of neoliberalism & consumer society on women's representations, roles and stereotypes
- ✓ Backlash against women's rights, especially Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights



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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



[www.womenlobby.org](http://www.womenlobby.org)  
@Europeanwomen

***Become a Friend of the EWL!***

