

**Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women,
including Domestic Violence**

Proceedings

Launching Conference

Madrid, 27 November 2006

**Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence
à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique**

Actes

Conférence de lancement

Madrid, 27 novembre 2006



ESPAÑA

**Stop domestic
violence
against women**



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**Stop à la violence
domestique
faite aux femmes**

**Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence
against Women, including Domestic Violence**

**Launching conference
Madrid, 27 November 2006**

PROCEEDINGS

**Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence
à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique**

**Conférence de lancement
Madrid, 27 novembre 2006**

ACTES

Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking Division
Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg

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INTRODUCTION

Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence

The Launching Conference of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, was held on 27 November 2006 in the Spanish Senate in Madrid. All Council of Europe member states, except Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liechtenstein, Poland and Switzerland were represented. The following states attended as observers: Canada, Holy See and Mexico.

In all, over 400 participants attended the conference, including deputy prime ministers, ministers, deputy ministers, state secretaries and high-level civil servants, parliamentarians and representatives of local and regional authorities dealing with gender equality matters as well as representatives of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and Council of Europe organs and bodies.

The Campaign was officially launched during a solemn ceremony, in which the high-level participants expressed their support for its implementation. The Council of Europe decided to launch this Campaign during the Third Summit of the organisation in May 2005, during which Heads of State and Government of member states reaffirmed their commitment to eradicating violence against women, including domestic violence, and defined the future activities of the Council of Europe in this field in the Action Plan which they adopted. In addition to their decision to implement a campaign on this issue, they decided to set up a Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including domestic violence. This group of eight international

experts in the field of preventing and combating violence against women developed the Blueprint for the Campaign, which was subsequently approved by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 21 June 2006. This document serves as a roadmap for implementation of the Campaign and contains a definition of violence against women, as well as Campaign aims, objectives, messages and activities to implement the Campaign.

The Campaign consists of three dimensions: intergovernmental, parliamentary and local and regional. It is carried out by the Council of Europe as well as its member states, in partnership with intergovernmental organisations and NGOs involved in the protection of women against violence.

Throughout the duration of the Campaign and beyond, member states are requested to implement all measures contained in *Council of Europe Recommendation (2002) 5 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of women from violence*, as well as to launch national campaigns in parallel or as a follow-up to the Council of Europe Campaign.

The Campaign will come to an end during a closing conference to be held in the first half of 2008. On this occasion, the *Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, will present its conclusions and assessment of measures and actions taken at national level to combat violence against women, including domestic violence as well as its recommendations to the Council of Europe for future action in this field. ★

Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique

La Conférence de lancement de la *Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*, s'est tenue au Sénat espagnol de Madrid le 27 novembre 2006. Tous les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe y étaient représentés, à l'exception de l'Arménie, la Belgique, la Bosnie-Herzégovine, le Liechtenstein, la Pologne et la Suisse. Les États suivants ont assisté à la conférence en qualité d'observateurs : le Canada, le Saint-Siège et le Mexique.

Plus de 400 personnes ont participé à cette conférence, y compris des vice-premiers ministres, ministres, vice-ministres, secrétaires d'État, hauts fonctionnaires, parlementaires, représentants des autorités locales et régionales traitant des questions d'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes ainsi que des représentant(e)s d'organisations internationales intergouvernementales et non gouvernementales et d'organes et instances du Conseil de l'Europe.

La campagne a été lancée officiellement lors d'une cérémonie solennelle, au cours de laquelle les participant(e)s de haut niveau ont exprimé leur soutien à sa mise en œuvre. Le Conseil de l'Europe a décidé de lancer cette campagne au cours du 3^e Sommet de l'Organisation, qui s'est tenu en mai 2005, durant lequel les chefs d'État et de gouvernement ont réaffirmé leur engagement à éradiquer la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique, et ont défini les activités futures du Conseil de l'Europe dans ce domaine dans le Plan d'action qu'ils ont adopté. En plus de leur décision de mettre en œuvre une campagne dans ce domaine, ils ont décidé de mettre en place une Task Force pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique. Ce groupe de huit experts internationaux compétents en

matière de prévention et de lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes a élaboré le programme de la campagne, qui a été approuvé par la suite par le Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe le 21 juin 2006. Ce document sert de feuille de route pour la mise en œuvre de la campagne et contient une définition de la violence à l'égard des femmes, ainsi que toutes les informations relatives aux buts, objectifs, messages et activités pour mettre en œuvre la campagne.

La campagne comporte trois dimensions : intergouvernementale, parlementaire et locale/régionale. Elle est menée par le Conseil de l'Europe ainsi que par ses États membres, en partenariat avec des organisations intergouvernementales et des ONG impliquées dans la protection des femmes contre la violence.

Pendant toute la durée de la campagne et au-delà, il a été demandé aux États membres de mettre en œuvre toutes les mesures contenues dans la *Recommandation (2002) 5 du Comité des Ministres aux États membres sur la protection des femmes contre la violence*, ainsi que de lancer des campagnes nationales en parallèle ou dans le cadre du suivi de la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe.

La campagne s'achèvera lors d'une conférence de clôture qui se tiendra durant le premier semestre 2008. A cette occasion, la *Task Force du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*, présentera ses conclusions et son évaluation des mesures et actions prises au niveau national pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique, ainsi que des recommandations au Conseil de l'Europe sur les actions futures dans ce domaine. ★

PROGRAMME
OF THE LAUNCHING
CONFERENCE

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, INCLUDING
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Programme

Launching conference

**Organised by the Council of Europe
in co-operation with the Spanish authorities**

**Senate, Madrid, Spain,
27 November 2006**

Sunday, 26 November 2006

Welcoming dinner

8-11 pm Dinner-buffet hosted by Mr Terry Davis, Secretary General, Council of Europe, for all participants

Monday, 27 November 2006

Launching conference

8 am Registration of participants

9 am Words of welcome by Mr Juan José Lucas, Second Vice-President of the Senate, Spain

Opening of the conference by Mr Terry Davis, Secretary General, Council of Europe

9.10 am **Violence against Women: Situation in Council of Europe member states**

Keynote speaker: Ms Carol Hagemann-White, Professor, Faculty of General Pedagogy and Gender Studies, University of Osnabrück, Germany

Questions and discussion

9.30 am **Support and protection of victims**

Chair: Ms Rosemarie Zapfl-Helbling, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Keynote speaker: Mr Thomas Hammarberg, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe

Panel discussion

Ms Enriqueta Chicano, Chair of the Federation of Progressive Women and Vice-Chair of the State Observatory on Violence against Women, Spain

Ms Nimet Çubukçu, State Minister for Women and Family Affairs, Turkey

Ms Darinka Stantcheva, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Ms Sandra Barnes, Member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

Questions and discussion

10.30 am **Innovative legal and policy measures to combat violence against women – data collection as a prerequisite for effective policies**

Chair: Ms Dubravka Šimonović, Chairperson of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence

Keynote speaker: Ms Tuula Haatainen, Minister for Social Affairs and Health, Finland

Panel discussion

Ms Donatella Linguiti, Secretary of State, Ministry for Rights and Equal Opportunities, Italy

Ms Meg Munn, Deputy Minister for Women and Equality, United Kingdom

Ms Soledad Murillo, Secretary General on Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Spain

Mr Jean-Guy Branger, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

Ms Genoveva Tisheva, Managing Director, Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation, Bulgaria

Ms Sylvia Walby, Professor, Sociology Department, Lancaster University, United Kingdom

Questions and discussion

11.40 am Break

12.10 pm **Solemn launching ceremony**

Musical performance by Ms Esperanza Fernández

Welcoming address by Mr Francisco Javier Rojo García, President of the Senate, Spain

Address by Mr René van der Linden, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

Address by Mr Ian Micallef, President of the Chamber of Local Authorities of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

Address by Mr Fiorenzo Stolfi, Chair of the Committee of Ministers, Council of Europe

Mr Heliodoro Gallego Cuesta, President of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, Spain

Mr Jesús Caldera Sánchez-Capitán, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Spain

Mr Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Minister of Justice, Spain

Mr Miguel Angel Moratinos, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Spain

Mr Manuel Marín González, President of the Congress of Deputies, Spain

Address by Mr Terry Davis, Secretary General, Council of Europe

Address by Mr José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, Prime Minister, Spain

1.30 pm Lunch-buffet hosted by “Las Cortes Generales” for all participants

3 pm **Changing attitudes to combat violence against women**

Chair: Mr Pēteris Elferts, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Latvia to the Council of Europe, Thematic Co-ordinator on Gender Equality of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Keynote speaker: Ms Yakin Etürk, United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

Panel discussion

Ms Jadranka Kosor, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity, Croatia

Ms Carmen Alborch Bataller, Member of the Congress of Deputies and Chair of the Joint Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities, Spain

Ms Susana Camarero Benítez, Member of the Congress of Deputies, Spain

Ms Isabel Llinàs, Director of the Women's Institute of the Balearic Islands, Spain

Ms Karine Henrotte-Forsberg, Representative of the Conference of INGOs enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe

Questions and discussion

4.30 pm Break

5 pm **United in combating domestic violence against women**

Chair: Mr Valerio Prignachi, Chair of the Committee on Social Cohesion of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Keynote speech: Ms Widney Brown, Senior Director, International Law, Policy and Campaigns, Amnesty International

Panel discussion

Ms Catherine Vautrin, Minister Delegate for Social Cohesion and Parity, France

Ms María Antonia Martínez García, Member of the Senate, Co-rapporteur of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on "How parliaments can and must promote effective ways of combating violence against women in all fields", Spain

Ms Anna Záborská, Chairperson of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality of the European Parliament

Mr Ramón Roperó Mancera, Member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

Ms Hijran Huseynova, Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Issues, Azerbaijan

Questions and discussion

6 pm **Closing session**

Mr Philippe Boillat, Director General of Human Rights, Council of Europe

Ms Minodora Cliveti, Chairperson of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Mr Jesús Caldera Sánchez-Capitán, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Spain

6.30 pm End of conference

**PROGRAMME
DE LA CONFÉRENCE
DE LANCEMENT**

CAMPAGNE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
POUR COMBATTRE LA VIOLENCE À L'ÉGARD
DES FEMMES, Y COMPRIS LA VIOLENCE
DOMESTIQUE

Programme

Conférence de lancement

organisée par le Conseil de l'Europe
en coopération avec les autorités espagnoles

**Sénat, Madrid, Espagne,
27 novembre 2006**

Dimanche, 26 novembre 2006

Dîner de bienvenue

20h-23h Dîner-buffet offert par M. Terry Davis, Secrétaire Général, Conseil de l'Europe à tous/toutes les participant(e)s

Lundi, 27 novembre 2006

Conférence de lancement

8h Enregistrement des participant(e)s

9h Paroles de bienvenue de M. Juan José Lucas, second Vice-Président du Sénat, Espagne

Ouverture de la Conférence par M. Terry Davis, Secrétaire Général, Conseil de l'Europe

9h10 **Violence à l'égard des femmes : situation dans les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe**

Rapporteuse : M^{me} Carol Hagemann-White, Professeur, Faculté de pédagogie générale et d'études de genre, Université d'Osnabrück, Allemagne

Questions et discussion

9h30 **Soutien et protection des victimes**

Présidence : M^{me} Rosemarie Zapfl-Helbling, Vice-présidente de la Commission sur l'égalité des chances pour les femmes et les hommes de l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe

Rapporteur : M. Thomas Hammarberg, Commissaire aux Droits de l'Homme, Conseil de l'Europe

Table ronde

M^{me} Enriqueta Chicano, Présidente de la Fédération des femmes progressistes et Vice-présidente de l'Observatoire national de la violence à l'égard des femmes, Espagne

M^{me} Nimet Çubukçu, Ministre d'État des Affaires relatives aux femmes et à la famille, Turquie

M^{me} Darinka Stantcheva, Membre de l'Assemblée parlementaire, Conseil de l'Europe

M^{me} Sandra Barnes, Membre du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux,
Conseil de l'Europe

Questions et discussion

10h30 **Mesures juridiques et politiques novatrices pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes – Collecte de données, condition préalable de politiques efficaces**

Chair: M^{me} Dubravka Šimonović, Présidente de la Task Force du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique

Rapporteuse : M^{me} Tuula Haatainen, Ministre des Affaires sociales et de la Santé, Finlande

Table ronde

M^{me} Donatella Linguiti, Secrétaire d'État, Ministère des Droits et de l'Égalité des chances, Italie

M^{me} Meg Munn, Vice-Ministre pour les femmes et l'égalité, Royaume-Uni

M^{me} Soledad Murillo, Secrétaire générale de l'Égalité des chances, Ministère du Travail et des Affaires sociales, Espagne

M. Jean-Guy Branger, Membre de l'Assemblée parlementaire, Conseil de l'Europe

M^{me} Genoveva Tisheva, Directrice exécutive, Fondation bulgare des recherches de genre, Bulgarie

M^{me} Sylvia Walby, Professeur, Département de sociologie, Université de Lancaster, Royaume-Uni

Questions et discussion

11h40 Pause

12h10 **Cérémonie solennelle de lancement**

Intermède musical par M^{me} Esperanza Fernández

Allocution de bienvenue de M. Francisco Javier Rojo García, Président du Sénat, Espagne

Allocution de M. René van der Linden, Président de l'Assemblée parlementaire, Conseil de l'Europe

Allocution de M. Ian Micallef, Président de la Chambre des pouvoirs locaux du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux, Conseil de l'Europe

Allocution de M. Fiorenzo Stolfi, Président du Comité des Ministres, Conseil de l'Europe

M. Heliodoro Gallego Cuesta, Président de la Fédération espagnole des municipalités et provinces, Espagne

M. Jesús Caldera Sánchez-Capitán, Ministre du Travail et des Affaires sociales, Espagne

M. Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Ministre de la Justice, Espagne

M. Miguel Angel Moratinos, Ministre des Affaires étrangères, Espagne

M. Manuel Marín González, Président du Congrès des députés, Espagne

Allocution de M. Terry Davis, Secrétaire Général, Conseil de l'Europe

Allocution de M. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, Premier Ministre, Espagne

13h30 Déjeuner-buffet offert par « Las Cortes Generales » à tous/toutes les participant(e)s

15h **Changer les attitudes pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes**

Présidence : M. Pēteris Elferts, Ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire, Représentant Permanent de la Lettonie auprès du Conseil de l'Europe, Coordinateur thématique du Comité des Ministres sur l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes, Conseil de l'Europe

Rapporteuse : M^{me} Yakin Etürk, Rapporteuse spéciale des Nations Unies chargée de la question de la violence contre les femmes, ses causes et ses conséquences

Table ronde

M^{me} Jadranka Kosor, Vice-Première Ministre et Ministre de la Famille, des Affaires des anciens combattants et de la Solidarité entre générations, Croatie

M^{me} Carmen Alborch Bataller, Membre du Congrès des députés et Présidente de la Commission Mixte des droits des femmes et de l'égalité des chances, Espagne

M^{me} Susana Camarero Benítez, Membre du Congrès des députés, Espagne

M^{me} Isabel Llinàs, Directrice de l'Institut des femmes des Iles Baléares, Espagne

M^{me} Karine Henrotte-Forsberg, Représentante de la Conférence des OING dotées du statut participatif auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

Questions et discussion

16h30 Pause

17h **Uni(e)s pour combattre la violence domestique à l'égard des femmes**

Présidence : M. Valerio Prignachi, Président de la Commission de la Cohésion sociale du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux, Conseil de l'Europe

Rapporteuse : M^{me} Widney Brown, Directrice principale de la Division de droit international, des politiques et campagnes, Amnesty International

Table ronde

M^{me} Catherine Vautrin, Ministre déléguée à la cohésion sociale et à la parité, France

M^{me} María Antonia Martínez García, Membre du Sénat, Co-rapporteuse de l'Union interparlementaire sur « Comment les parlements peuvent-ils et doivent-ils promouvoir une lutte efficace contre la violence à l'égard des femmes dans tous les domaines », Espagne

M^{me} Anna Záborská, Présidente de la Commission des droits des femmes et de l'égalité de genre du Parlement européen

M. Ramón Roperó Mancera, Membre du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux, Conseil de l'Europe

M^{me} Hijran Huseynova, Présidente du Comité national pour les affaires de la famille, des femmes et des enfants, Azerbaïdjan

Questions et discussion

18h **Session de clôture**

M. Philippe Boillat, Directeur général des droits de l'homme, Conseil de l'Europe

M^{me} Minodora Cliveti, Présidente de la Commission sur l'égalité des chances pour les femmes et les hommes de l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe

M. Jesús Caldera Sánchez-Capitán, Ministre du Travail et des Affaires sociales, Espagne

18h30 Fin de la conférence

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

Words of welcome by Mr Juan José Lucas

Second Vice-President of the Senate, Spain

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is always a great satisfaction for the Spanish Senate to host here in this historic setting, conferences dedicated to discussing the concerns, needs and interests of our fellow citizens, in this historic setting.

This is the House of Freedom and as such the home of all the women and all the men of our country. I therefore wish to begin by welcoming the Council of Europe conference to launch the Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence.

A conference devoted to this social issue is always, and above all, a conference about life, about what it is that makes us the unique and irreplaceable human beings that we are in reality.

Violence against women is not an isolated or random problem but one that is to be found in all spheres of society and which has deep structural and cultural roots. It is therefore a problem that cannot be solved without the untiring efforts of the whole of society.

It is through conferences like this that we can help make the public aware that we must continue our sustained efforts to eradicate this scourge on society and give more and better support to victims.

Behind every case of gender violence there is a personal story – the story of a woman's suffering – and a more general problem: the breakdown of our model of society. Such violence is not a question of race, age, social rank, culture, religion or nationality. It is a universal problem.

Statistics bear this out:

- ▶ In Spain 62 women have already died this year – more than in the whole of 2005.

- ▶ Every 18 seconds a woman is ill-treated somewhere in the world.
- ▶ One in every five European women is regularly maltreated and 95% of such violence takes place in the home.
- ▶ As the World Health Organisation quite rightly points out, gender violence is the main cause of death for women between 15 and 45 years of age throughout the world: more women die in this way than in road accidents or of cancer.

These figures continue to weigh on the conscience and the peace of mind of every one of us. It is impossible to stand back and do nothing. Anyone who does so or who turns away from a woman close to them who is suffering violence from the mere fact of being a woman not only has a heart of stone but is also a coward.

If we are to face up to gender violence, we must not turn a blind eye to the victims. As long as we ignore the victims there will be violence and that will mean that we are losing the battle against violence.

Another distinctive characteristic of a society that has a sense of civic responsibility is not only the refusal to give way to violence but an increasing tendency to adopt an attitude of zero tolerance.

We must all put an end to violent behaviour within our families and in our surroundings and strive with enthusiasm and energy to eradicate this scourge on society.

Governments must be untiring in their efforts to combat violence and promote the required measures.

The drafting of policies which grant equal opportunities to women and men, thus making equality a reality, is the basis of the educational

model that is required to eradicate gender violence.

We also need public awareness-raising policies.

Each victim is not only an irretrievable loss but also an unforgivable shame, which weighs on the conscience of society as a whole and of the public authorities.

We never demonstrate greater dignity or humanity than when we tackle the evils that beset us with the courage and vigour that has characterised the human race since its creation.

Throughout the intense day of work that lies ahead of us, we will look at both the situation in Council of Europe member states and at the support and protection afforded to the victims of domestic violence, and

at the measures, laws and policies applied in combating violence, and will discuss how to change attitudes and how to join forces in preventing domestic violence.

I believe that the conference programme, which will begin with an address by Mr Terry Davis, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and be closed by the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of Spain, Mr Caldera, could not be more interesting, more appropriate or more necessary.

But I also believe that my final words this morning should be words of gratitude and of official encouragement to all those who work every day to rid society of this scourge.

To those who help through their efforts to avoid gender violence,

showing not only their sense of duty and dedication to the common good but also their human sensitivity, in other words their love of their neighbour. And our society needs such demonstrations of civic duty, dedication and sensitivity.

Finally, I would like to express my solidarity and my support for the women suffering from violence and my admiration for those who defend them, thereby setting an example to the entire community. They show courage and integrity, for which we public servants can only express the deepest gratitude.

It is a real privilege for the Spanish Senate to host events such as this. All that remains is for me to wish you much success in your work.

Thank you very much. ★

Opening of the conference by Mr Terry Davis

Secretary General,
Council of Europe

Ladies and gentlemen,

I welcome you to the Conference launching the Council of Europe Campaign “Stop domestic violence against women”. I would like to thank most warmly the Spanish authorities and especially our hosts today, the Spanish Senate, for the hospitality and support in organising this event.

I was asked to officially open the Conference, but I think that the first to speak should be those most directly concerned by our Campaign – the victims of domestic violence. The short video which you are about to see

contains testimonies of the victims speaking about their experience and their expectations from us. We cannot – and we do not need to – reveal their names and their countries of origin: these women could come from any background in any country in Europe. For far too many women in Europe home is a very dangerous place. This is the reason for our Campaign. ★

The video can be seen on the Internet at <http://www.coe.int/stopviolence/intergov/>.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:

SITUATION IN COUNCIL OF EUROPE
MEMBER STATES

Keynote speech: Ms Carol Hagemann- White

Professor, Faculty of
General Pedagogy and
Gender Studies,
University of
Osnabrück, Germany

It is a pleasure and a great honour for me to speak at the opening of this very important campaign. Although the Council of Europe has recognised violence against women as an infringement of human rights since 1993, and member states have implemented a variety of measures to address it, beginning as early as the 1970s, this campaign is very necessary. It is a precious opportunity to establish a sustainable shared strategy based on a coherent and comprehensive approach to overcome this very serious problem.

Despite the increased attention to gender-based violence and many positive developments in policy and in practice, violence against women in its various forms is widespread in all European countries.

Violence against women is so persistent and prevalent because it has multiple roots. It grows from, expresses, and sustains cultural, social and legal traditions that define women as subordinate to men, not full and equal citizens. Many institutions of modern society are organised on the unexamined premise that women take on supporting roles in both work and family, and for low rewards, care for others while receiving little care for themselves; and that men have the right to expect these services and support as measured by their own needs. Gender-based violence grows from the idea that men have the right, and it is exercised in the service of masculine dominance. It is one of the clearest indicators of gender inequality,

The modern private sphere holds within itself a second major root of gender-based (as well as inter-generational) violence. The family has been considered a sphere in which society and the state ought not to intervene.

Along with the undeniable value of privacy for many human needs, it is also a space in which the abuse of power cannot easily be checked. In addition, everything seen as sexual is treated as a private matter, wherever it happens at work, on the streets, in organisations such as sports clubs or political parties. We have not reached that level of civilisation where it becomes self-evident that sexual intimacy requires willing consent. Not only have we centuries of laws permitting a man to use his wife sexually as he pleases; perversely, when a man assaults a woman sexually, bystanders or agents of justice often assume an intimate relationship based on consent. European societies still find it easier to restrict smoking or drinking than to forbid sexual assault in any effective way.

There is, however, a third important root of gender-based violence. It must be said that there is widespread respect for violence itself, as a means of winning a struggle, establishing status or even as an expression of self, in our mainstream majority cultures. The media play to the sympathy for violence daily. Respect for violence persists (and resurges) whenever individuals or groups are not competent or secure enough to solve conflicts constructively. In addition, violence feeds on violence: it can become a need, a habit, or even a day's work.

Gender-based violence against women is thus complex, and in each concrete case, different aspects – dominance, defence of privacy, and conflict tactics – may come to the fore or be the primary determinants of acts that cause harm to women, to children and to society. Nonetheless, as the body of research shows, we must be careful not to confuse them

Since 1995, many European member states have commissioned population-based surveys to measure the extent of violence against women; at least 23 such studies are currently available.¹ In addition, victimisation has been studied within the health care system, where the percentage of women with a background of violence is usually higher than in the general population, regardless of their reason for seeking health care. A European research network, the Co-ordination Action on Human Rights Violations (CAHRV), has examined the available data more closely over the past three years.²

More than one woman in ten has suffered sexual coercion or rape during her adult life. For women – but not for men – all kinds of attacks, including sexual assault and rape, are most often carried out by partners and ex-partners. Across countries, between 20% and 40% of women who have ever had a partner have experienced at least one act of physical or sexual partner violence (or both) in their lives. Emotional violence is even more frequent and can do serious harm to women's general health status. It should not be underestimated; some studies have found that emotional violence, especially when it is repeated and takes a variety of forms, does even greater damage to the health and well-being of the victim than do physical attacks.

1. National representative surveys have been published in Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom (England and Wales, Scotland). Data have also been collected on a national level in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Iceland, Slovakia and Turkey, but publications do not exist or are not available in a widely-read language. Serbia/Montenegro was included in the WHO multi-country study. For an overview see Martinez, M., Schröttele, M. et al., *Report on the state of European research on the prevalence of interpersonal violence and its impact on health and human rights*, 2005, <http://www.cahrv.uniosnabrueck.de/>.

2. Research overviews both on the data comparison and on evaluation of measures to address violence are to be found on the Web site <http://www.cahrv.uniosnabrueck.de/>

Domestic abuse is a more specific problem; it is best defined as a pattern of coercive control including repeated physical, emotional and sexual attacks that may cause fear, distress, and health damage. In-depth data analyses in several countries support an estimate that 12% to 15% of all ever-partnered women have been in a relationship of domestic abuse. In all studies, physical and sexual violence by former partners are at least twice as frequent as abuse by current partners, indicating that women are not secure when they leave a relationship.

The health impact of violence reaches far beyond immediate injuries. Common health consequences include: psychosomatic problems, chronic pain syndromes, eating disorders, depression and anxiety. Women who have been physically, sexually or emotionally abused are at significantly higher risk for the excessive use of nicotine, alcohol, and psychopharmacological medication. Their sexual and reproductive health is affected as well: Women suffer an increased risk of unwanted pregnancy, foetal injuries, complications during pregnancy and miscarriage, a higher risk of sexually transmitted infections, and other gynaecological disorders, infertility, and sexual dysfunction. Thus, it is not surprising that when women seek help beyond the circle of family and friends, they turn to the health care system even more often than to the police. Regrettably, health professionals are often not trained to recognise the effects of violence or to respond.

Research finds that witnessing domestic violence and growing up in a violent environment has a harmful effect on the child's emotional, behavioural and mental health, and increases the risk for children to suffer traumatic stress symptoms, psychosomatic illnesses, deficit attention disorder, and low educational achievement. Further, boys who witness violence against their mother are more likely to become violent against their partner themselves in adult life; girls with this background are more than twice as likely as others to be victims of domestic violence, and four times as likely to encounter sexual violence in their adult

lives. Thus, when the society fails to protect women from violence, children will not thrive, and a pattern of violence is likely to continue.

Gender-based violence has consequences for both the wider society and the individual victim. It causes pain, fear and distress, reduces the capacity of victimised women to contribute productively to the family, the economy and public life, and drains the resources of social services, the justice system, health care agencies and of employers – costs that must be seen both in terms of human suffering and of economic loss. Most studies arrive at estimates in a range of about 20 to 60 euros for every person in the population per year. Thus, a country with a population of 10 million could be facing a financial burden of intervention, policing, health care and services of some 400 million euros each year from violence against women in the home. For the entire Council of Europe, the cost of domestic violence could be reckoned at an annual total of at least 33 billion euros.

In a broader view, domestic violence lowers the overall educational attainment, mobility and innovative potential of a significant proportion of the population: the women who are victimised, the children growing up witnessing the violence, and even the perpetrators who resort to destructive acts are restricted in their potential. A society that tolerates what it sees as "private" violence will be a crippled competitor in the knowledge- and creativity-based economy of the future. The high costs of violence confirm that gender-based violence is a social, a public and no longer a private problem, and that it urgently needs to be addressed, as society as a whole, governments, individuals, organisations and businesses pay for it.

In April 2002, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 on the protection of women against violence. This was the first international legal document to frame a comprehensive approach including all forms of violence against women.

It covers services, legislation, policing, intervention with perpetrators,

awareness-raising, education and training and data collection as well as specific additional measures. Central to the Recommendation is the call for a co-ordinated national strategy in each country, based on maximum safety, protection and empowerment of victimised women.

A Group of Specialists on implementation and follow-up drafted a monitoring framework based on indicators, sent to all member states by the CDEG in June 2005. The replies to this survey, in combination with multi-country research assessments of the effective functioning of different measures compiled within a broad-based European research network, allowed us to take stock of where the Council of Europe and the member states stand in combating violence against women.

We found that an increasing number of member states are developing an overall strategy in the shape of National Action Plans, but there are still significant gaps in the protection afforded to women. On average, the action plans address only four of the nine forms of violence mentioned in the Recommendation; in particular, sexual violence is not being addressed in many countries. Correspondingly, less than half of the member states report having rape crisis centres with specifically trained staff. Most countries do, however, recognise the need for shelters where women can escape domestic abuse, although the number of places varies greatly, and many women do not, in fact, have access to them when in need. Protection from further violence, a clear priority of the Recommendation, is often left to the efforts of NGOs.

Good laws are the foundation for setting limits to violence. Legal and police systems differ, however: Divisions between civil, criminal, public/police and procedural law, levels of responsibility (national, state/district, municipal) and jurisdictions differ among the states, as do the roles of statutory agencies and the voluntary sector. Thus laws are not easily compared transnationally. We can see a very dynamic process of legislative reform and elaboration to address do-

mestic violence, but it is not certain that the laws are being implemented.

In assessing progress, it is useful to distinguish between:

- ▶ measures to protect victims from further harm, and
- ▶ measures to deter and punish violence against women.

These two types of measures often do not work together easily. For example, policy-makers and legislators frequently focus on punishing perpetrators. Yet violence to a woman is usually perpetrated by a man who knows her, or even lives with her. Before the case comes to court, weeks or months may pass, during which the woman may be in even more danger. On the other hand, measures that offer only safety from further attacks fail to confront the perpetrators with their wrong-doing. Women have often spent years of their lives in hiding, afraid that an abusive man would hunt them down or even kill them. Protection without sanctions or deterrence makes women dependent on their protectors.

There is a trend towards specific laws that penalise domestic violence more strongly than in the past, expecting the public prosecutor to initiate proceedings *ex officio*. There is, however, little monitoring of the actual proportion of cases prosecuted, and too little mention of protective measures for the victim. The data at present suggest that, for all forms of gender violence, including rape and sexual assault, there has been little success in bringing perpetrators to court. Even heavy penalties do not deter the violence if they only exist on paper, as may well be the case if the victim is not offered safety and support. It is essential to link safety for the victims with deterrence for the perpetrators.

To this end, legal measures have been developed to protect women by from further violence by a partner or ex-partner. These aim to secure an immediate physical distance between the perpetrator and the victim, for example by police action on the spot, removing him from the home (as in Austria and Germany), or by court-issued restraining orders at the request of the victim (as in the United

Kingdom). Such legislation is usually separate from laws aimed at criminal prosecution.

In most countries, it has taken many years of imaginative and persistent awareness-raising and patient coalition-building to reach a point at which a coherent strategy of addressing violence against women can emerge. Since conditions and structures differ, there is no one best solution, no method of choice, but on the whole, the work of civil society organisations has been vital to the process. In each country, region or community, those who care about ending violence against women must study their environments, assess the existing resources and try to identify the common interest in bringing about change. Member states need to show clearly that they value these efforts by recognising the work of NGOs.

But if the pathway forward winds differently to fit the local landscape, we can also now speak with assurance of standards for good practice. These are developments and achievements that have been put to the test in practice and that have proved their practical value across different countries and over time. To attain sustainable change, there must be possibilities for securing protection and imposing sanctions in all areas of the law and with respect to all forms of gender-based violence. A clear legal foundation and the political will to overcome, not to disregard gendered interpersonal violence is essential. At the same time, all measures must be tailored to ensuring the safety of the victims; this is especially true of domestic violence, where any action must be examined in the light of whether it increases the safety of victims and their children.

For the future, progress towards overcoming violence against women will depend on policies and public awareness that go beyond protection and deterrence and address the multiple roots of the problem. We must overcome notions of legitimate male dominance, cease to shield the private sphere from the obligation to respect human rights, and educate adults and children to transform conflict productively without violence. ★

SUPPORT AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS

Address:
Ms Rosemarie
Zapfl-Helbling

**Vice-Chairperson of
the Committee on
Equal Opportunities
for Women and Men of
the Parliamentary
Assembly of the
Council of Europe**

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am most honoured to chair the session on victim protection and support at this conference today. Before going any further, I should like to introduce myself briefly: my name is Rosemarie Zapfl-Helbling and I am a member of the Swiss National Council and Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe's Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men.

We just heard an interesting contribution by Professor Hagemann-White about the situation in Europe. I should now like to take you further back and turn to the people we heard on video at the opening session this morning: the victims or survivors of domestic violence against women. For all the best laws and the most impressive campaigns will be in vain unless we succeed in protecting the victims of such violence and helping them in the actual situation they face. This also means helping them escape from their role as victims.

We at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe regard domestic violence as a violation of human rights. We must make sure that human rights apply in the home, which means we must put an end to domestic violence against women. As parliamentarians we have a right and a duty to make sure that women who suffer domestic violence are able to turn to people or officials they can trust so that the doors to a new life free of violence and fear of violence are opened up for them. As one of the survivors said on the video, it is essential that not just one door but ten doors open up. We parliamentarians cannot succeed here on our own: we need effective co-operation between parliamentarians, governments, NGOs, the courts, the police and welfare services. That is why the Council of Europe Campaign we are launching here today is so terribly important.

I am delighted to hand over to the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Thomas Hammarberg, keynote speaker on this particular theme. ★

Keynote speech: Mr Thomas Hammarberg

Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe

It has to be said at the outset that violence against women is a manifestation of unequal status between men and women in society. Therefore, violence against women must be addressed in the context of seeking to end all forms of discrimination, to advance gender equality and to empower women.

Women are still grossly under-represented in almost all political assemblies and decision-making bodies at all levels in Europe – also within the Council of Europe. This in turn is reflected in the priorities selected and, very importantly, on budgets and decisions on funding.

In spite of the numerous women's rights conferences, agreed norms against discrimination and political pledges about gender equity, the gap between rhetoric and the daily reality remains. This is the main message in the UN Study on Violence Against Women which was published just a few days ago.

The UN Study points out that though strong laws have been adopted in many countries, most national-level responses have been inadequate and have not eradicated the impunity perpetrators too often enjoy.

The Study confirms previous reports indicating that the level of violence against women, including domestic violence, remains very high. Though precise data are lacking, we know that such abuses are widespread and a serious problem also across Europe – affecting the lives of a large number of women, as well as their children.

We also know that where combating violence against women has indeed been made a priority by the government, we have seen tangible improvements in a relatively short

time. The host country of this conference has been one of those that have taken the issue very seriously and progress is being made. This is largely thanks to the efforts of the women's movement and the good co-operation between the government and the women's groups.

This Conference should clearly send the message across Europe that combating violence against women is a very high priority and something to be taken seriously. The support demonstrated here in statements must be turned into serious action at the national and local levels, where it really matters.

The video testimonies of survivors that we saw this morning underlined the importance of a *victim-centred approach* when combating violence against women. Another important principle is the need to empower the victim. Victims of violence must be able to regain and take control of their lives and they should not be re-victimised by unprofessional or insensitive approaches by social, health-care, judicial and other authorities.

One of the consequences of the recognition of violence against women as a human rights issue is that not only the individual perpetrators but also the authorities carry responsibility. The authorities must do everything they possibly can to prevent the violence, to protect victims, to award compensation and to prosecute and punish the perpetrators.

However, when it comes to measures to protect and support the victim, they cannot do it alone. The involvement of women's groups and networks is crucial.

There is a vast amount of knowledge and experience accumulated

over the years to guide the work of the authorities on how to protect and support victims of violence against women. They are listed in an important Recommendation adopted in 2002 by the Committee of Ministers within the Council of Europe but also in a number of UN documents, including the reports by the Special Rapporteur Yakin Ertürk. These are some of the messages:

- ▶ The *legal framework* is important and must provide for a wide definition of violence against women, including psychological forms. It must cover preventive and educational measures, as well as protection and assistance for victims and measures against perpetrators.
- ▶ A good law is the result of a broad *consultative process* involving women's groups and experts, including victims, and taking into account the opinions of civil society.
- ▶ The laws must be effectively *enforced*. Detailed guidelines or protocols to establish clear standards, for example for the police to follow when dealing with violence against women, are necessary.
- ▶ Education of police, social workers, health workers, teachers and the judiciary must include *training* on how to recognise and deal with violence against women. It is crucial that the response to such abuses is professional and gender sensitive.

The rights of the victims to privacy, dignity and full autonomy should be met at all stages and by all authorities.

We should give special attention to those most at risk. A sensitive analysis would, for instance, detect the particular vulnerability of *migrant women*. A migrant woman who is subjected to domestic violence is unlikely to report to the police for fear of losing her residence status, if it is dependant on her husband's status. Some countries have addressed this concern by allowing victims of domestic violence to apply for permanent residence status irrespective of their spouses support for the application. This is a responsible approach.

Sensitivity to the needs of the victims also calls for *comprehensive and accessible services*. The victim must be able to overcome all the various difficulties and consequences that violence has caused. Support services must take into account and respond to both immediate and long-term needs of the victim.

- ▶ Health clinics are often first among services to come into contact with victims of violence. It is important that *health personnel* are well trained, gender sensitive and have clear referral systems in place to link to other support sectors. Health care providers must be able to refer the victim to counselling or

temporary safe housing, and if needed, to the police.

- ▶ Essential services also include the provision of *information about the rights* of victims and access to legal aid.
- ▶ *Hotlines* and telephone help services must be set up to provide information free of charge.
- ▶ Ensuring that women have access to *shelters* to protect them from further violence is important. Good shelters also provide a range of other services. Often, shelters are run by NGOs, but authorities do have a responsibility to assist and co-operate with these organisations. Shelters should be seen as an emergency, short-term solution and of course not justify that the victim is the one who has to move. Providing services is essential but they cannot eliminate the need to establish an *ethical consensus* that violence against women is an absolute taboo. The threshold must be made as high as ever possible. This is why it is particularly important that leading politicians, male and female, do demonstrate that this is a priority issue.
- ▶ They should listen to the women's movement.
- ▶ They should do their share of educating the public.
- ▶ They should explain the paramount importance of zero tolerance towards domestic violence. ★

Speech: Ms Nimet Çubukçu

State Minister for Women and Family Affairs, Turkey

Esteemed participants, distinguished press members,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here with you in this conference organised by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Spanish authorities. I greet you with respect.

Enhancing gender equality in society and promoting women's human rights have been regarded in all international documents as the responsibility of the State.

However, despite the considerable progress made in guaranteeing the full rights of women and ending violence against women both at international and national level, women all around the world continue to fall victim to violence.

We all appreciate the fact that the Council of Europe has made the fight against domestic violence a priority activity in 2006-08, and call on all member states to launch national campaigns beginning in November.

Violence against women and children by men, which is harmful and destructive in its very nature, knows no economic, social or geographic boundaries.

Therefore, it is really a global problem that has to be addressed. On the one hand, it reflects social gender inequality. On the other, it supports this inequality.

Social gender-based violence includes domestic violence, rape and honour killings and leads to killing, negligence and harassment of girls and women as a result of physical or psychological torture.

Dear participants,

I should like to emphasise that there is still so much to do to develop a social awareness to combat violence against women and to increase the

number and improve the quality of related institutions.

It is not only knowledge and capital that are globalised in our time, but also problems related to human beings.

It needs all of us to expand our efforts, in global co-operation at both national and international levels, to combat violence against women.

I believe that this launching conference is of great significance in this effort and I hope that it will contribute to our attempts to combat violence against women in the next two years.

Violence against women is also a widespread social problem throughout Turkey.

Turkey has undertaken legislative reforms with the stated aim of enhancing gender equality and promoting women's human rights and has made the necessary progress in legal aspects. Yet there are still steps to be taken for the implementation of these laws.

The most significant step to be taken, in this regard, is to change the traditional practices which violate the existing laws and to enhance awareness of social gender equality.

Dear participants,

One of the most serious violations of human rights which specifically targets women is crimes committed in the name of honour.

In 2005 the Investigation Commission that was constituted within the Turkish Grand National Assembly completed its investigations on "The Causes of Honour Killings and Violence against Women and Children and Measures to Be Taken".

In the light of the report prepared by the Investigation Commission, a Prime Ministerial circular on "Meas-

ures to Be Taken to Prevent Violence against Women and Children and Honour Killings” was issued and put into effect. This circular indicates the importance that our government attaches to issues related to violence against women.

In accordance with the above-mentioned circular, the aim is to establish a Monitoring Committee regarding violence against women and to prepare a Violence Action Plan for 2006-10 under the co-ordination of the Directorate General on the Status and Problems of Women Office of the Prime Minister.

I should also like to draw attention to:

- ▶ the Law on the Protection of the Family, adopted in 1998 to prevent domestic violence, which was a milestone;
- ▶ the New Labour Law, adopted in 2003, which included decrees that do not allow direct or indirect discriminatory treatment regarding gender;
- ▶ the New Municipality Law, enacted in 2004, which authorises municipalities to provide services for victims of violence.

Dear participants,

I should also like to inform you about the institutional practices and campaigns aiming at enhancing public awareness in Turkey.

The Directorate General of Social Services and Child Protection Institute provides services for battered women through 17 refuges for women. Provinces, municipalities,

private institutions and associations also operate 13 refuges for women.

The total capacity of those shelters in Turkey is 469. A total of 5 512 women and 4 232 children were housed in these shelters since they were opened and 1 059 women placed in a job.

The Directorate General of Social Services and Child Protection Institute provides counselling services for battered women through Community Centres and Family Consultation Centres. Those community centres provide psychological, legal and financial counselling for battered women and direct those women to the related units.

Another initiative targeting women is the Multipurpose Community Centres established by the South-eastern Anatolia Project (GAP) Administration. The number of these centres has reached 30 in 11 provinces.

Public institutions, local administrations, media and NGOs have supported the “Stop Violence Against Women” Campaign that was launched in 2004.

In order to expand the boundaries of the campaign, with the valuable support of our Prime Minister in fighting violence against women, a TV spot has been prepared to show on national and local channels. Our Prime Minister in person took part in this spot and contributed to the campaign by saying “Stop Violence against Women”.

In 2007 the foremost textile firms will support the campaign by stitching

a piece of cloth inside the jackets they produce bearing the slogan “Stop Violence against Women”.

In order to enhance men’s involvement in preventing violence against women and make them aware of the significance of the issue, educational materials, CDs and posters that point out the issues regarding the importance of education for girls, equality between women and men, women’s human rights, violence against women and the prevention of honour/virtue killings have been prepared and used in civic studies classes of non-commissioned officers.

Through extensive campaigns and educational programmes that aim at promoting men’s awareness of the issue of violence against women, Turkey has proceeded at all levels and continues its work with determination.

The main aim of our government is to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to combat violence against women, to protect women’s human rights and to prevent honour killings.

I should like to thank the Council of Europe and the Spanish Government for organising this meeting, giving us the opportunity to come together for a shared goal.

I shall conclude my remarks with an invitation to men: *For a better world where we all, men and women, can live together in peace ... “Stop Violence against women, including domestic violence, at once!”*

I wish you a very fruitful and successful meeting. ★

Speech: Ms Darinka Stantcheva

Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Dear Chair, dear Ministers, dear fellow-parliamentarians, distinguished guests,

It is with great pleasure and honour that I address the launching conference of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*. I am one of the now forty contact parliamentarians appointed by national Parliaments to implement the parliamentary dimension of the Council of Europe Campaign, and I would like to thank warmly the Spanish Senate for hosting this conference today.

Violence is a word we get to hear more and more often in our daily life; a word that fills anyone that has respect for human rights and dignity with the resolve to fight against this phenomenon.

Practice shows that for the fight against violence to be effective, actions of all parts of society must be synchronised: the executive, the legislature, local authorities, the non-governmental sector, the media, and civil society. The motto “This is everyone’s cause” is the key to success. To that end, it is necessary to establish an integral, fully operational system of protecting the victims (mostly women).

We all agree that domestic violence is a human rights violation. But what does this mean in concrete terms for the victims and for society as a whole?

- ▶ Violence against women prevents women from enjoying their human rights.
- ▶ Violence is one of the main reasons for the deterioration of women’s health.
- ▶ Violence against women has a high social price. It leads to loss of human potential, increased expenditure on social and rehabilita-

tion services, on law-enforcement activities, the judicial system, etc.

The Parliamentary Assembly has always stressed that *strong support and protection of victims is crucial*. In its Recommendation 1681 (2004) on a “Campaign to combat domestic violence against women in Europe”, the Parliamentary Assembly emphasised that member states have an obligation under international law to act with due diligence to take effective steps to end violence against women, including domestic violence, and to *protect its victims and survivors*.

In the same way, the Parliamentary Assembly put the needs of victims centre-stage in fighting domestic violence in its Resolution 1512 adopted in June this year.

The Parliamentary Assembly is therefore inviting the public authorities to take the necessary action to combat domestic violence effectively and publicly. Comprehensive action is needed, which includes for example:

- ▶ the creation of *refuges for victims of domestic violence and their children*
- ▶ the setting up of domestic violence victim *support facilities in police stations*
- ▶ the possibility for perpetrators of domestic violence to be *banned from the home* of the victim
- ▶ the *training of staff* working in health services, care, police, justice, social and education services.

It also means that women suffering domestic violence must, from a legal point of view, be recognised as victims. It must be ensured that the *complaints they lodge with the police are taken seriously and are adequately processed*, that perpetrators are prosecuted and victims are awarded compensation.

The specific needs of the most vulnerable women must also be considered. This is why the Parliamentary Assembly underlined in its most recent Resolution the necessity to give special attention to groups of women who are particularly exposed to the risks and consequences of domestic violence, in particular women in and from immigrant communities, Roma women, women from other ethnic minority communities, pregnant women, disabled or vulnerable women, women in precarious situations or women confronted with alcohol or drug problems.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This is everyone's responsibility, but first and foremost, it is our responsibility, the responsibility of parliamentarians. The fight against violence should commence with the legislative efforts of each individual country, making use of the good practices of the others while necessarily adapting them to the specific peculiarities of the country in question.

I would now like to give you an illustration of how parliaments can improve the support and protection of victims. Allow me to speak here about the situation in my homeland, Bulgaria, where, until recently, domestic violence was a hidden phenomenon without any relevant legal regulation.

Only a few years ago, women's NGOs launched initiatives in order to increase public awareness. These efforts led parliamentarians to take an initiative on the issue of "discrimination and violence against women", which culminated in the adoption of the *Protection from Domestic Violence Act*, which is now a new standard in Bulgarian law.

The Protection from Domestic Violence Act adopted in March 2005 was a break-through in terms of patriarchal ideology characterising the south-east European countries and

the established clear separation of public and private areas.

This Act was founded on the following principles:

- ▶ swiftness and even urgency of the act of defence;
- ▶ quick isolation of the perpetrator from the victim;
- ▶ special protection for the victims;
- ▶ accessibility of litigation;
- ▶ availability of various protection measures;
- ▶ combination of legal defence under the judicial administration procedures with administrative measures and social protection and rehabilitation measures;
- ▶ co-ordination between the state authorities and the non-governmental sector.

Preventing violence within families was also one of the main objectives of the Act. I believe that this Act provides a good basis for improving the penal and legal defence mechanisms in cases of domestic violence, and the administrative and legal regulations defining the competences of the police. *The police plays a significant role in taking swift action to protect the victims of domestic violence*: the police should intervene in cases of direct and immediate danger.

It is the responsibility of the state to provide assistance to the municipalities and the non-profit legal entities in the creation of, and support for, the services and centres for implementation of the measures for rehabilitation of the victims and for the special programmes intended for the perpetrators.

Special attention should be paid to:

- ▶ the provision of initial social support to victims in order to facilitate their social integration, by providing special incentives to employers hiring persons who have experienced violence;
- ▶ special job placement programmes for such persons, in accordance

with the Employment Promotion Act.

The allocation of funds for remedies to aggrieved parties and victims of violence, as well as steps to ensure their economic independence for a period of time (e.g. by setting up a special fund) must be among the priorities of the national programmes.

The protection and assurance of the physical and mental health of victims, their self-image of preserved dignity, constitute an important element in the support given to them. A special role in such actions is played by NGOs and the media, and the interaction with these in the promotion of public awareness about the measures thus instituted.

A combination of greater publicity of the problem, educational work among teenagers in schools, and providing support for the families of victims will enable the effective application of the law, which is a crucial element of the integrated system of victim protection.

By joining and supporting the Council of Europe initiative, we believe that the national parliaments will become a guarantor for further legislative activity in this field, by focusing on the three main goals: prevention, support of victims and their social inclusion.

We, parliamentarians, must take all necessary measures to ensure that our government is fulfilling its obligations and ensuring effective protection of victims.

The Bulgarian Parliament therefore warmly welcomes the Council of Europe initiative for a pan-European campaign.

We believe that the joint efforts of all Council of Europe member states will be successful in combating violence against women in all its forms and improve the protection of victims, even in their most private sphere.

Thank you for your attention. ★

Speech: Ms Sandra Barnes

Member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

Good morning,

I am Leader of South Northamptonshire Council in addition to being a member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities' Committee on Social Cohesion.

Violence against women takes a terrible, often fatal, toll on women and their families in every town and region across Europe and is much more widespread than many people believe.

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is committed to fighting this violation of human rights and has already taken a strong stand against violence and such crimes as trafficking in human beings. The Congress has also sought to counter gender-based discrimination and the unequal balance of power between the sexes, insisting on the importance of women's participation in political life and their individual voting rights as a means of empowerment and an affirmation of their equal role in society.

What is the one thing that victims of domestic violence have in common? We have heard that people experience domestic violence regardless of their social group, class, age, race, disability, sexuality and lifestyle. That violence can take a number of forms from sexual abuse to threats, controlling behaviour and bullying, destructive criticism, isolation and harassment. The one thing all victims have in common is that ultimately they live in a town, a municipality or a region with *specific* municipal or regional authorities who are responsible for their welfare and to whom they should be able to turn for help.

So, I am here to speak about the support and protection of victims at local level. The strength of elected representatives at local and regional level lies in their closeness to the

citizen which means they can be effective where it matters – in targeted awareness-raising, and above all in implementing tailored protection and prevention measures.

Many local and regional authorities across Europe have already introduced such initiatives, often through close co-operation with NGOs in the field – and today I want, very briefly, to share a few of these initiatives with you.

Many local authorities have dedicated domestic violence web-sites which have an enormous amount of information to help victims – or put them in touch with NGOs offering counselling or legal help – and to explain their rights to them – to make them understand that they have a right to be safe and free from harm. Local authorities are in the process of setting up specialised domestic violence units – if they have not already done so.

In Germany, recognising that the problem of violence against women is a question of equality, Heidelberg has set up an equality office which is responsible for the majority of its policies against domestic violence – women's safety being the priority. A special local police unit is empowered to act immediately and remove an aggressor from the home environment. Perpetrators are provided with psychological counselling at a special centre. Victims can be helped either through home visits or a shelter. Both centres are financed by the municipality. Furthermore, the town hall provides women with free taxis at night, distribution of mobile phones, self-defence classes and information.

Shelters remain one of the most important ways in which local authorities can provide immediate protec-

tion for victims. However, there are still many places in Europe – and, as Amnesty International’s 2006 report outlines, some of them are important capital cities – which don’t have a single refuge for women. So I was very pleased to read that early next year the first women’s shelter in Vukovar is being opened as a partnership between an NGO and the Vukovarsko-Srijemska county. This shelter is the first one to be opened in this rural area of Croatia which suffered the most war damage and has the highest rate of people who were exposed to a cluster of war stressors.

In the United Kingdom the importance of local authorities’ role in fighting domestic violence has been acknowledged and indeed key performance indicators have been established (“Best Value Performance Indicators”, <http://www.lga.gov.uk>) and published across the country to help those authorities know how to implement relevant measures. There are eleven key questions that authorities must answer and which will enable them to assess their state of readiness.

Short-term housing is often just a stop-gap measure and long-term planning is required to help victims really find their feet. Many women seeking help because of domestic violence approach local authority housing services; so cities such as Plymouth City Council have a Housing Advice Centre which, in addition to helping with immediate accommoda-

tion for a victim and their family either in a local guesthouse or refuge, give long-term advice and information on all the housing options available, including applying for housing benefit, finding accommodation with a private landlord, or making an approach to the City Council’s Homeless Unit.

In Croydon, the local authority will install new doors as well as a camera entry system to help victims feel safer.

A number of local authorities in the United Kingdom also provide money for travel: if a victim needs help with travel to a safe place for them and their children, Social Services might be able to provide them with a travel warrant. Otherwise, they can apply to the local Department of Social Security for a crisis loan.

In Germany a Domestic Violence Round Table has been set up in Gladbeck. This round table, which meets four times a year, brings together the city administration, social welfare department, youth welfare department, migration office, court clerks, the NGO Caritas and the head of the local medical doctors’ association amongst others to co-ordinate and co-operate and reflect on new ways to combat domestic violence, with the focus being on what really works.

Back in my country, the United Kingdom, we have a similar new approach to tackling domestic violence – the multi-agency risk assessment conferences or MARACs. These have been piloted in Cardiff with outstand-

ing success. Their aim is to provide a forum for sharing information and taking actions that will reduce future harm to very high-risk victims and their children, as identified through the police risk assessment process.

You will see from several of my examples that I emphasise the importance of concertation – how critical it is that all those responsible for the protection and support of victims work together, because a decisive factor in the success of many local campaigns and initiatives is whether they have effective multi-agency response from key players.

We hope that by sharing our good practices and promoting this campaign as widely as possible we can inspire as many municipalities, towns, cities and regions to join us and bring about a sea-change in attitudes to this crime which destroys lives and families.

Domestic violence may speak many languages, have many colours and live in many different communities, but we, as elected representatives at local or regional level, have a duty to say “domestic violence concerns us – it is a public, not a private matter”.

To finish, I should like to share with you my conviction that as elected representatives we must not only “think right” – but we must above all *DO right*.

Thank you. ★

**INNOVATIVE LEGAL
AND POLICY MEASURES
TO COMBAT VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN**

- DATA COLLECTION AS A
PREREQUISITE
FOR EFFECTIVE POLICIES**

Address:
Ms Dubravka
Šimonović

**Chairperson of the
Council of Europe Task
Force to Combat
Violence against
Women, including
Domestic Violence**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,
Before introducing the topic of this session and its panellists, I, as Chairperson of the Task Force, would like to say a few words about the Task Force and its mandate.

At last year's Summit, the Council of Europe member states decided to place more emphasis on the eradication of violence against women. They decided to set up a *Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, and entrusted it to develop the Blueprint for this Campaign which we are here to launch today.

Eight international experts in the field of preventing and combating violence against women, who are also all here today, were appointed to this Task Force by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. We have held two meetings this year and will continue our work throughout the Campaign period.

The Task Force was mandated to evaluate progress at the national level and establish instruments for quantifying developments at European level with a view to drawing up proposals for action. With this objective in mind, we developed the Blueprint for this Campaign. It spells out the aims, objectives and messages of the Campaign and describes the activities different actors are invited to pursue.

This Blueprint clearly recognises that violence against women is a human rights violation corresponding to the responsibility of a state to act with due diligence to prevent violence, to protect women victims of such violence and to punish perpetrators. It also calls on member states to demonstrate strong political will and provide adequate resources to make real progress in eradicating violence

against women, ideally through national campaigns that should include measures for stronger implementation of Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 on the protection of women against violence.

This Campaign has three different dimensions: intergovernmental, parliamentary and local and regional, who are all present today to launch the Campaign. While this may seem complicated at first, it is important to unite these key actors to achieve real change. From our experience we know that violence against women cannot really be stopped if it is only decision-makers and institutions who are active. Instead, we need to join hands and unite civil society, particularly NGOs that are working very hard at the grass-roots level, and public actors as well as all others capable and willing to contribute to this campaign. Joint public action and a multi-agency approach is what is needed.

During this campaign, active participation of men in all activities aimed at combating violence against women should be encouraged. One of the expected results of the Task Force is to further identify other possible roles of men in the context of family violence including their role in both preventing such violence and protecting victims.

The Task Force is mandated to monitor and assess any improvements at national level and to evaluate the effective functioning of the measures for preventing and combating violence against women adopted at national and international level. It is also entrusted to make proposals for revising these measures or adopting new measures including those to assist member states to monitor progress achieved.

The main question in front of us is: Do we need a stronger European legal instrument on the prevention of violence against women or stronger implementation mechanisms or both?

I hope that with strong inputs from all member states, from their reports on activities and results achieved we will be able to make proposals in accordance with our mandate.

As the Chairperson of the Task Force, I strongly encourage everybody assembled here today to make use of the unique framework of this Campaign to renew their commitment, concert their efforts and apply unprecedented vigour to eradicate violence against women.

Turning to the topic of this session, let me just say that legal and policy measures and data collection are two of the four objectives of the Campaign Blueprint. These objectives spell out specific measures which Member states are invited to implement. In the field of legal and policy measures for example, they are invited to criminalise marital rape – a necessary prerequisite to eradicate domestic violence which does not yet exist in all Council of Europe member states.

In addition to legal and policy measures, we need improvements in data collection to monitor the implementation of adopted legal and policy measures. One of the greatest chal-

lenges that we face in this respect is the collection of comparable data. Only if we know how many women are victims of intimate partner violence including the number of murdered women, or how many women are seeking shelters or how many protection orders are used or perpetrators punished we will have data or indicators of the effectiveness of adopted or needed legal and policy instruments.

I hope this session will shed more light on the legal and policy measures and the comparable data needed for the effective eradication of violence against women. ★

Keynote speech: Ms Tuula Haatainen

Minister for Social
Affairs and Health,
Finland

Honourable Chairperson, dear Seminar participants,

I am very pleased for this opportunity to speak at this launching conference. I want to thank the Spanish Government for hosting this event. We are here dealing with a very important issue. Violence against women is a common phenomenon, but it is still a largely underestimated problem in many countries.

I myself remember very well how the discussion about violence against women was started in Finland in the end of the 1980s. The active gender equality actors and representatives of women's organisations were the ones who started the discussion in Finland. At first the gender dimension and the extent of the problem were not understood in public discussion. By referring to studies made in Canada, the USA and by the United Nations we could, however, indicate that it is a serious and extensive phenomenon that remained hidden until now. I know that phase very well in my country since I was myself involved in starting it.

Many of us had the opportunity to participate in the Beijing United Nations Women's Conference in 1995. In the declaration of the UN's Fifth World Conference on Women the Government of Finland, among many other countries, committed itself to carrying out a programme to reduce violence against women. In the process of developing measures to combat violence we noticed that what we needed was more and better data about the problem. Access to reliable information is a very important tool in reducing violence against women. It is difficult to justify and plan measures to reduce violence against women if there is no basic information about

the problem and its underlying factors.

As we know, the first specific study of women's experiences of violence was made in Canada in 1993. Since then, comparable studies have been made in other countries, too. They have shown that when violence against women is investigated in detail and by a study specifically planned to examine this disguised, sensitive phenomenon, we can get more comprehensive information than by general victim studies.

The first study in Finland on men's violence against women was made in 1998. It was called "Faith, Hope and Battering". It was of great importance to us. It made us aware of the phenomenon and showed the large extent of women's experiences of violence. The study gave good information material and arguments for the debate about violence. It also supported the gender equality authorities' belief that it is a serious issue which must be tackled. It gave additional information on the victims' access to the services they were in need of and on how these services should be developed.

Economic considerations are often of major importance in decision-making. Therefore we in Finland felt it important to obtain information about the economic impact of violence experienced by women.

The assessment of economic impacts proved to be a very complex and also a challenging task. There were no adequate statistics in health care and social services on this issue. For example, in some cases the real reasons for visits to a health care unit are not recorded in the statistics. Our study estimated the costs incurred by the municipal judicial system, social welfare and health care. It showed that

the violence experienced by women causes very significant financial costs to both society and the individual. Speaking about the costs of violence naturally does not mean that we would underestimate the great human suffering caused by violence against women.

Violence against women also causes other costs in the form of impaired well-being and health, sick leaves, lost lives and loss of output in production. The impaired well-being is further reflected in other family members, especially in children.

Prevention of violence against women is crucial. Effective preventive work will increase the well-being and security of all citizens. Tackling this problem is very profitable from the point of view of the national economy too. Research-based information and raising the violence experienced by women for discussion and general awareness also encourages women to speak about the problem more openly and also to seek help. Then the phenomenon is no longer considered as a personal problem. However, it has been estimated that in Finland only about 10% of even the most serious acts of violence come to the knowledge of the police. So we have much work in this field to do.

The Government has commissioned a follow-up study. With this study we are going to obtain new follow-up information on the development of violence against women in the last ten years. Its general outcome is that violence against women still is regrettably common. We must still pay attention to tackling it.

In the future it would be most important to obtain comparable and comprehensive information about the prevalence of violence against women in different countries. Unfortunately, at the moment it is difficult to compare the results of individual studies made in different countries. And on the other hand, not even all the European countries have been involved in international comparisons. So far, there has not been any extensive international investigation of violence against women in particular, but

there is a clear demand for such a study, for instance covering the whole of Europe.

Violence against women is still a largely unspoken, hidden secret in women's lives. Silence is covered by shame. Making the problem visible is an important element in reducing violence against women. At the beginning it was of particularly great importance in breaking the silence, the taboo of violence against women. But what is essentially important is legislation that criminalises the different forms of violence against women. Legislation reflects the attitudes of a society. It must show that violence against women is a serious crime. Acts of violence cannot be justified by ethnic or religious reasons. Neither does marriage involve a right to violate the physical integrity of another person. Intimate partner violence is often a difficult problem as a mutual emotional relationship is involved. Therefore, various methods are needed to address it, for instance restraining orders regarding violent family members. Orders that secure the victim's physical integrity and enable the planning of further measures.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Finally, I want to tell you how Finland has started the Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women. The previous extensive campaign was carried out in Finland at the end of the 1990s. It showed that when a campaign is effective, those who have experienced violence are encouraged to contact authorities. The service system must be prepared for that, so that we can respond to the demand. There should be, for instance, a sufficient supply of telephone help-lines.

At the moment we are planning to carry out the new campaign together with non-governmental organisations. Next year we are going to organise a regional seminar for the Baltic countries, the Nordic countries and Russia, together with the Council of Europe. The theme of the seminar will be provision of services for victims of

violence. Reduction of violence against women has been a central aim of the Government Action Plan for Gender Equality. We aim to integrate the campaign with other work that we are doing to combat violence against women. The Action Plan of our Government is comprehensive, target oriented and concrete. Reducing violence against women is an essential component of it.

Reduction and prevention of violence against women has been improved by developing the service system. We have emphasised the development of co-operation between various actors, such as ministries, different administrative sectors, regional actors and professional groups. According to our experience, reduction of violence against women demands development of cross-sectoral co-operation. Therefore, I have proposed to the Government that a cross-sectoral working group should be set up. It would co-ordinate the reduction of violence against women, and will also consult non-governmental organisations.

Violence against women is a multifaceted and extensive phenomenon. Its reduction demands long-term work, political commitment and co-operation with different agencies, organisations, civil servants, politicians and professional groups. In order to be successful it also demands financial resources specifically allocated to it. Co-operation and exchange of experiences between different countries within the framework of the Council of Europe campaign serves as an opportunity to learn about each other's good practices and experiences. The campaign also provides support to the debate conducted in member states on reducing violence against women.

Ladies and gentlemen,

All of us – you and me – have the right to live without fear of violence. That is why we need awareness-raising and courage to speak about this hidden shame. That is the reason why we need this campaign.

Thank you. ★

Speech: Ms Donatella Linguiti

Secretary of State,
Ministry for Rights and
Equal Opportunities,
Italy

In Italy, as in all European countries, violence against and towards women continues, by way of molestation, at times grave molestation leading to rape and assassination. It is therefore still a serious problem, even though there was a decrease in sexual molestation and attempted rape from 1997 to 2002, especially thanks to profound legislative changes, a lifting of the silence surrounding this issue and to the intense activity of anti-violence centres and shelters.

1996 was an important year for Italy. After twenty years of debate in parliament and among women, a Law against sexual violence was passed, currently in force, according to which violence is no longer considered an offence against public decency, but against the person. Before this, violence was considered a crime only in the case of permanent damage and was considered, in any case, a minor offence. Even if there was a conviction, it could be reversed by matrimony, which was the only socially accepted way; if a woman wanted to reclaim her dignity and honour in the eyes of the community she had to accept the terms of the marriage.

With the Law of 1996, the terms of the process finally changed: it was no longer up to the victim to prove rape but up to the aggressor to prove his innocence.

The Law regarding sexual violence in Italy therefore marked a turning point in customs and rights, compensating for a historical delay in our country.

Today, violence against women is a recognised phenomenon, but the fact that it is no longer shrouded in secrecy does not mean that there is little left to be done.

A few days ago, during the day dedicated to violence against women in parliament, I'istat – the National Institute of Statistics – presented the results of a study carried out on data covering 1997 to 2002, using specific research methods, on the emergence of this phenomenon. It painted an alarming picture: ten million women between 14 and 59 years of age had experienced sexual molestation or sexual blackmail during their lifetime with 500 000 cases of rape or attempted rape.

For women, the most insecure places are neither dark streets nor a park at night time, rather their home and the workplace: in 97% of cases the violence was carried out in the home by partners, fathers or other relatives; 900 000 women have been sexually blackmailed in order to be recruited or to obtain a promotion. Targeted among these are unemployed women over employed, freelance workers over fixed contract workers and white collar workers over blue collars.

Moreover, one-third of women do not tell anyone of the violence experienced; of that sexual violence which is often repeated and never reported. In 90% of cases, women do not report it because they are ashamed or fear being judged or because of a lack of trust in the police forces.

Prevailing and even more insidious violence is therefore that which is family-related. It makes no noise, often occurs in silence behind closed doors and leaves little room for women to resolve. It can come up at any moment in the relationship. Sometimes it presents itself straight away, sometimes it may arise with the birth of a child or even after many years of matrimony.

Risks of this violence on women's physical and psychological health have been defined, as have been the consequences on minors – learning violent cultural and relational models (for boys) or being subject to repetition (for girls).

The image projected externally of a woman who is a victim, generally of family-related violence, is that of a weak one, with no energy, afraid, with no alternative life plan.

This way of being, which is an effect of the violence, is often mistaken for subjective incapacity, absence of the will to escape the violence, weakness in character, etc.

These women are often not supported by actions that would aid in the removal of the effects of the violence they have endured but they are rather negatively judged and penalised by decisions that deprive them of ulterior rights (for example the right to the house that they married into, custody of their children, etc.).

With the arrival of the new government (centre-left wing), even before final results were official, the Ministry for Equal Opportunity and Rights identified structural actions (against the phenomenon of male violence against women) among their priorities through a participatory path with women's thoughts and political practice in mind.

One fundamental passage was the meeting held on 19 September, called by Minister Barbara Pollastrini, with antiviolence centres and shelters dispersed over the Italian territory; places which have experience and prevention strategies having directly contrasted violence against women,

places of research and identification of intervention models that consider violence against women a result of a patriarchal culture that still to this day determines a social, economical and political model in our country, amongst others.

For this reason we consider all women at risk of violence, no one excluded. Violence strikes everyone, independent of age, social, economic, religious or ethnic status.

The experience acquired by anti-violence centres and by the women's movement that worked profoundly for a radical change in dealing with the phenomenon in all spheres, having given concrete psychological and legal support to women, having contributed to changing culture by offering training in schools, courts, hospitals and among police officers, has been precious to us in launching a plan of action where the synergy between institution and volunteers can determine the conditions for increased efficiency of the actions undertaken.

A round table has in the meantime been formed among various ministries that, having recognised the phenomenon as a social problem that concerns all, is working on a structured and transversal legislative answer; a new law that concerns women but also transvestites, including cases of mistreatment and stalking, which also provides for training for all persons operating in the sector, statistics regarding violence and mistreatment, the right to integrated social assistance for the victim, the introduction of new offences for acts of stalking, the institution of a register of anti-violence centres so that they can

constitute themselves as plaintiffs in legal proceedings with the victim's consent.

This new law is intended to intervene in all forms of media and communication to eliminate sexist stereotypes and false representations of women's true knowledge and value.

We want to invest in cultural change and therefore in prevention, with intervention guidelines that include shared support principles among regions, local entities and private social services. It is known that an increase in punishment alone will not lead to a new culture and to change in relationship between the sexes; and therefore the Ministry for Equal Opportunity has a plan of action that also includes the constitution of a national observatory on violence that will be one of the principle motors of elaboration of politics and positive actions to diffuse a new culture that targets feminine liberty and the building of a civil cohabitation among sexes. This will help break the silence surrounding violence against women, give strength to the network and to the protection which is indispensable if women are to be allowed to express their hardship and report the violence; and it will help create institutions to give the types of answers that do not penalise women and that do not send them back into isolation, as well as being places capable of supporting male efforts to carry out an in-depth search on the dynamics of their own sexuality and on the nature of relationships with women and with other men. ★

Speech: Ms Meg Munn

Deputy Minister for Women and Equality, United Kingdom

Thank you for inviting me to speak today. I am delighted to join you in my capacity as Deputy Minister for Women and Equality.

During the course of my work during the last year, I have heard of some of the devastating stories from victims of domestic violence. But they are not the only victims. I have also met those who have been sexually assaulted, and I have heard first hand, the harrowing stories of some women who have been trafficked into the United Kingdom illegally as sex slaves. These are terrible crimes, predominantly carried out against women.

This is why I am delighted to be able to attend the launch of the Council of Europe Campaign to tackle violence against women, to ensure that we, as ministers and representatives from our countries, raise awareness about these crimes and send a strong and unified message that we are not willing to tolerate this behaviour within our communities.

We have a broad body of work being undertaken within the United Kingdom, which spans many government departments. In my role, I sit on three inter-ministerial groups covering human trafficking, prostitution, sexual offending, domestic violence, forced marriages, female genital mutilation and honour killings.

I am particularly proud that since 1997, the British Government has risen to the challenge that domestic violence poses and we are now ensuring through our delivery plan that this pernicious crime is being tackled through all of our mainstream services.

Our ministers from across government departments involved in this agenda particularly want to ensure that it becomes easier for women to

seek support or redress when they experience domestic violence.

I know many of you will be familiar with the shocking domestic violence statistics that our society is facing, but I always think it is worth reminding ourselves of the extent of the problem we face:

- ▶ In the United Kingdom, domestic violence accounts for 17% of violent crime;
- ▶ For 30% of victims, domestic violence starts or escalates in pregnancy;
- ▶ and every year around 120 women are murdered by a current or former partner. That's more than two women every week.

So what has the British Government done?

In terms of legislation, the United Kingdom Government passed the *Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004)*.

The Act gives greater protection to victims and children and encourages them to stand up for their right to live without fear of violence.

The measures held within the Act have been rolling out in stages since March last year.

Building on the new legislation, our National Delivery plan outlines how we will ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice, and that we provide the best possible help for victims, to encourage them to come forward in the certainty that they will get the protection and support they need.

Furthermore, the introduction of twenty-five Specialist *Domestic Violence Courts* as part of the programme was put in place in April this year. There is now at least one specialist domestic violence court area in every region and in Wales.

But we all have a part to play, and adopting a zero-tolerance approach within the work place is a key mechanism to bringing about important culture change. In March 2005 the *Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence* was launched and has created a central resource for employers through an interactive website where employers and employees can find out information and seek support.

The Corporate Alliance is a group of companies who have come together to promote Action Against Domestic Violence through the workplace. Their aims is to raise awareness of an take action to reduce the human and economic impact of domestic vio-

lence. Many government departments, as well as private companies, are members, and I have encouraged all those departments where I have been minister to become involved with the organisation because we need to share this important message and make a real difference to the lives of victims.

The Alliance has pooled their considerable resources and skills to take cohesive action. They are doing more to protect victims from workplace harassment and improving workplace safety.

There have been recent high-profile cases in the United Kingdom where perpetrators have stalked, harassed and tragically murdered their

victims in the workplace. This demonstrates the vital role that corporations, businesses and employers have in helping to achieve our primary objective of reducing domestic homicides.

But in the United Kingdom, as our Ministerial groups demonstrate, we are committed to dealing with all crimes committed against women

We all need to take responsibility for bringing about change, and for keeping our friends, colleagues, our service users and our communities safe from crimes that devastate families and ruin lives. As we all know, remaining silent is collusion. ★

Speech: Ms Soledad Murillo

Secretary General on
Equal Opportunities,
Ministry of Labour and
Social Affairs, Spain

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all I would like to thank the Council of Europe for choosing our country as the venue for launching the European Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, and the President of the Spanish Senate for accepting the proposal and making it possible for us to be here today in this magnificent setting.

When we drafted what is now the organic law on comprehensive protection measures against gender violence, which was unanimously approved by Parliament, we were also thinking of young women who did not live with their attackers and of older women who had separated from their husbands or partners. In its concern to protect women, the Council of Europe should widen its scope to include not only domestic violence but also gender violence as understood in Spanish law.

Action needs to be taken on various fronts:

- ▶ The political agenda must give effect to laws against gender violence and make the necessary resources available.
- ▶ We must change the message and depict women not as helpless victims but as winners, coming to grips with the problem. We must neither victimise the victims nor fuel their fears, much less let the offenders go unpunished.
- ▶ Putting an end to the violence also means passing laws which promote equality; if half the population has limited access to culture, politics and knowledge, where are women who are ill-treated to find examples to follow and the confidence to feel that they are citizens with full rights?

▶ The draft organic law on effective equality between women and men accordingly advocates balanced representation of men and women, with no fewer than 40% and no more than 60% of either sex in all decision-making spheres, be it in politics, the economy, culture or education. It is not a matter of quotas or favours; it is simply a question of applying the principle of representation. Democracy is government by the majority, and it is this representation of the majority that gives democracy its legitimacy. Let us not forget that women make up 51% of the population.

▶ All the countries represented here today either have laws or are working on laws to protect women's lives. What I would like to ask you to do now is to defend and uphold these laws which protect women's lives. We cannot measure their importance based on the number of deaths by violence, any more than we measure other laws in terms of the number of offences or criminals.

We must remember that only eighteen of the sixty-two women murdered in our country had complained of domestic violence to the police, and half of them had declined protection because they thought their violent partners would change. Unfortunately, they did not. In the remaining cases, their assailants failed to comply with restraining orders.

Remember that anyone who commits an assault is breaking the law. Men and women must understand that ill-treatment is not a moral but a political issue and that democracy should normally be present where people are supposed to be fond of one another.

I wish to add the following message to those we have heard in this campaign: violence against women is not

only a violation of human rights but also a breach of democracy. I therefore

urge you all to take the law seriously and make sure it is fully enforced.

Thank you. ★

Allocution : M. Jean-Guy Branger

Membre de l'Assemblée
parlementaire, Conseil
de l'Europe

Madame la Présidente, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, honorables membres de cette assemblée, chers collègues,

C'est un grand honneur de pouvoir m'adresser à vous en ce jour. Je suis membre du Sénat français, et de la Commission sur l'égalité des chances pour les femmes et les hommes de l'Assemblée parlementaire. C'est à ce titre que j'ai eu le plaisir de présenter en 2004 le rapport pour le lancement d'une « Campagne paneuropéenne contre la violence domestique à l'égard des femmes » – une campagne que l'Assemblée parlementaire a soutenu depuis lors avec beaucoup d'engagement et de détermination. C'est donc avec un plaisir tout particulier que je vais aborder avec vous le thème des mesures juridiques et des politiques novatrices pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes d'un point de vue parlementaire.

Le combat que j'ai mené à l'Assemblée parlementaire, puis au Sénat en France où j'ai présenté un rapport sur ce même thème, repose sur une conviction profonde : les membres des parlements nationaux, représentant les peuples d'Europe, ont un rôle fondamental à jouer pour faire évoluer nos sociétés et lutter contre les violences faites aux femmes, parce qu'ils détiennent la capacité de proposer et de voter des lois et *d'inscrire ainsi dans la loi* la répression des actes de violence, la protection et le soutien aux victimes, la prévention des violences.

La loi fixe la norme et, en l'espèce, nous considérons que les violences exercées contre les femmes du seul fait qu'elles sont femmes, que ce soit dans l'espace public ou dans la sphère familiale, sont inacceptables dans une société respectueuse de la dignité et des droits de la personne humaine.

Permettez-moi, au cours de cette brève allocution, de vous donner quelques exemples de mesures innovantes prises par les parlements nationaux – et qui sont loin d'être exhaustifs :

- ▶ Dès 1997, le Parlement autrichien a été l'un des premiers à inscrire dans la loi le principe de l'éloignement du conjoint violent, pour éviter ainsi à la femme victime de violence domestique de devoir quitter le domicile familial. Cette loi permet ainsi à la police d'expulser une personne menaçant d'autres personnes du foyer, quelque soit la relation qu'elle entretient avec la victime, ou ses droits de propriété sur la résidence.
- ▶ En Belgique, la loi fédérale du 24 novembre 1997, complétée en 2002, et qui a été étendue aux communautés et aux régions, préconise désormais une « tolérance zéro ». Ainsi, toute infraction connue des services de police devra être enregistrée, ce qui évitera tout sentiment d'impunité.
- ▶ Le Royaume-Uni a institué dans sa loi de 2004 sur la violence domestique un fonds budgétaire consacré aux victimes de violence domestique. L'autorité de compensation des préjudices criminels dispose du droit de récupérer auprès des auteurs de délits les sommes d'argent qu'ils doivent payer aux victimes à titre de compensation.
- ▶ En Turquie, la loi sur les Municipalités entrée en vigueur fin 2004 impose aux grandes villes et aux villes de plus de 50 000 habitants de créer des refuges pour les femmes et les enfants.
- ▶ A Monaco, une cellule d'accueil spécifiquement créée, avec une femme policier notamment, per-

met de répondre aux situations d'urgence et une incrimination pénale spécifique est en cours de discussion au Parlement.

- ▶ En France, la loi du 4 avril 2006 sur le renforcement de la prévention et de la répression des violences au sein du couple a permis
 - l'ajout de la notion du respect à la liste des devoirs et des droits respectifs des époux (article 2)
 - l'élargissement du champ d'application de la circonstance aggravante à de nouveaux auteurs (comme les ex-conjoints et les personnes pacsées) C'est aussi une circonstance aggravante des crimes de meurtres, de viols et d'agressions sexuelles)
 - la reconnaissance légale du viol au sein du couple (article 11)
 - ou encore l'éloignement de l'auteur de violences conjugales du domicile de la victime (article 12).
- ▶ Toujours en France, c'est encore à l'initiative du Sénat que l'âge du mariage des jeunes filles a été relevé à 18 ans contre 15 auparavant, dans le but de lutter contre les mariages forcés.
- ▶ Au Luxembourg, pour assurer la bonne application et le suivi d'une

loi 2003, considérée comme modèle, le parlement a d'ores et déjà procédé à un audit externe de la loi, qui a mis en avant les amendements qui pourraient y être apportés.

- ▶ Enfin, comment, dans cette enceinte, ne pas souligner le rôle du parlement espagnol qui a voté une loi exemplaire en matière de lutte contre les violences fondées sur le sexe. Le cas de l'Espagne devrait nous inspirer, et nous rappeler que les parlementaires doivent quelquefois avoir la force et le courage de voter des lois qui peuvent sembler être en avant sur leur temps, et précéder les évolutions de la société. Aussi souhaiterais-je saluer tout particulièrement mes collègues parlementaires espagnols présents dans la salle aujourd'hui.

Mesdames et Messieurs, chers collègues,

Voter une loi contre la violence domestique est un pas décisif dans la lutte contre les violences faites aux femmes. Il s'agit souvent d'un processus long et difficile. Aussi est-il impératif d'assurer la synergie entre tous les acteurs politiques et tous les niveaux

d'intervention. En notre qualité de parlementaire, nous avons le pouvoir de proposer et de voter les lois, et le devoir de veiller à leur bonne mise en œuvre.

L'initiative de l'Assemblée parlementaires décidée cette année sous le titre « les Parlements unis pour combattre la violence domestique » nous offre une formidable opportunité de confronter nos expériences parlementaires, d'apprendre les uns des autres, et de mieux appréhender les enjeux parlementaires de la lutte contre la violence domestique faite aux femmes. La Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe nous permet de travailler en réseau et de dépasser ensemble les blocages et les stéréotypes patriarcaux qui caractérisent, à plus ou moins grande échelle, l'ensemble de nos sociétés.

Pour conclure, je formule le vœu qu'après la Conférence de Madrid, nous, parlementaires, puissions puiser dans toutes ces expériences pour améliorer la loi et donner aux femmes la place qui leur revient dans une société plus juste.

Je vous remercie de votre attention. ★

Speech: Ms Genoveva Tisheva

Managing Director,
Bulgarian Gender
Research Foundation,
Bulgaria

Monitoring the implementation of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence in Bulgaria – the NGO perspective

“Violence against women is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between women and men, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of women’s full advancement.” – Beijing Platform for Action, paragraph 118.

Thank you for the kind invitation extended to me by the Council of Europe, which will allow me to focus on the crucial contribution of Bulgarian women’s NGOs for the development of legislation and good practices on violence against women, and namely domestic violence.

I should like to take advantage of this opportunity to focus on the crucial role of NGOs in Europe, who are the visionaries and the architects in the area of violence against women – both of legislation and infrastructure for the support of women victims and their children. The continuous efforts of NGOs are keeping women alive, are saving their children’s lives and are giving many women hope and relief.

I represent here the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation (BGRF), which also has branches in three other towns in Bulgaria: Plovdiv, Haskovo and Silistra. It is part of the co-ordination of the Bulgarian Platform to the EWL and member of WAVE. I am also a member of the European Observatory on violence against women. I would like to thank all these organisations and institu-

tions for their inspiration and support.

In the last four years, thanks to the persistent efforts of women’s NGOs, under foreign pressure and due to the challenge of accession to the European Union, the issue of violence against women emerged as a relevant one and received public attention and recognition in Bulgaria. The development by NGOs of support services for women who have suffered violence, and the influence of the decade of human rights conferences during the 1990s contributed to the unveiling of this phenomenon. As a result of these processes, legislation in the field of violence against women started to develop, especially with the Law for Combating Trafficking in Persons, together with corresponding changes in the Penal Code, and the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence. The Law on Protection against Discrimination, too, forms part of the series of relatively new laws related to gender equality. The adoption of all these laws in a short period of time, between 2003 and 2005, is, without any doubt, a real achievement, mainly of the Bulgarian parliament and civil society. Another important mechanism added in August 2006 is the ratification by the 40th National Assembly of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW, which will give further opportunities for NGOs to challenge before the CEDAW Committee violations of women’s rights in Bulgaria.

The most striking example and also the “masterpiece” of this co-operation between NGOs and the parliament is the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence. The draft law was initiated by BGRF experts, supported by women’s NGOs, and finally elaborated and adopted thanks to the joint

efforts of NGOs and women MPs from the 39th National Assembly. In this process both BGRF and the MPs benefited from the support of experts from Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights and the European Women's Lobby. We have the pleasure to have here with us the key person from the National Assembly who promoted the law and made its adoption possible: Ms Marina Dikova. She should be proud of it – according to expert opinions, the law which provides for urgent protection of the victims of domestic violence by civil protection orders is one of the best laws in the region. It respects the autonomy of the victim and at the same time provides for urgent action by the police and the civil court.

One and a half years after the entry into force of the law, we can assess that the best compliance of the court and the police with the law is in the towns where active NGOs exist – like Sofia, Varna, Burgas, Plovdiv, Pernik, other BGRF branches and partners, etc. In Sofia more than 150 applications for orders for protection have been registered since the beginning of 2006. In one-third of the cases protection orders have been issued already. In Burgas there are about 40 protection orders for 2006, in Plovdiv over 50, etc. Services for victims of violence –

legal, psychological, etc. – are provided entirely by NGOs; training sessions for the police and judges are organised by NGOs; the first agreements for the joint implementation of the law were signed between NGOs and the local authorities in Sofia (BGRF), Burgas (our partner “Demetra” Association) and in other places with active NGOs. There is no governmental support for these activities and no special budget was allocated for 2006 and most probably the situation will persist in 2007.

Monitoring the implementation of the law and data collection are also in the portfolio of NGOs active in the field. For example, the BGRF and its partners organised monitoring of court hearings by volunteers from civil society, conducted a survey on the cost of victim support provided by NGOs, analysed court practice, and organised training sessions for police and judges in co-operation with Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights.

Besides the lack of support for much-needed services for victims, the main shortcomings of the law are: inadequate reaction of police and courts in some instances, requirement of numerous pieces of evidence, non-respect by the courts of the urgency of safety protection as the main priority, of the principle of the shift of the

burden of proof, the inadequate reaction of prosecutors in cases of serious threat to health and life of victims, etc.

Some of these gaps can be filled by introducing the respective legislative changes, especially in the criminal law; but others need continuous education and training of the professionals.

Eager to see our new law on domestic violence implemented, and willing to make it a model also for other countries and regions, we as NGOs will work further with national and local government to ensure the sustainability of the positive processes initiated with the adoption of the law. The recent announcement by UNIFEM that, together with our very good partner “Demetra” (Burgas) and in co-operation with the Bulgarian Fund for Women, we are among the organisations which received a grant from the UNIFEM Trust Fund for the Elimination of violence against women, found us at this important stage of joint work. It will, hopefully, boost the effective implementation of the LPADV, and ensure better protection of women victims of domestic violence.

We dedicate the implementation of this two-year project to the Campaign of the Council of Europe against domestic violence against women. ★

Speech: Ms Sylvia Walby

Professor, Sociology
Department, Lancaster
University, United
Kingdom

Data: Why is it needed? What is needed? Developing the evidence base for policies to stop violence against women

Why is data needed?

- ▶ Much rhetoric and statements of good intent
- Good rhetoric is good and necessary
- ▶ But how much progress?
- ▶ Reliable evidence is needed to know whether policies are working
- ▶ To identify and measure change, simply and reliably so as to evaluate impact of policies
- The next step after good intentions

What is needed?

- ▶ Indicators:
 - Changes in indicators, year by year
- ▶ Supported by hard data: statistics
- ▶ Comparable between countries
- ▶ Linked into action plans at national, EU and international levels
- ▶ Linked into national and EU international monitoring

Indicators

- ▶ To assist evaluation of policies
- ▶ Meaningful summaries of complex data
- ▶ Simplify complicated information
- ▶ Robust enough for comparisons
- ▶ Enable benchmarking
- ▶ Enable setting of “targets”
- ▶ Essential for measuring change towards targets over time and between countries

Benchmarks and targets

- ▶ Benchmarks are stable reference points

- Point against which future positions can be compared (for better or worse)
- ▶ Targets are the goals represented in a figure that is measurable.
- ▶ Where do we want to go?
- ▶ When do we want to get there?
- ▶ Both depend on indicators and statistics

The need for surveys

- ▶ Population surveys are the only form of reliable data over time
- ▶ Official statistics from police and courts underestimate the amount of violence since many women do not report
- ▶ As policies improve, more women will report, so police/court data is not a reliable guide to changes over time.

Information needed from surveys

- ▶ Annual estimates of Violence Against Women
- ▶ Prevalence and incidents
 - What percentage of the population affected (prevalence)
 - How many incidents in total
- ▶ Types of violence
 - Rape, domestic violence, stalking, sexual harassment, honour crimes and more
- ▶ Severity
 - Injuries
 - Frequency (domestic violence usually involves many incidents)

What has been done?

- ▶ Ad hoc national surveys, e.g. UK
- ▶ Some use of data e.g. Cost of domestic violence
- ▶ UN Task Force to develop data gathering
 - UN report

- Expert meetings
- ▶ European gender mainstreaming
- Presidencies (indicators), Commission, European Parliament

What still needs to be done?

- ▶ Final agreement by UN task force on standards for indicators, and methods of data collection
- ▶ Endorsement of these standards by countries' National Statistical Offices
- ▶ Creation and funding of comparable surveys in each country by National Statistical Offices
- ▶ E.g. modules attached to annual crime or health surveys

- ▶ Link to national implementation of action plans
- ▶ Oversight: Council of Europe, Eurostat, UN

Resources

- ▶ UN Secretary General's Report on Violence Against Women (2006) <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/index.htm>
- ▶ United Kingdom national survey of gender-based violence: Sylvia Walby and Jonathan Allen, *Domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking: findings from the British Crime Survey*, Home Office Research Study 276, 2004, <http://>

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/hors276.pdf

- ▶ United Kingdom study by Sylvia Walby on *The Cost of Domestic Violence*, (DTI, Women and Equality Unit 2004). http://www.womenandequalityunit.gov.uk/research/cost_of_dv_Report_sept04.pdf
- ▶ Sylvia Walby (2005), "Improving the statistics on violence against women", *Statistical Journal of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe*, 22, 4, 193-216, 2005. ★

**SOLEMN LAUNCHING
CEREMONY**

Welcoming address by Mr Francisco Javier Rojo García

**President of the Senate,
Spain**

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour for the Spanish Senate to welcome you here at this important, and I believe essential, launching conference of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*.

This is a problem which, after long years of silence and neglect, and thanks to the untiring efforts of many bodies, in particular women's NGOs, has now moved into the public domain.

On behalf of the Bureau of the Spanish Senate and the parliamentary groups, I would like to welcome you to this chamber. We trust that it is an appropriate place for discussing ideas on how to change attitudes, outline new ways of dealing with the problem, show unity in combating violence against women and express our support for the victims and give them the protection they deserve.

I trust you will allow me, in this short welcome address, to do something which is not very common in politics, but which it is neither possible nor appropriate to avoid when addressing such a sensitive issue, namely to speak of feelings.

The first feeling I would like to convey is satisfaction. Satisfaction that the Council of Europe has chosen Spain as the place to launch its campaign. We are aware of the Council's determination and dedication to strengthening the political commitment and joint efforts of member states to find out more about this problem and create an environment in which women can live free of gender violence. We therefore fully appreciate the choice of Spain as the venue for this conference.

But I must also express a feeling of shame.

As a political leader I am ashamed that, in our societies, there is still a deeply-rooted, centuries-old, male-centred culture which considers it normal that women should be subordinate to men; a culture which considers the imbalance of power between men and women to be legitimate; a culture which systematically discriminates against women.

I am ashamed to say that gender stereotypes continue to exist in our societies; ashamed that there are still firmly held beliefs, attitudes, feelings, values, behaviour and activities which make a distinction between men and women in the different spheres of everyday life, in schools, interpersonal relationships and working life.

I am ashamed that in our societies we can rub shoulders every day with men who systematically infringe the human rights and freedoms of women, who harass, intimidate, threaten, abuse, blackmail, maltreat, beat and kill women. And these are not simply uncontrollable, individual instances of despicable conduct but a way of perpetuating women's subordination to men through violence and fear.

And I should also like to express a feeling of gratitude. To thank you women for giving me the opportunity, at this solemn event, to show what I feel, when it should be you, who represent women's movements and networks, you who have spent your lives combating violence and working for equality, who should be occupying this chair.

However, I must also express a feeling of pride. Pride that I am member of a parliament that has unanimously approved a comprehen-

sive and exemplary law against gender violence.

This law was drawn up with the full participation of women's organisations; it contains a broad definition of both physical and psychological violence, including attacks on sexual liberty, threats, coercion or the arbitrary deprivation of freedom; it provides for preventive and educational measures as well as measures for providing protection and assistance to victims; and it has increased the penalties imposed on the perpetrators of such violence.

I am also proud to belong to those in politics who agree on the need to join forces and do our utmost to restore dignity, psychological well-being and full civic rights to those who have been subjected to violence.

I am proud that local authorities, regional governments and central government have committed themselves to the common cause of equality, in the knowledge that only real equality between men and women can lead to full democracy.

Finally I wish to express my hope. Hope that, as a result of sustained in-

dividual and collective efforts, awareness-raising, prevention and education, 25 November will, in the not too distant future, no longer appear on all our calendars as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, because it will be unnecessary.

Only then will we know that we have made real progress towards achieving equality, development and peace.

Thank you very much for your attention and welcome to this House. ★

Address by Mr René van der Linden

President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

Dear Prime Minister, dear fellow parliamentarians, dear Ministers, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Today, while we meet here to discuss and generate ideas about how to combat violence against women, all over Europe, thousands of women face physical, sexual and psychological violence on a daily basis.

Domestic violence knows no geographical boundaries or age limit.

Nor is it particular to any culture, social group or class.

Too many victims suffer in silence and too many crimes go unpunished.

How long can we tolerate this situation?

The Parliamentary Assembly has repeatedly condemned this – all too common – form of violence suffered by women in Europe within their own homes.

The scale and spread of domestic abuse in Europe, which is a serious violation of human rights, call for resolute and concerted action.

All actors – governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities and representatives of civil society – need to act in unison.

A full range of measures needs to be taken, including legislation, to combat domestic violence.

But above all, given the scale of domestic abuse in Europe, we need to change people's attitude.

Through concrete action:

- ▶ By making better use of the education system – through educational programmes that raise awareness about violence against women, their impact not only on women but on the family and our society as a whole, in particular children who suffer psychological traumas. Such

educational programmes should promote family values.

- ▶ By making better use of media and information technologies. Media should be aware of the impact it has on the general public – there is too much violence on our TV screens. Instead, media should promote and diffuse good practices.

The Parliamentary Assembly is committed to giving its full support to the Council of Europe Campaign.

In June this year our Assembly launched the project “Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women”.

I am convinced that the first campaign ever launched by the Parliamentary Assembly in this form will encourage parliaments to adopt laws, and take other measures that can improve women's rights to live in a society that is safe and free from violence.

How can we, members of parliaments, make a difference?

Our parliaments are made up of men and women elected by all citizens, and consequently parliaments are the most natural and legitimate democratic institution representing their interests.

It is, therefore, our duty and obligation to listen to our citizens' concerns and to take action to protect their interests.

We can play a vital role by adopting legislation to establish domestic violence as a serious and unacceptable assault on human dignity and a violation of human rights.

We can adopt legislation that prosecutes and punishes the perpetrators, protects the most vulnerable individuals, even in the private sphere, and reinforces the rights of victims.

We must ensure that our states respect the international norms and standards, in particular those deriving from the European Convention of Human Rights.

As parliamentarians, we have the capacity, and the duty, to lead public opinion, raise awareness and denounce publicly and explicitly domestic violence as something that has no place in civilised societies.

National parliaments in the forty-six member states and observer parliaments have already started to implement the campaign at parliamentary level, in close co-operation with national and local authorities and non-governmental organisations.

I can assure you that the contact parliamentarians, who have been appointed by their national parliaments, are highly motivated to ensure that the campaign will be a success. Parliamentarians have established six regional groups and share a network of contacts and good practices.

By putting this on the political agenda of our parliaments and treat-

ing it as core issues of human rights and of the functioning of democratic societies, each and everyone of us can contribute to changing people's attitude on the European continent and beyond.

Combating domestic violence is not the private hunting ground of the Council of Europe.

Together with our friends and colleagues from the European Parliament, the Nordic Council, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, the parliamentary forum of small states and the Stability Pact for South-eastern Europe, we are committed to voicing our deep concern, denouncing domestic violence against women as a human rights violation and to taking action to combat it.

Being close to citizens, civil society is one of the most important elements in any democracy. We work together with almost 400 civil society associations in constructive partnership.

We cannot combat violence against women alone. We need the

support and involvement of civil society. We need to encourage them to take initiatives, and bring forward proposals for joint activities.

It is also important that equal rights and gender mainstreaming be promoted in our laws to allow women to find their place in society and live in dignity and security. This is driving the work of the Parliamentary Assembly in the field of promoting equal opportunities for women and men.

Whether we are national, regional or local elected representatives or simple citizens, domestic violence against women is a problem that concerns us all.

It is our individual and collective responsibility to break the silence and take action.

So let us stand up, speak out and together make a difference: *Stop a la violencia doméstica contra las mujeres.*

¡Muchas gracias! Thank you. ★

Address by Mr Ian Micallef

President of the Chamber of Local Authorities of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

Growing up as a boy, I learned a rule of honour for men: respect others and never physically attack another. You will disgrace yourself by doing so. Yet, millions of men are disgracing themselves today across Europe through domestic violence against women, children and aged persons, which has brought about the need for the campaign that we are launching here in Madrid.

Violence has been a major issue for this continent over centuries, especially the last century with its two world wars. We have learned our lessons, and, more or less, tackled violence off the street – just to see it go into houses, behind closed doors. On any given day, in every single one of more than 200 000 territorial communities of Europe, there is an appalling number of women who are victims of violence and aggression – often at the hands of the very people closest to them.

I am honoured to be here today to represent the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, as President of its Chamber of Local Authorities, and to speak to you about the importance of the local and regional dimension in ensuring the greatest possible impact of the campaign which we are launching today.

Local and regional elected representatives, their police officers, social workers and administrative employees are on the front line of dealing with domestic violence and its repercussions and in providing the necessary services to the women and children who are the most likely victims.

In this campaign, the Council of Europe Congress will take the maximum advantage of its unique position – on the one hand, as a pan-European body, representing, as I

have already mentioned, over 200 000 territorial communities and speaking for all municipalities and regions of the forty-six Council of Europe member states, and, on the other hand, using its proximity to the citizens it serves.

I see the Congress' role in this campaign in particular as follows:

Firstly, to provide a forum for an exchange of good practices among local and regional authorities on a pan-European level, taking into account the initiatives already taken at territorial level. We need to make sure that these initiatives, ranging from ways of protecting victims, working closely with NGOs in the field, to training of municipal staff and promoting preventive education measures in schools, are shared across Europe.

Secondly, in order to ensure that the message of the campaign falls on fertile ground, we also need to undertake urgent, immediate and sustained awareness-raising action both within municipal administrations and civil society.

To put this into practice, the Congress is planning to organise an awareness-raising week around 8 March 2007, which will entail participating cities, including the City of Strasbourg, putting up posters and organising public debates in schools and town halls on the issue of violence against women.

The Congress has also set up a Web site dedicated to the issue, which, we hope, will also serve as a forum for the exchange of good practices. We invite municipalities and regions to send their Web pages outlining examples of their good practices in fighting domestic violence, and we plan to create an interactive news update section to

post upcoming events from national associations of local authorities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We must join our forces in a concerted action against domestic violence. One of the strengths of the Council of Europe is precisely that it can reach every level of government and civil society. I can assure you that the Congress will work hand in hand with the intergovernmental and par-

liamentary dimensions of the Council of Europe campaign to ensure maximum synergy in carrying out the Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence.

Violence can come in many shapes and forms, especially violence against women. It can come in the form of human trafficking and forced prostitution, or abuse at home, or harassment at work. Our task today is to

make sure that these phenomena do not go unnoticed, that our society is aware of them, and that national governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities and civil society take urgent action to address them.

This is why I warmly welcome this campaign on behalf of the Council of Europe's Congress, and wish this conference every success.

Thank you. ★

Allocution : M. Fiorenzo Stolfi

Président du Comité des Ministres, Conseil de l'Europe

M. le Président du Gouvernement, M. le Président du Congrès des Députés, M. le Président du Sénat, M. le Président de l'Assemblée parlementaire (du Conseil de l'Europe), M. le Secrétaire Général du Conseil de l'Europe, M. le Président de la Chambre des Pouvoirs Locaux du Congrès du Conseil de l'Europe, Messieurs les Ministres, Mesdames et Messieurs,

C'est un grand plaisir pour moi d'être parmi vous aujourd'hui à l'occasion de la cérémonie de lancement de la *Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*.

Le Comité des Ministres est fortement engagé dans cette campagne, qui constitue un élément important et particulièrement tangible du Plan d'Action du 3^e Sommet adopté en mai 2005 à Varsovie. Nous en avons suivi de près les préparatifs, avec l'élaboration du Programme (« Blueprint ») de la Campagne, entériné en juin dernier et la promotion de la dimension interinstitutionnelle de ce projet, notamment dans sa dimension intergouvernementale.

C'est pourquoi je suis sûr de parler au nom de tous les Etats membres et de tous ici présents, quand j'exprime ma joie de voir cette période de préparation intense prendre fin aujourd'hui, alors que notre Campagne prend son envol ici à Madrid et, dans les semaines à venir, dans de nombreux Etats membres.

Les objectifs poursuivis dans le cadre de cette action revêtent une importance particulière aux yeux des gouvernements représentés dans notre Organisation. Le Comité des Ministres est extrêmement préoccupé par l'ampleur du phénomène de la violence à l'égard des femmes, notam-

ment au sein de la famille. En effet, la violence domestique est présente (et même courante) dans tous les pays européens et dans toutes les couches de la société. Nous allons par conséquent tout mettre en œuvre pour encourager les Etats membres à lutter activement contre ce phénomène.

Sans entrer dans les détails des moyens qui seront utilisés, je voudrais néanmoins rappeler votre attention sur le fait que cette Campagne jouera un rôle essentiel de sensibilisation et d'impulsion, afin que nous réalisions tous ensemble des progrès tangibles vers l'élimination de la violence à l'égard des femmes.

Dans ce contexte, je tiens à rappeler tout l'intérêt de la Recommandation sur la protection des femmes contre la violence, témoin de notre volonté d'éradiquer ce monstrueux phénomène, que le Comité des Ministres a adressée aux Etats membres il y a quatre ans déjà. Il s'agit d'un texte normatif qui propose tout un ensemble de mesures pratiques et législatives de prévention, d'aide aux victimes, de répression et de sensibilisation, dont la mise en œuvre ne peut que contribuer à infléchir la tendance. En effet, un des buts essentiels de la Campagne est justement de promouvoir l'application et la mise en œuvre de toutes les mesures contenues dans la Recommandation du Comité des Ministres.

Un autre objectif crucial de la Campagne est de presser les gouvernements à manifester leur volonté politique en offrant les ressources nécessaires pour pouvoir présenter des progrès tangibles vers l'élimination de la violence à l'égard des femmes. Le troisième objectif, enfin, est de sensibiliser l'opinion publique dans les Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe au fait que la violence à

l'égard des femmes est une violation des droits de la personne humaine et d'encourager tout citoyen à la combattre.

Il faut s'attaquer à la fois aux causes profondes de la violence et à ses conséquences. Il faut essayer de faire évoluer les mentalités et les comportements et prendre des mesures juridiques, politiques et pratiques, parmi lesquelles la collecte systématique de données statistiques ventilées par sexe, qui vont dans le sens de la Recommandation du Comité des Ministres dont je viens de vous parler.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

La défense et le développement des droits de la personne humaine et des libertés fondamentales est une des grandes priorités sur laquelle la Répu-

blique de Saint Marin va concentrer ses efforts au cours de sa présidence du Comité des Ministres.

La protection des droits des femmes, en tant qu'aspect fondamental des droits humains, trouvera dans cette grande campagne une plateforme paneuropéenne qui contribuera à développer des mentalités collectives où le respect des droits des femmes deviendrait un patrimoine véritable, incontestable, enraciné dans la culture et dans la société.

Nous-mêmes, à Saint-Marin, sommes en train de préparer un ample programme d'initiatives qui impliquent tous les services publics concernés et nous lancerons le 29 novembre notre campagne nationale, qui sous le haut parrainage des Chefs d'Etat, dédiera une attention particulière aux

jeunes citoyens, par l'intermédiaire de l'Ecole et à l'Université. La Campagne saint-marinaise recherchera toutes les collaborations possibles à l'intérieur de la société civile dont l'implication se révèle indispensable.

La République de Saint-Marin, avec sa tradition séculaire de liberté, a toujours mis au centre de son action l'engagement en faveur de l'affirmation et de la protection des droits et des libertés fondamentales. A cet effet, la promotion du dialogue inter-culturel et inter religieux qui pour nous saint-marinais est la condition essentielle pour assurer une coexistence pacifique et démocratique dans les Etats et entre les Etats, a une importance particulière. ★

Address by Mr Terry Davis

Secretary General, Council of Europe

French version: page 75

Prime Minister, presidents, ministers, ladies and gentlemen,

Women suffering from domestic violence are not only victims of abuse, they are also victims of silence, victims of indifference and victims of neglect. They are not helpless and weak, but they are often let down. This is what the Council of Europe Campaign is determined to change. The key words are inform, help and empower.

The slogan of the Campaign is *Stop domestic violence against women*. This is the message to governments, who must meet their political, legislative and administrative obligations to prevent domestic violence, help the victims and punish the perpetrators.

It is a message to the public – to all of us – to stop looking the other way and to stop minimising the scale and the gravity of this problem.

It is also a message to men, who should be considered as essential actors in preventing the violence. Our Campaign is not about women protecting women; it is about men protecting women as well.

Most importantly, the message of the Campaign must reach the victims and tell them that they are not alone. Women suffering from abuse must be told that they are entitled to protection and help, and they must be told where it is and how they can get to it.

When it comes to the role of governments, we should start by recalling the nature of their obligations. Every Government has a responsibility to protect the human rights of all its citizens and everyone else in the country. A Government must therefore take all reasonable measures to prevent, investigate and punish all forms of violence against women, including violence within the family.

This Campaign will build on the existing Recommendation by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on the protection of women against violence – the Recommendation which was adopted in 2002. This Recommendation covers all forms of gender-based violence, and it is the first international call for a global strategy to prevent violence and to protect its victims.

The Recommendation is a non-exhaustive compendium of measures which have already been adopted by some, but not all forty-six member states of the Council of Europe.

The first objective of our campaign is therefore to make sure that governments go through this check-list of measures and implement them if they have not already done so. By adding new measures, every government can also help to create a collection of good practices, which should allow our member states to learn from each other's successes and mistakes.

The Campaign has, of course, a very strong parliamentary dimension as well, and the role of parliamentarians and representatives of local and regional authorities is essential in making sure that the results of the Campaign are implemented through policy decisions and appropriate legislative and administrative measures at the national and local level.

Finally, an effective fight against domestic violence requires the broadest possible public action. We all have a role to play in stopping the violence and helping the victims, from civil society to teachers, and from social workers to medical staff, but the fact remains that violence against women is a violation of human rights and a particularly devastating form of criminal offence. Our governments do not

have an option – they must act effectively and they must act now.

This Campaign is not launched merely to talk about domestic violence; it is meant to do something about it. Its ultimate success will not be measured by the number of semi-

nars or declarations, but by the positive and quantifiable changes which our campaign helps to bring about in the lives of women suffering from abuse, through better laws, more shelters, better counselling, more help and above all by prevention. Eighteen

months from now, we must be able to look back and say we have made a difference. We must not let down these victims of a widespread abuse of human rights. ★

Allocution : M. Terry Davis

Secrétaire Général, Conseil de l'Europe

Version anglaise : page 73

Monsieur le Premier ministre, Messieurs les Présidents, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Les femmes qui souffrent de la violence domestique ne sont pas seulement victimes de sévices ; elles sont aussi victimes du silence, victimes de l'indifférence, victimes de l'inaction. Elles ne sont pas faibles et désarmées mais elles sont souvent abandonnées. C'est cet état de fait que la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe est déterminée à changer. Information, aide et autonomisation en sont les maîtres mots.

« Stop à la violence domestique » : tel est le slogan de la campagne. C'est le message adressé aux Etats qui doivent satisfaire à leurs obligations politiques, législatives et administratives pour empêcher la violence domestique, aider les victimes et punir les coupables.

C'est un message qui s'adresse aussi à l'opinion publique – à nous tous – pour que nous cessions de détourner les yeux et de minimiser l'ampleur et la gravité du problème. C'est un message aux hommes qui doivent être considérés comme les acteurs essentiels de la prévention de la violence. Notre campagne ne vise pas seulement à assurer la protection des femmes par les hommes mais aussi à faire en sorte que les hommes protègent les femmes.

Qui plus est, le message de la campagne doit parvenir aux victimes et leur donner le sentiment qu'elles ne sont pas seules. Il faut que les femmes en butte à des sévices sachent qu'elles ont droit à une protection et à une aide, qu'elles sachent aussi où elles peuvent les obtenir et comment.

Quant aux Etats, commençons par rappeler la nature de leurs obligations, ils sont tenus de protéger les droits de l'ensemble de leurs ressortissants et

de toute autre personne se trouvant sur leur territoire. Leurs gouvernements respectifs doivent donc prendre toutes les mesures appropriées pour prévenir tous les types de violence envers les femmes, dont la violence au sein de la famille, et lorsque des actes de violence sont constatés, mener une enquête et punir les auteurs.

Cette campagne s'appuie sur la recommandation du Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe relative à la protection des femmes contre la violence, adoptée en 2002. Cette recommandation couvre toutes les formes de violence sexuelle et constitue le premier appel international à l'adoption d'une stratégie globale de prévention de la violence et de protection de ses victimes.

La recommandation est un recueil non exhaustif de mesures qui ont déjà été adoptées par une partie, mais non par l'ensemble, des quarante-six Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe.

Notre campagne a donc pour premier objectif de s'assurer que les gouvernements passent en revue les mesures de cette liste et les mettent en œuvre s'ils ne l'ont pas déjà fait. En ajoutant de nouvelles mesures, chaque gouvernement peut aussi contribuer à la constitution d'un ensemble de bonnes pratiques, permettant à chacun de nos Etats membres de tirer les enseignements des succès et erreurs des autres.

La campagne a aussi, bien entendu, une très forte dimension parlementaire ; le rôle des parlementaires et des représentants des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux est, en effet, essentiel pour garantir l'application des résultats de la campagne par le biais de décisions ou de dispositions législatives et administratives adéquates prises par les

pouvoirs publics aux niveaux local et national.

Enfin, une lutte effective contre la violence domestique exige la plus large action publique possible. S'agissant de mettre fin à la violence et d'aider les victimes, tous les membres de la société ont un rôle à jouer, des citoyens aux enseignants, des travailleurs sociaux au personnel médical ; autrement dit, nous sommes tous concernés. Il n'en reste pas moins que la violence à l'égard des femmes est

une violation des droits humains et une forme particulièrement épouvantable d'infraction pénale. Nos gouvernements n'ont pas le choix : ils doivent agir avec efficacité et sans délai.

La campagne est lancée non pas simplement pour parler de la violence domestique mais aussi et surtout pour agir afin d'y remédier. Ce n'est pas, au bout du compte, au nombre de séminaires ou de déclarations que l'on évaluera le succès de notre campagne mais aux changements positifs et

quantifiables qu'elle contribuera à produire dans la vie des femmes maltraitées grâce à de meilleures lois, à un plus grand nombre de lieux d'asile, à de meilleurs conseils et informations, à une assistance accrue et surtout grâce à la prévention. Il faut que, dans dix-huit mois, à l'heure du bilan, nous puissions constater que nous avons obtenu des résultats tangibles. Nous ne devons pas décevoir l'attente de ces victimes d'une violation des droits de l'homme par trop répandue. ★

Address by Mr José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Prime Minister, Spain

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Spain.

My first words must be words of sorrow, in homage to Concepción Pérez Prieto, who died yesterday in Almansilla (Seville) at the hands of her ex-husband. In remembering her now, I should like also to honour the memory of the 61 other women who have been murdered so far this year in our country, victims of gender violence. Events like the conference that brings us here today are of the utmost importance if these women's deaths are to serve as a permanent warning to our societies, if their ultimate sacrifice is not to have been in vain, if their deaths are to be an incentive to all public authorities in the common effort to put a stop to this intolerable violence.

For this reason I should like to thank the Council of Europe for setting the campaign to combat violence against women in motion. This campaign is the latest in a series of pioneering steps the Council of Europe has taken since the 1990s to protect women's fundamental rights and freedoms.

In congratulating the Council of Europe, I congratulate all its European member states. By giving this campaign our support we are making the firm commitment that we will use our laws, our policies and our actions to achieve its aim.

I congratulate the men and women of Europe on their growing awareness of the serious consequences of this violence, and on the wind of change that these initiatives announce.

Let me also express our country's gratitude – it goes without saying – at having been chosen to host the launch of this campaign. We are proud that Europe has chosen to honour Spanish

society and its efforts to be fairer towards women in this way. Experience has taught us that only by organising our life together in a more equitable and egalitarian way can we be truly free, because in acknowledging an individual right we gain a right for society as a whole. Spain fully assumes the responsibility this entails.

In respect of this and other problems, our citizens have shown their determination to bring about the necessary changes to achieve a fully democratic society, in unison with the age we live in and the geopolitical place we occupy. The parity Government I lead thrives on this thirst for true democracy.

The everyday lives our women lead are a constant reminder of their resilience, their intelligence, their ability to cope and their sense of devotion. It is hardly surprising that Spain's women are and always have been the prime movers in the struggle to win recognition for their rights and freedoms and in the promotion of gender equality.

This year Spain celebrated the 75th anniversary of the first day of October 1931, when Spanish women were granted the right to vote. Clara Campoamor, a member of parliament who never faltered in her struggle for political equality between women and men, played a unique role in this achievement and left us a message that we should remember every day: "we learn freedom by exercising it".

Since those days life in Spain has undeniably come to accept the principle of equality between women and men. All over the world the acknowledgment of women as subjects of law has been a vital step, essential to the development of the democratic political system. We must realise, however, that while there is no doubt of this in

theory, in practice we need to work hand in hand to eradicate this sad legacy of violence against women from the society we leave our children.

In the last decade of the 20th century various international organisations echoed the voices of women who spoke out against the violence perpetrated against them. In 1995 the United Nations Organisation acknowledged that violence against women was an obstacle to equality, development and peace, as well as a serious violation of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Since then we have come to understand more about this disgraceful phenomenon and to see it as the social scourge it is.

Eleven years have passed since then. The figures are as horrifying as ever, because every woman who dies is a life cut short and every woman harassed a reminder of how affection sometimes opens the door to repression and domination.

A society cannot consider itself just if there are women who live in fear of their own family members, or who suffer sexual harassment in the workplace. Fear and justice do not go together, for there is no freedom when fear obliges people to assume attitudes, positions or thoughts against their will, and a society that sits back while a number of its members live in fear is not a just society.

Fear, humiliation, pain and death are incompatible with a decent social project, i.e. a society that makes sure none of its members are humiliated, a society whose political action is geared to reducing pain and cruelty in the world.

We need to let women who live in fear, wherever they may be, know that society is with them, that what they are going through is not their fault, that it is not a private matter, that they have no reason to hide, nothing to be ashamed of. What is shameful is when society lives with this violence and looks the other way, brushing it off as a matter of tradition or custom, or even worse, justifying it as a form of love or desire to protect.

For society to perceive violence against women as a public rather than

a private problem is a good start. The authorities must take action to prevent this violence, condemn those who perpetrate it and offer protection and recognition to the victims.

Europe must be a symbol of respect and solidarity, so that nobody feels that they do not belong, that no woman feels like a stranger in her own home, her family or her work, locked up in a space or in relationships where she feels unwelcome, or which cut her off and hurt her.

Violence against women, including domestic violence, as the Council of Europe rightly says, is one of the most serious forms of human rights violation. Gender violence is violence against women simply because they are women, exposing them to physical, sexual and psychological abuse in their families and at work.

For all these reasons we must see violence against women as a serious obstacle to freedom, for if there is no equality between women and men there can be no freedom in a democratic society. It is everybody's duty to avert this danger that shatters the peace of some women and therefore of our societies. It is everybody's duty. We men must be the first to reject violence as something natural in men, the first to see that masculinity is not synonymous with strength, violence, aggressiveness or scorn for women.

The effort to combat violence against women needs the active and determined support of men, and complicity between men and women to forge relations based on equality, relations which are just and dignified for all.

The social, cultural and economic complexity of gender violence calls for an approach that combines short-, medium- and long-term objectives. In the short term, policy should focus on the criminal aspects and put a stop to the murder of women by their partners or ex-partners. In the longer term, we must make sure that progress on gender equality prevents men from assuming positions of power and does away with the feelings of possession and dependence that characterise relations between some men and women.

In the case of Spain, I lead a government that has contributed significantly to bringing the problem of gender violence in our society out into the open. We have passed laws, allocated financial and human resources and set up the necessary institutional structures.

The Comprehensive Law against Gender Violence was a pioneering step in the development of legal, economic and penal instruments for the protection of women. This law, unanimously adopted, met with the approval of all the parliamentary groups because of its comprehensive nature and the clamorous pleas of a society that suffers with every woman who is threatened. Its passage through parliament, a fine example of co-operation and consensus, helped to fuel a social debate that removed the veils of social and cultural tolerance that used to conceal this problem.

The law is intended as a comprehensive response to gender violence, including prevention, treatment and repression. It accordingly contains provisions to teach certain values throughout the education process, values such as equality between women and men, equal dignity also, and dialogue as the only real means of settling disputes. It also contains standards for the media and advertising companies to observe, codes of conduct to help them avoid social stereotyping or the inappropriate portrayal of women's image.

Other provisions seek to help and protect women victims of aggression, including specialised training for public servants (judges, police officers, doctors and other health professionals, or social workers) who come into contact with these women to offer them care, treatment or protection, so that the victims are not further humiliated by tactlessness on the part of the very people who are there to help them; measures also to protect their identity, their work, their economic resources and welfare, and to encourage them to seek justice, to report the facts bravely and with dignity, holding their heads high in front of the depraved individuals who torment them.

Needless to say, the law also contains criminal provisions which increase the penalties which await those who abuse their strength; provisions made more effective by the establishment of a network of specialised courts, tribunals and public prosecutor's offices.

In the year and a half that has gone by since the law was enacted, its provisions have been implemented and constantly monitored to determine their efficacy, the results achieved and their social impact.

Special administrative bodies have been set up, such as the Government Delegation on Gender Violence. With the help and participation of experts and women's associations, we have set up the State Observatory against Gender Violence. We have established forty courts to deal solely with this type of violence and another 419 have specialised in the subject, and the number of police officers working exclusively to assist victims and prosecute their aggressors has been increased by 88%, to a total of 1,395.

In this time over 35 000 protection orders have been issued and 5 000 women receive "tele-assistance".

We have introduced the eleven-month Active Integration Benefit for women victims of aggression who have no income, which is extended for another three months if they have to move to a new place of residence.

In education the law has introduced content designed to teach our children equality, especially equality

between women and men. Next month government departments active in the health sphere will be adopting a common protocol on medical treatment and health care for women victims of aggression.

Breaking an intolerable taboo, victims of gender violence have taken advantage of the new law and filed more than 150 000 complaints. One thing those of us in a position of authority must make quite clear, however, is that preventing violence and protecting women from it is not just the responsibility of the victims. We must all consider it our responsibility to report any aggression or any sign that a woman is being battered, hurt or downtrodden in her own home.

On 15 December this year the Government will approve the National Awareness and Prevention Plan on violence against women, which details new measures, new targets and new resources, all with the same unswerving aim in mind: to do away with a scourge that puts us all to shame.

We hope the day is not far away when no more women die at the hands of their partners, when no more women are threatened, when no more women feel abandoned by those around them, or unable to face up to their aggressors and report them. Until that day comes, we must continue our efforts to make equality between women and men a reality, aware of the importance of the role each and every one of us has to play. Any contribution is welcome; any ini-

tiative that contributes to respect between human beings brings the future a little closer.

Spanish society is committed to that future. We will soon be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the day in February 1937 when civil equality between women and men was officially introduced. The Comprehensive Law against Gender Violence and the Organic Law on Equality between Women and Men are part of our heritage and of what being a Spanish citizen stands for.

Spain is accordingly pleased and honoured to have been chosen to host the launch of the Council of Europe Campaign to combat violence against women. It is an acknowledgment of the effort Spanish society has made to guarantee all its members, regardless of their gender, full enjoyment of their civic rights and freedoms.

In a relatively short space of time Spain has indeed come a long way towards equal rights and respect for women. We have parity in our Government, and the most advanced laws; but gender violence continues, women continue to suffer and genuine equality is still a long way off. My final words today will therefore be a call for action. I urge the victims to report their aggressors, I entreat women to claim what is theirs and I encourage decent, law-abiding men and women together to wage and win this war – a just war if ever there was one – against gender violence.

Thank you. ★

**CHANGING ATTITUDES
TO COMBAT VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN**

Address: Mr Pēteris Elferts

**Ambassador
Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary,
Permanent
Representative of
Latvia to the Council of
Europe, Thematic Co-
ordinator on Gender
Equality of the
Committee of
Ministers of the
Council of Europe**

Ladies and gentlemen, ministers, excellencies, dear colleagues,

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Spanish authorities for hosting this launching event. To launch the Campaign was a commitment made during the Warsaw Summit. It was also decided to create a Task Force for this purpose, which produced the Blueprint for the Campaign. Let me take this opportunity to thank the Task Force for their work. It is also important to note the fact that this is a Council of Europe joint event with participation by all three pillars – the Committee of Ministers, Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress for Local and Regional Authorities. The Chair of the Committee of Ministers – San Marino – is committed to this Campaign.

As Thematic Co-ordinator on Gender Equality of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, I have the honour to chair this session - Changing attitudes to combat violence against women.

There are many questions to be asked and answered. Firstly, have attitudes changed and are they changing? Secondly, if they are not changing, what is being done and what can be done to change them?

In 1986, Tracy Chapman in her song *Why?* asked the question, “Why is a woman still not safe when she’s in her own home?” She also offered an answer – “When the blind remove

their blinders and the speechless speak the truth.”

Why is a woman still not safe when she’s in her own home? Unfortunately, this question is as relevant today as it was twenty years ago. The fact that Europe needs a Campaign is testimony to the reality that the problem remains.

The question is – Why?

There are many *whys* still to be answered? What may, what is and what will be done to change attitudes to combat violence against women?

This human rights violation continues to be a problem in our member states. It is our common responsibility to help break the silence, to empower victims, to remove blinders and help the speechless speak the truth to truly change attitudes to combat violence against women.

Fortunately, we have an excellent panel to help with these questions and challenges.

Dear panellists, if you had each come here with one apple and exchanged them, you would all leave with exactly one apple. However, if you will share your experience and exchange ideas we will all leave more knowledgeable and with more than one idea to change attitudes.

That in mind – let us welcome this session’s keynote speaker: Ms Yakin Ertürk, United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. ★

Keynote speech: Ms Yakin Etürk

United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

Distinguished participants,

It is with great honour and pleasure that I deliver this keynote speech at the launch of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*.

Introduction

The vision that inspires the Council of Europe Campaign is based on the global agenda to end all forms of violence against women at all levels. As articulated by the Beijing Platform for Action eleven years ago, "... violence both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. ... In all societies, to a greater or lesser degree, women and girls are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse that cuts across lines of income, class and culture....Violence against women is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women" (Beijing Platform for Action, para. 112).

The global women's movement has succeeded in making violence against women a public policy issue at the international level, which has been slowly but surely trickling down to the national level policy framework. There is a growing universal culture for women's human rights that demonstrates that violence is not about the vulnerability of women, nor simply acts by deviant men or a characteristic of primitive cultures. Instead, the problem is understood to be rooted in a universal patriarchal culture entrenched in our consciousness as women and men, and in the core values and institutions of societies, albeit in diverse forms and

varying degrees. Dynamics of gender relations, in other words, share a common history; therefore, they are local and global; particular and universal.

Understanding the diverse trajectories of women's individual and collective resistance to oppression and violence provides a powerful insight to how the agenda has evolved and how it can be moved forward in tackling the "pandemic" of violence against women.

On 25 November 1992, UN international Day of No Violence against Women, Filomena Pacsi – an organisation of miner women in the Peruvian Andes – organised an event where about 300 women marched through their community with placards saying "Here you don't beat women". Their husbands threatened them, men stood aside and jeered. The march was like a bomb. In 1996, they marched again. This time, men followed the march and said they were there because, "Thanks to Filomena Pacsi, we have learned not to treat our women this way, because it affects all of us".¹

This was, no doubt, not due to a revelation from above, but rather an awakening which was stimulated by social praxis. Can we assume from the above anecdote that violence against women is no longer a problem in the Peruvian Andes? The answer is, "most likely not". However, we can safely assume that, in that community, the silence around the problem no longer exists, women's resistance to violence continues, the consensus that violence against women is "normal" has

1. Quoted in: Francine Pickup et al. 2001, *Ending Violence against Women*, An Oxfam Publication.

been ruptured and hopefully the authorities have assumed their positive obligation to address the problem. At a more general level what this anecdote tells us is that men who are part of the problem have to be made part of the solution and that community compliance and co-operation is of paramount importance if efforts to combat violence against women are not to go astray.

This requires, among other strategies, challenging and changing values and attitudes with respect to gender relations and the use of violence against women as a patriarchal privilege particularly in the private sphere. Societies across the globe – through their laws and courts – continue to countenance legal defences that privilege and benefit men committing violence against women. The privilege *can be* and *must be* revoked by criminalising all acts of violence against women. Non-discriminatory legislation is an essential component of democratic governance, for providing women equal access to justice and for ensuring that crimes against women are not committed with impunity. However, a legal approach alone is not enough to transform patriarchal values that sustain and justify violence.

Changing attitudes

Combating violence against women requires a holistic strategy that employs multiple approaches that supplement the human rights approach in intervening at the level of the individual, the level of the community, the level of the state and the transnational arena. In my report to the Commission on Human Rights this year I elaborated such an approach at each level in considering the due diligence obligation of the state to prevent, investigate and in accordance with national legislation, punish acts of violence against women, whether those acts are perpetuated by the state or private persons ((E/CN.4/2006/61).

In addressing the issue of changing attitudes, I would like to emphasise dimensions of the problem at three levels of intervention that needs to be

considered simultaneously, the first two being at the macro level involving societal/community attitudes and the third at the micro level involving individual attitudes: (i) attitudes embedded in deeply rooted patriarchal norms and values that operate to legitimise, approve or condone the use of violence against women; (ii) attitudes regarding gender roles embedded in the construction of power and domination based masculinity and subordinate femininity in sustaining an unequal gender order; and (iii) attitudes of individual men known to be systematically violent. While the former two require attitudinal change to prevent violence from occurring in the first place by creating critical consciousness and destabilising the foundation of hegemonic masculinity, the third level requires responding to violence by challenging the motivations and attitudes underpinning the violent behaviour of individual men.

Changing attitudes at the macro level

Creating critical consciousness

An essential element of changing attitudes at the societal level must start with creating a public discourse that challenges the dominant societal values and norms regulating sexuality, defining acceptable patterns of masculine and feminine identities and structuring of gender relations. This requires states to actively engage in what I have called “cultural negotiation” to create critical consciousness with respect to popular notions of culture and its reproduction in society. Negotiating culture is a politically bold move as it (a) draws on positive elements within culture to demystify the oppressive elements of culture-based discourses; (b) demonstrates that culture is not an immutable and homogenous entity; and (c) identifies and contests the legitimacy of those who monopolise the right to speak on behalf of culture, religion, national interest and other oppressive and discriminatory values used to create consensus and mass mobilisation, whether this takes place within state apparatuses or in civil society.

Through public campaigns, dissemination of gender sensitive information and responsible media reporting the promotion of hegemonic and discriminatory gender norms and practices presented as part of the national, natural or divinely ordained order of things can be challenged, which will contribute to expanding public space for alternative views and it will encourage and empower women and men alike to question notions of male superiority and domination and the taken for granted truths that legitimise them. Within this context, it is important that the differentially situated voices in society are heard and that social movements, particularly women’s organisations, facilitating this are recognised and supported by the authorities.

The Beijing Platform for Action identified the media as having the potential to make an invaluable contribution towards a gender sensitive public discourse. Given the advanced level of information technologies today, the media commands incredible power in formulating opinions and attitudes which transcends national boundaries. This power must be used with responsibility to effectively change attitudes that are discriminatory and tolerant of violence. The Platform calls upon the media to develop codes of conduct and other forms of self-regulation to promote non-stereotypical portrayals and degrading images of women and avoid sensationalised reporting of violence against women. The few existing good practices in this regard should be acknowledged and integrated into national, regional and international strategies to combat violence.

Public education campaigns are another powerful way of mobilising community support for women’s rights and for promoting a zero tolerance to violence. While campaigns are often time bound, in order to achieve sustainability, they must aim to institutionalise their basic goals and principles into state policy, school curricula and working methods of key public institutions such as the police, the judiciary, immigration and health services and supported with a gender

sensitive national budget. Public statements made by government leaders and other public figures have a similar impact of either empowering or disempowering the culture of violence. The state is required to send an unequivocal message that all forms of violence against women is a serious criminal act that will be investigated, prosecuted and punished, regardless of who the perpetrator is and what the motivation may be.

In this respect, it is particularly important to avoid selective responses to the more sensationalised types of violence, such as honour-related crimes or FGM, as is often the case. Such a selective perception fragments the phenomenon of violence against women, and results in normalising certain types of violence while the “other” becomes stigmatised as the site of violence.

Deconstructing masculinity

Finally, if women are to live a life free of violence efforts to change attitudes must include strategies to challenge notions of masculinity based on policing women’s sexuality and /or on sustaining male supremacy in public and private life. Violence is not only an act of individual men but it is embedded in the way manhood is constructed, reinforced and challenged under societal pressures, social approval mechanisms and crisis situations. During my official visits to diverse countries I have seen that violence against women tends to intensify when men experience displacement and dispossession related to economic transformations, migration, war, foreign occupation or other situations where masculinities compete and power relations are altered in society. The impact of such situations on women is rarely taken into consideration in development, humanitarian and/or reconstruction

programmes and immigration/refugee policies.

It must be borne in mind that while social change or conflict eliminates some forms of masculinity, hegemonic masculinity is reconfigured thus reproducing gender inequality in discrete and subtle forms. Therefore, the sources of inequality must be attacked by de-linking power and masculinity at all levels and by recognising and promoting alternative masculinities that are respectful of women’s rights. An environment that offers channels of equal participation for all members of society and inclusive democratic governance can foster such egalitarian values.

Changing attitudes at the micro level

While transformative change is carefully tailored, in the short run, the behaviour of violent men also needs to be confronted and addressed. In various countries different models have been developed and employed by governmental and non-governmental organisations, particularly pro-feminist men, in addressing violent male behaviour. Good practices in this regard should be documented and disseminated so that they can be adapted to particular local conditions. Efforts to deal with violent men, however, must not lead to a deviation from the commitment to support women’s empowerment and the diversion of resources from women’s programmes. Women should not have to subsidise the treatment of violent men. Furthermore, let us not forget that elimination of violence against women is inherently a project of women’s empowerment.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we must celebrate that eradicating violence against

women and ensuring that human rights are universally enjoyed has become a common goal and a shared obligation. The progress achieved thus far towards this goal, although uneven and with notorious exceptions, has verified our conviction that oppressive values, institutions and unequal relationships can be transformed. However, we must be vigilant of the post-9/11 environment, where tensions among peoples across the globe have intensified, xenophobia and anti-immigrant sentiments heightened, and an overall conservatism has dominated global politics. This situation is not only making consensus in multi-lateral dialogue more difficult but it is directly threatening women’s rights, particularly in the areas of reproductive and sexual rights, including sexual orientation. The *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* – if states embrace it with determination and commitment – provides a renewed opportunity to overcome these negative trends within the European region itself and through the bilateral and multilateral contributions of individual member states, the goals of the Campaign can transcend its geographic boundaries. With such an expectation I believe that this campaign will prove to be another milestone towards women’s empowerment and gender equality.

As the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, I will monitor the process closely and would like to express my readiness to collaborate with the Council of Europe and its member states in realising the goals of this campaign.

Thank you. ★

Speech: Ms Jadranka Kosor

**Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Family,
Veterans' Affairs and
Intergenerational
Solidarity, Croatia**

Mr Chairperson, ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset I would like to thank the Spanish authorities for co-organising and hosting this important conference.

On this panel on "Changing attitudes to combat violence against women" we shall discuss actions and measures needed for the elimination of discriminatory attitudes and stereotypes that construct domestic violence against women as a private matter.

This is not accepted in Europe any more, but it is still a reality for too many women victims of domestic violence.

To stop and prevent domestic violence against women we need to address the root causes of violence against women and its consequences, as well as to change patriarchal attitudes.

The starting point should be the recognition of:

- ▶ every woman's right to be free and safe from violence,
- ▶ violence against women as a human rights violation,
- ▶ responsibility of the State to prevent and protect women from violence and to punish perpetrators.

Mr Chairperson,

Croatia welcomes and joins the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, and fully supports the work of its Task Force chaired by Croatian expert Ms Šimović.

Just two days ago, we celebrated the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and launched our national Campaign to

combat violence against women. The slogan of our campaign is: "There is no justification for violence".

The goals of the National Campaign are going to be achieved in partnership with NGOs in the following fields of action: legal and political measures, support and protection of victims, gathering data and raising awareness.

Mr Chairperson,

I should like to stress that in the eradication of domestic violence against women awareness-raising is just as important as taking legal steps to protect women's human rights.

Over the past several years, the Republic of Croatia has elaborated a comprehensive legal framework for the protection of women's right to a life without violence.

Under the Croatian Constitution, gender equality is one of the highest values of the constitutional order of the Republic of Croatia.

The recent amendments to the Criminal Code of June 2006 stipulate more severe punishment for crimes against family and for the crime of "violent behaviour in the family".

The 2002 Law on Gender Equality established the Ombudsperson on Gender Equality and provides protection against direct and indirect discrimination including violence against women.

The 2003 Law on the Protection against Domestic Violence sanctions forms of domestic violence, the circle of perpetrators and a wide range of protective measures, including a restraining order to remove the violent person from the home.

The Protocol on Procedures in Cases of Domestic Violence creates conditions for more effective co-oper-

ation of the authorities in charge. It prescribes obligatory proceedings of the authorities in charge – police, social care centres, judiciary, medical institutions and educational institutions.

For example, it provides that in cases of a notification of violence the police must immediately and with no delay intervene by at least two police officers, preferably of both sexes.

Starting from the fact that domestic violence is a form of discrimination and bearing in mind that most often its victims are women; the National Strategy for protection against domestic violence for 2005-2007 includes 27 short-term and long-term measures and introduces the obligation for the authorities in charge to investigate, prevent and punish any form of domestic violence.

The recently adopted National Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality for the period 2006-2010 is a basic strategic document of the Gov-

ernment and Parliament, which contains a set of measures to combat violence against women such as educating judges deciding in domestic violence cases, as well as developing awareness-raising campaigns.

The adoption of these laws and strategies to combat violence against women was an important step.

Now, the challenge lies in their full implementation.

We also need to strengthen the monitoring mechanisms and collection of data in order to measure progress at national and international levels. We are looking forward to receiving the recommendations of the Task Force in this respect.

Mr Chairperson,

I should like to underline the significant role that many non-governmental organisations have in the process of assisting women victims of violence.

The Croatian Government continues to foster partnership and co-oper-

ation with NGOs in all its actions to combat violence against women.

In conclusion, the key lies in changing the attitudes of all the actors involved. We must support and develop human rights and gender equality education and awareness-raising programmes for all strata of society. The role of the media is crucial.

And most importantly, men need to join this Campaign, so that together we can make a real difference in combating domestic violence against women.

We demand that violence against women be placed under the spotlight. Women are not to blame for the violence. I call for zero tolerance of violence against women. Let us move from Action Plans to action itself right now, because in the few minutes I was talking, women were abused all over the world. Let us put an end to violence against women!

Thank you. ★

Speech: Ms Susana Camarero Benítez

Member of the
Congress of Deputies,
Spain

I should like to begin by stressing the relevance and usefulness of this *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, with its focus on gender violence. Thank you for inviting me to take part in it.

We have just celebrated 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, an important date which reminds us that the fight to stamp out violence should be a priority on our agendas, for politicians, institutions, the media and society in general.

This Campaign serves a dual purpose, giving new impetus to the battle, the sharing of experiences and ideas between all the countries which form the Council of Europe, while making sure that every day for the next two years is 25 November, a day to remember the victims and the cause we are fighting for.

Ladies and Gentlemen, gender violence has become a social problem of the first order, an affair of state that must be brought out into the open and discussed, so that together we can come up with solutions.

Discrimination against women has made this violence against them possible, in some cases even accepted, as a means for men to demonstrate their authority and their superiority over women. Although there has, undeniably, been a marked change in the role women play in Spanish and European society, we must not forget that domestic violence against women still has its roots in the situation of inequality women still find themselves in even today, with the result that some men consider women their property, to be used as they please.

There is no doubt that violence against women has been and contin-

ues to be a means of dominating them. A special brand of violence, different from others, a manifestation of the historically unequal balance of power between men and women, consolidated by discrimination. Generally speaking, this violence has been suffered in the family, where it has been tolerated and, except in very serious cases and even then only recently, has hardly ever been reported, out of fear or shame. It was a private matter, to be kept in the home.

Today it is safe to say that this has changed, and that political parties and the public authorities consider it an extremely serious social scourge, a public matter, and solving it has become a political priority.

All those of us who have devoted themselves to politics, the civil service or the media, must take a closer look at the causes behind violence against women, to make sure such aberrations no longer go unpunished, and to provide better assistance and protection for the victims.

Evidently, such acts are intolerable violations of women's fundamental rights, which not only do them physical harm but destroy their lives, preventing their personal fulfilment and their participation in society.

The battle against domestic violence has passed through various phases or stages. First, as I already mentioned, thanks to the constant efforts and demands of many women's organisations, it was brought out into the open, into the public eye. It was no longer a private matter but something acknowledged by the institutions and the different levels of government (both central Government and the Autonomous Communities, which are directly responsible for developing legislative measures), who have made

it a priority on their political agenda. Social awareness came next, with the help of the media, whose role I would like to underline here because their special treatment and sensitivity have helped us come this far, by publicising all the policies the authorities implement.

Once the problem was brought out into the open, it became possible to assign resources and develop instruments to combat the problem and protect the victims. Previous round tables have mentioned the Comprehensive Law, passed by a unanimous vote, an important instrument that supplements the measures taken by the previous government, which paved the way for it, as did the various reforms of the Criminal Code, the Code of Civil Procedure, the Violence Plans or the Active Integration Allowance, and above all the Law regulating Protection Orders.

We in the PP believe and never tire of repeating that passing laws does not necessarily change society, that a law is not the only solution, that after the Comprehensive Law much still remains to be done, that the political promise embodied in a law must be accompanied by material and human means, and of course by the corresponding budget.

We realise, however, that the social debate that took place at the same time as the parliamentary debate on the Law was positive and helped at least to reduce the number of women murdered while encouraging victims to report their aggressors.

This momentum has not been kept up, however, and this year has seen an alarming increase in the number of victims. We in the PP consider it important to keep up the momentum and the debate in society, which is why

I began by welcoming the opportunity campaigns like this one give us to keep the pressure on, in society and in the media.

Bringing the violence out into the open encourages women to speak out, informs them of their rights and of the courses of action open to them.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the fight against gender violence needs a lot of support if the “zero tolerance” the European Parliament recommended years ago is to become a reality.

This is a problem that concerns us all, public authorities, politicians, the media, associations, law enforcement agencies, educators and society in general. So it is important that everyone should be aware how important it is to be involved, to do what they can to help.

Achieving equality, respect and human dignity and freedom is a priority at every level of life in society.

We believe that the change of attitude this panel discussion is about means making greater efforts to educate our younger generations; teaching them values, principles and equality will avoid the macho-style attitudes that go with gender violence.

We all agree that violence is closely linked to education and values. Men mistreat women because they consider them as their property, theirs to treat as they please. This is why it is important to change mentalities, to change roles and to change the way we behave. To achieve this we must start with the education system, from school right through to university, and even adult education.

We also consider it essential to implement additional provision 3 of the Comprehensive Law, which calls for education in respect for people’s fundamental rights and freedoms and for

equality between women and men, and for education in tolerance and freedom within the democratic principles of living together.

Gender stereotypes and discrimination must be eliminated and the idea that men and women are equal in value promoted.

Society needs to recover its essential values, for when a society has values it can prevent this type of primitive and irrational behaviour.

We must count on the work done by NGOs, education and the family and build up self-esteem and individual freedom if we are to prevent this violence from continuing.

And in addition to proper education and training, we must increase awareness. Accordingly, all the groups in the Spanish Parliament have united in calling for the immediate entry into force of the National Awareness and Prevention Plan, as an essential tool for the implementation of Section I of the Comprehensive Law, which focuses on prevention, education and public information measures.

Finally, let me insist that combating violence must be a basic ingredient in the action of political parties, institutions and governments, for much remains to be done and it is our duty to help the victims and encourage them to report their aggressors.

I will finish with a few words that nicely summarise our thoughts. They are from the Declaration of the United Nations 4th World Conference on Women, in Beijing, which says: “Only when there is equality will the abuse stop. Violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace”. ★

Speech: Ms Isabel Llinàs

Director of the
Women's Institute of
the Balearic Islands,
Spain

I should like to thank the Council of Europe for choosing Spain to host the launch of the Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, and also the Spanish Government for organising things so well and for the invitation not only to take part in today's proceedings but also to share our experiences and best practices with other countries.

I will not talk to you about changing attitudes; others before me have done that and done it very well.

The State, the Government, provides us with the necessary legal framework, but we in local and regional government are the ones who implement the measures concerned and put them into practice. And I would like to tell you a little about the means we in regional government use to assist victims of gender violence. Our geographical and demographic realities may differ, but the essence of the comprehensive assistance we provide remains the same.

Principles of our action

- ▶ Universal assistance to all women victims, be they Spanish or foreign, in the country legally or illegally.
- ▶ Cross-disciplinary action: through information, orientation, assessment and training we give priority to women exposed to gender violence with a view to preparing them to re-enter the social mainstream.
- ▶ Prevention, as an integrating factor to help forge behaviours and skills designed to eradicate gender violence.
- ▶ Administrative co-ordination: this is important in concluding co-operation agreements with the Consell Insulars (Island Councils) and

municipalities so that we can offer common services.

- ▶ Immediate treatment of emergency cases.

Comprehensive assistance programmes for victims of gender violence in the Balearic Islands

Institut Balear de la Dona (IBD – Balearic Women's Institute)

Lines of action

Co-ordination, control and follow-up

Co-ordinating Centre for Protection Orders: the Institut Balear de la Dona is the co-ordinating centre for protection orders, which involves sending out information on the IBD's work and services to the other organisations involved.

Care

- ▶ Women's Information Centres: a free service providing information, guidance and advice on: legal matters concerning the family, civil law, criminal law, administrative law and labour law; social questions (social services, health, housing and leisure activities); and work and education issues (occupational and educational guidance).
- ▶ Legal Information Points for women: a service providing free information, guidance and advice on legal questions related to family, civil, criminal, administrative and labour law.
- ▶ 24-hour emergency care and immediate response service for cases of gender violence: this requires

social assistance and rapid response on the ground.

- ▶ Psychological assistance to women victims of violence: free psychological assistance service for women over 14 years of age who have suffered any form of maltreatment, with individual psychological assistance sessions and care and support facilities.
- ▶ Psychosocial support service for children of women victims of gender violence sent by the Women's Information Centres.
- ▶ Shelters: the services provided include reception, board and lodging, information and guidance, follow-up and psychological care, welfare, assistance in finding work and housing, and legal advice.

The Autonomous Community of Madrid, which has law enforcement powers, has set in place an automatic remote surveillance system to improve the quality of life and security of women victims of gender and domestic violence.

Courts can order offenders to wear anti-violence bracelets, in addition to any other judicial, social or police measures. This is a first in Europe and thanks to the impetus and the efforts of the authorities in Madrid, other autonomous communities, like the Balearic Islands, have also introduced this practice and women in other communities will soon benefit.

Reintegration – Getting back to normal

- ▶ Co-operation agreement with the Instituto Balear de la Vivienda to provide rental accommodation for the social reintegration of women victims of gender violence. The Institut Balear de la Dona stands guarantee for the first year and pays for basic furnishings.
- ▶ Casal de les Dones, a place where women can meet and exchange ideas, helps women victims of gender violence to form associations.

Prevention

- ▶ Teaching aids to prevent gender violence, developed by the Institut Balear de la Dona and the Educational and Cultural Council of the Government of the Balearic Islands. Aimed at teachers, parents and pupils in infant, primary, secondary and vocational training schools in the Balearic Islands.

Awareness

- ▶ “The Minotaur’s Labyrinth and Ariadne’s Thread”, a travelling exhibition on gender violence.
- ▶ Campaigns in the press.
- ▶ Information days for local authorities on the implementation of Equality Plans.
- ▶ Gender equality training for public officials.

We will only eliminate gender violence by fostering gender equality and empowering women, eliminating existing forms of discrimination and guaranteeing full enjoyment by women of their human rights.

Thank you. ★

Speech: Ms Karine Henrotte- Forsberg

Representative of the Conference of INGOs enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe

Ambassador Elferts, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

As Chairperson of the Gender Equality Grouping at the Council of Europe asked to represent the Conference of INGOs and the 400 international non-governmental organisations enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe, it is a great honour for me to address you at this high level launching conference of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*.

Men's violence against women – physical or mental – is among the most serious violations of human rights: it violates the right to life and it violates the right to physical and mental integrity. This violation is based on the unequal distribution of power between women and men and it hinders the development towards a democratic society. In order to respect women's fundamental human rights, one of the most important tasks for the European political arena is therefore to eliminate men's violence against women and to fight such crimes, to establish effective actions of prevention and to give support to victims. Violence against women is a crime and the violation of women's human rights can only be stopped if legal measures guarantee that these are addressed properly and that perpetrators are sanctioned. Zero tolerance is needed for violence against women.

A common European strategy is urgent and necessary and the Conference of INGOs welcomes this initiative by the Council of Europe to organise this pan-European Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence. What civil society would like to see is a real

political will in all countries to combat violence against women. The root causes of violence have to be addressed by member states to ensure security and the rule of law. Member states should have to present national plans of action on how they intend to combat but also in the future prevent violence against women, with concrete action plans and time frames together with a sufficient budget set aside for this purpose so that the strategy can be put into practise.

In order to achieve effective results a close co-operation between NGOs and parliamentarians is imperative. Non-governmental organisations and women's organisations in particular are crucial to carry out the campaign at the grass root level since they provide immediate practical services such as shelter and counselling to women victims of abuse and violence. I pay tribute to the many volunteers in non-governmental organisations who face harsh realities when trying to help women and children in difficult situations due to insufficient numbers of shelters, lack of sufficient funding and often lack of support from police or social authorities. Non-governmental organisations need to be more closely included in the work with national parliaments and be provided with adequate funding to be effective in their missions. It is in large part due to the efforts of voluntary organisations, women's shelters and the women's movement that violence against women now is on the political agenda. Still we need to bear in mind that violence against women is not a women's issue but concerns the society as a whole. We need to change the perception that domestic violence is a private or individual matter which only concerns women and make

people realise it concerns us all. In order to create a well-functioning support system for women subject to violence and when preventing violence the following key areas should be highlighted:

Men need to be mobilised in the struggle against domestic violence to inform other men of their responsibilities to stop violent behaviour. We need non-violent men as role models to bring about a fundamental change in attitudes.

There is a need to improve gender statistics in general and criminal statistics in particular. At the moment the statistics in this area are extremely unsatisfactory in many European countries. This makes it very difficult to compare the figures between member states. The fact that women often withdraw their complaints following pressure from their partner or families make statistics unreliable since withdrawals are not included in the statistics. The role of indicators is equally important – the ones for instance developed during the Danish Presidency of the European Union have still not been put into practice in European member states. European surveys should also be conducted in order to know more about men's and women's perceptions of domestic violence.

We need to increase the number of domestic violence cases reported to

the police and the proportion of cases that proceed to trial. It is a fact that few cases of domestic violence go to court, even in those countries that have already passed specific legislation in this matter. This has a profound effect, not least psychologically on women seeking protection and redress from the judicial system. Domestic violence seldom leads to prosecution or court proceedings, even though more reports of offences are brought to the attention of the police than before. Studies are needed on the impact of decisions to drop cases or not to prosecute victims and perpetrators and on their surroundings.

There is a need to initiate research programmes which focus on particular aspects of violence against women, namely the devastating impact which domestic violence has on children and the link between alcohol and domestic violence.

A particular attention needs to be given to targeted groups like migrant women, disabled and Roma women, elderly but also very young women, not forgetting women in rural areas. Older women are frequently victims of violence from close family members for reasons linked to inheritances and, when moved to institutions, often become victims of renewed violence.

The media have an important role to inform and should be used more frequently to present prevention campaigns on domestic violence. But the media must also be held more responsible when it comes to eliminate violence from publicity. Ethic guidelines are greatly needed to put an end to abusive images of women in the media but also to fight gender stereotyping.

And finally, last but not least, society needs to be regularly informed of how much violence *costs* to society in human suffering, loss of lives, lost days of work, medical costs, etc.

The Conference of INGOs would like this pan-European Campaign not just to be activities during the time of the Campaign but would like to see real results, if possibly in all forty-six member states of the Council of Europe. The Campaign has already the merit that people now start to talk about violence against women and thanks to it many more in the coming years will become increasingly aware of the totally unacceptable situation that women face today in our society.

Through a change of attitudes, through dissemination of information and through an increased awareness we can all actively contribute to put a stop to violence against women. If we can achieve small concrete changes in every country this Campaign will have been successful.

Thank you for your attention. ★

**UNITED IN COMBATING
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN**

Keynote speech: Ms Widney Brown

Senior Director,
International Law,
Policy and Campaigns,
Amnesty International

Good afternoon. Amnesty International is delighted to participate in the launch of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*.

In this talk I will address one of the most pervasive, destructive and hidden forms of violence against women: domestic violence.

The toll exacted by domestic violence on individual victims, their children, their families, their communities and society in general is largely unrecorded. But it is the toll of unfulfilled promise, of lives stripped down to survival, and in some cases of lives lost, of children learning about abuse of power and in too many cases growing up to replicate those lessons. It is of communities and societies losing the benefit of the full realisation of the potential of too many women irreparably harmed by domestic violence.

One night from 7pm to 4am he was drinking and torturing me in various ways. He took the meat cleaver when I was lying on the settee, and held it against the front of my neck, just because I called my sister, and he said, "Why did you call your sister, you wanted to ask about your brother-in-law and not your sister". So he beat me very badly. I was horrified. I was pregnant just in my first months. He then took a shot of raki and sat in silence for five minutes. Then he took the cleaver, and with all the force of his upper hand pushed my head to one side and put the cleaver to my neck. I don't know how I didn't die from the shock. He was interrogating me trying to find out who I liked or if I had someone else. I didn't answer his questions as I was very afraid and didn't want to make

any mistake as I knew it could end very badly. Then he took another shot and sat for another five minutes. Then he took the electrician's pincers and pulled at my new blouse trying to get at my breast and destroyed the blouse with the pincers; then he took my hair and cut it with a bread knife; then he tried to gouge my eyes out with his finger; then he put his fist in my mouth with as much pressure as he could. All the time while he tortured me, he would stop, take a shot of raki, and then start torturing me again. I passed out at about 4.30 am. I am carrying the past around inside me. No one can see my heart, how it is inside.

I could speak today about the definition of domestic violence and about the legal obligations of states and of due diligence – but because this is about how we work together: governments, advocates, activists, and survivors, I want to address how we can unite to end domestic violence in a slightly less legalistic framework.

As many of you know, domestic violence can take many forms, at its crudest it is about inflicting physical pain and harm on the victim. It can take many other forms including sexual violence or creating the total economic dependence of the victim or psychological abuse. But for the purposes of this discussion today, the most important aspect may well be to recognise that the experience of virtually all victims and survivors is the isolation of being victimised.

In many cases the abusive partner so controls the victim's day to day world that she cannot escape her isolation and thus her sense of identity is reflected solely through how the abuser defines her. She is told that she

is worthless, incompetent, stupid, a bad mother, a bad wife, that she is ugly and without value and if she is suffering she deserves to suffer because she has caused that suffering through her own behaviour.

We got engaged and from that moment onwards he was jealous. He was always telling me, "Don't look here, don't look there" and he didn't even allow me to talk to my neighbours. I hoped that he would change with time.

Unfortunately for most women, the isolation goes unnoticed or ideas of how one should respect "relationships" means that the isolation is not challenged. And the downward spiral into believing that you are to blame for the violence and that you have no worth continues unchallenged. In the worst cases families and communities see the abuse but prefer to maintain the illusion that all is well. Lack of awareness, ignorance and wilful denial all have the same impact on the woman, they reinforce her isolation and in the worse cases make her feel like she is crazy.

So what does this mean for us – governments and non governmental organisations alike – as we attempt to address and end domestic violence?

It means that we must learn to reach out to the places where women always are – no matter how isolated they may be.

It means reflecting back an image of each woman who turns to us for help that contradicts the image that is being imposed on her every day by her abusive partner.

It means making allies of individuals and groups and government agencies that find acknowledging the existence of domestic violence unsettling and intervening frightening.

Specifically, media campaigns aimed at raising awareness must be distributed through venues and media that the most socially isolated woman can access. Those media messages must speak to the women in a way that says "hey, I am talking about you." And they must be distributed through venues where women can go without raising questions, on the bus, to nurseries and schools, to pre- and postnatal health

clinics, at the grocery store, at the laundry mat, on radio and TV. It should go without saying that such messages need to be distributed in languages that reflect the diversity of the woman within a community.

It means that when women who are abused come into contact with the government, typically through the health care system or the criminal justice system, that those systems must be proactive in reaching out to assess the situation.

Women who access pre-natal care should be routinely screened to see if they are in an abusive relationship. This is of particular importance because a woman's pregnancy often triggers the abuse and because the abuse may threaten the well-being of the woman and her pre and post natal health and the health of the foetus. To make screening effective, it must be designed to be and perceived to be universal. Otherwise women who are asked about their intimate relationships may feel a need to hide rather than take the opportunity to seek help.

Additionally, medical service providers, in particular urgent or emergency care providers should be trained to identify both the physical and psychological manifestations of being victimised in an intimate relationship and be given the skills to intervene.

Perhaps this is the point at which it is important to note that recognition and intervention without appropriate resources will often fail.

Security will be the most critical need of a woman ready to acknowledge that she is in an abusive relationship and is ready to leave that relationship. Yet this is where most states fail. Security is seen as a short term need typically related to restraining orders. But women need physical security from violence directed at themselves, their children, their families and their support systems, they also need some degree of financial security and secure housing – by secure housing I mean not just a place that is safe, but a place that allows enough security of tenure that a woman can rebuild her life from the stable platform of a secured place to live.

I had a constant feeling of fear which grew and grew and I finally took the child and went to my mother's place. I left the flat which is a big step in these times. It wasn't easy at my mother's place. She also has a one-room flat. We were all together, me, my child, my mother and her husband. I slept on the floor for two months. Then my stepfather threw us out with the child right on the street. A woman I was working with put us up and let me stay in her home. I stayed there a year.

The role of secure housing cannot be overstated. Women with children who can not provide that housing may have to choose between returning to the abusive partner and losing her children.

The criminal justice system is the second most likely place in which a government can make a proactive intervention. Police officers, investigators, forensic medical specialists and prosecutors must be trained to assess situations in which the victim of violence often seems to undermine her own case because – in fact – she may believe that she does deserve the abuse. And the perpetrator of the violence is often all too good at portraying himself as the long suffering husband of an incompetent and infuriating wife.

Women must be engaged in a manner in which they get a clear message that no one – no one – deserves to be abused. But perhaps more importantly, she must be encouraged to take control of the decisions in her own life.

Yet, despite a clear understanding that creating a space in which women can reclaim control of their lives, most women's interaction with the criminal justice system is about lack of control. Engagement with the criminal justice system is too often a replication of lack of control and at its worst abuse of power.

Women must make decisions about filing complaints and pressing charges without a comparable commitment on the part of the state to protect her and her children and family. It is about entering a legal maze

in which the woman herself often feels under attack.

That attack can come from several places: the officers responding to a complaint may dismiss her as deserving the abuse; she may be accused by the police of making a false complaint or otherwise abused by the police; if she is from a marginalised community she may see her complaint taken seriously but then her abusive partner treated in a manner that reveals bias on the part of the police; she may be given an ultimatum to either pursue a complaint or quit relying on the police to respond; she may be told that if she cannot control her abusive partner she will lose her children for endangering their welfare; she may seek a protective order but learn that the police will only respond after an attack. The list goes on.

I said at the beginning that I did not want to be over-legalistic in my analysis of the problem or the solutions we seek together today. But as we contemplate the ways in which the criminal justice system too often fails women I want to bring up the issue of due diligence. We all recognise that no state has the power to prevent all bad acts by individuals. But we also recognise that when a state takes particular issues seriously and works with convictions and resources to stop particular types of bad acts, it can make significant gains.

The failure of states to act with due diligence and an appropriate sense of urgency to address domestic violence is a human rights violation. No state can tolerate the threat of violence to half its people, and yet, acceptance – no matter how regretful – of domestic

violence in effect becomes a form of tolerance towards domestic violence. States can do better.

And I would suggest that they can do better by working side by side with NGOs with expertise in addressing domestic violence including advocates for survivors and more effective systems, service providers and those working to empower survivors.

Put simply, women have a right to live their lives without fear of violence and secure in the knowledge that if violence should occur – the state will take that violence seriously.

Working together we can make a difference. Working together we must make a difference – the cost to all of us it too high to accept failure.

Thank you. ★

Allocution : M^{me} Catherine Vautrin

Ministre déléguée à la
cohésion sociale et à la
parité, France

Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, Mesdames et Messieurs les parlementaires, Mesdames, Messieurs,

Je tiens à remercier le Gouvernement espagnol et le Conseil de l'Europe pour l'organisation de cette conférence et je félicite ce dernier d'avoir pris l'initiative de lancer cette campagne européenne de lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes.

En agissant au plan européen,

- ▶ nous stigmatisons plus fortement les comportements violents en suscitant un mouvement international de réprobation et de lutte,
- ▶ nous donnons plus de force et de résonance à nos campagnes nationales
- ▶ et nous créons une émulation entre nos pays qui poussent chacun à faire davantage.

La France s'est fortement mobilisée pour combattre ces violences qui persistent à un niveau préoccupant puisque, au cours des neuf premiers mois de l'année 2006, une femme est morte tous les trois jours sous les coups de son compagnon dans notre pays.

Nous avons lancé un plan triennal (2005-2007) d'action globale, que j'ai renforcé à deux reprises, et adopté, le 4 avril 2006, une loi renforçant la prévention et la répression des violences au sein du couple :

- ▶ Nous sensibilisons la population par des campagnes de communication nationales et nous nous attachons à mieux connaître le phénomène des violences et ses conséquences ;
- ▶ Nous avons renforcé les sanctions contre les auteurs de violences et j'ai fait reconnaître la notion de viol entre époux.
- ▶ Nous améliorons l'accueil et l'écoute des femmes victimes ainsi que le traitement judiciaire de ces

violences : par exemple, un numéro d'appel unique, facile à retenir, sera mis en place dès 2007.

- ▶ J'ai également renforcé la prise en charge des femmes victimes au triple plan de l'hébergement, des soins et de l'insertion professionnelle. Nous expérimentons ainsi un nouveau mode d'hébergement en famille d'accueil.
- ▶ Je m'attache, enfin, à mieux prévenir la récurrence en encourageant la création de nouvelles structures prenant en charge les hommes auteurs de violences.

Nous luttons aussi contre d'autres formes de violence commises à l'encontre des femmes, notamment les mutilations sexuelles. Nous avons à ce titre renforcé la répression des mutilations sexuelles commises à l'étranger sur des mineurs résidant habituellement en France.

Par ailleurs, la France accorde une grande importance à la collaboration que nous pouvons avoir avec les acteurs non gouvernementaux et à l'action internationale.

Je salue les responsables d'Amnesty international. Dans de nombreux pays, leur campagne « *Halte à la violence des femmes* » a permis de faire évoluer les mentalités et d'accélérer les réformes pour protéger les femmes et poursuivre les auteurs de violence.

En France, le rapport d'Amnesty publié en février dernier, « *Les violences faites aux femmes en France : une affaire d'Etat* », a formulé des propositions d'améliorations qui rejoignent nos préoccupations et que nous avons retenues, pour certaines d'entre elles.

J'évoquerai également notre partenariat avec la Fédération nationale solidarité femmes, une ONG mobilisée sur le terrain de l'accueil et de l'accom-

pagnement des femmes victimes de violences.

Cette fédération gère des structures disséminées sur tout le territoire. La proximité est une condition d'efficacité de notre action. C'est pourquoi je lui ai confié la gestion du nouveau numéro d'appel que nous allons mettre en place.

Faire front uni contre la violence, c'est aussi s'engager au plan intergouvernemental.

► L'étude récente des Nations Unies, que nous avons cofinancée avec les Pays-Bas, permet de mieux connaître ce phénomène. Portant sur 71 pays, elle a montré que c'est un fléau mondialement répandu et

qu'en moyenne une femme sur trois en est victime au cours de sa vie. Cette étude a servi de base à une résolution de l'Assemblée générale des Nations-Unies, adoptée la semaine dernière, qui nous engage tous à redoubler d'efforts dans ce domaine.

► Collaborer, c'est enfin soutenir des actions innovantes et partager les expériences. C'est ce que nous faisons au travers du programme *Daphné II* de l'Union européenne qui permet d'expérimenter des projets d'ONG et de mutualiser ensuite leurs résultats pour en assurer la diffusion la plus large.

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Avec cette campagne du Conseil de l'Europe, nous allons opposer à la violence la force de nos volontés réunies.

Cette campagne internationale illustre la vitalité de nos valeurs communes et notre capacité à nous mobiliser collectivement pour les défendre.

Son slogan touche juste : « *Cela commence par des cris, cela ne doit jamais finir par le silence* ». Nous devons combattre à tout prix le silence car la violence, c'est aussi ce qui ne parle pas.

Je vous remercie. ★

**Speech:
Ms María
Antonia
Martínez García**

**Member of the Senate,
Co-rapporteur of the
Inter-Parliamentary
Union on “How
parliaments can and
must promote effective
ways of combating
violence against
women in all fields”,
Spain**

On my own behalf and on behalf of the IPU, I should like to thank the Council of Europe for including us in this panel discussion and, above all, for launching the Campaign to combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence. I earnestly hope that this Campaign will help to place this issue high on the political agenda of all Council of Europe member states, at national, regional and local level.

I can fully affirm that the IPU will be your unconditional ally in this Campaign, whose aims and objectives it fully endorses and I have been told that a co-ordination meeting is to be held within the next few days.

For the time being I wish to inform you that, after the evaluation carried out in 2005 through the Resolution entitled “Beijing + 10: An evaluation from a parliamentary perspective” and in view of the persistence and extent of violence against women in the world, the IPU decided to commission the drafting of a report and a proposal for a resolution on how parliaments could foster effective methods of combating violence against women in all spheres, including the domestic sphere. I had the honour of sharing the task of drafting this report and resolution with Ms Lee, a member of the South Korean Parliament. The report was finally approved in Nairobi in May 2006, 21 years after the Third World Conference on Women had taken place in this same city and at which it was declared that violence against women was an obstacle for the achievement of equality, development and peace and to the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Through this work the IPU, which is conscious of the varying degrees of legislative development and political commitment in the world with regard to the need to eradicate violence against women, wishes to help establish a body of law and a framework of action for parliamentary activity that is fully compatible with the Council of Europe’s commitment.

Eleven years have gone by since all the governments which took part in the Fourth World Conference on Women solemnly proclaimed in the Beijing Declaration, among other commitments to the Women of the World, their resolve to “prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women” (29) and “promote and protect all human rights of women and girls” (31) and to implement the Beijing Platform for Action with sufficient financial resources. The Millennium Declaration uses exactly the same wording.

Since then, the governments of the world, and particularly European governments, have made successive declarations and undertakings at regional summits. I will not take up the time available to me in drawing up a list of these texts, of which you are all aware. The work carried out by various parliamentary associations, of which the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Interparliamentary Union are good examples, and above all the huge number of resolutions and agreements adopted in the United Nations, is also commendable.

Nevertheless, and although it may be difficult to believe, violence perpetrated against women is still one of the major obstacles to their progress, and is, as Kofi Annan once said, perhaps the most shameful human rights vio-

lation that knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth.

Despite the existing legal texts at international and regional level, many countries still do not have any laws or measures, or even worse, any political resolve to put an end to a problem which exists all over the world and is particularly acute in war zones and in post-war periods, in the form of slavery, exploitation for the purposes of prostitution, sexual violence, female genital mutilation, violence at work and, above all, in the very widespread form of domestic violence, which is directly linked to the long-standing inequality between the sexes and sexual discrimination.

Domestic violence is the most widespread form of violence against women and accounts for the largest number of sexual assaults on women and girls (between 10% and 20% according to the WHO), more than half of the murders of women are committed by their husbands or partners (WHO) and female genital mutilation is also practised under the protection of the family.

The WHO's Multi-Country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women is extremely interesting. The foreword to the study points out that each culture has its sayings and songs about the importance of home, and the comfort and security to be found there. Yet for many women, home is a place of pain and humiliation. I believe the time has come to bring this pain and humiliation out into the open. The principle of respect for the human and fundamental rights enshrined in European constitutions also extends to people's homes and the public authorities have a duty to take immediate action.

UN General Assembly Resolution 58/147 on "Elimination of Domestic Violence against Women" urges states not to "invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations to eliminate violence against women".

Women are the victims of this type of violence throughout the world but the perpetrators are often not prosecuted or punished, domestic violence, including sexual violence in marriage,

continues to be considered a private affair and violence of this type, in all of its forms, continues to be socially accepted.

It should therefore be pointed out that Recommendation No. 12 (1999) of the Committee of the Convention for the Elimination of all Discrimination against Women stipulates that under Articles 2, 5, 11, 12 and 16 of the Convention states must protect women against all types of violence in the family, at work or in any other area of social life. It should also be borne in mind that the definition of violence against women set out in UN Resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993 includes physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, within the general community, or perpetrated or condoned by the State. Examples of such practices are sterilisation or forced abortion, the forced use of contraceptives, pre-determining a child's sex and female infanticide. I personally very much like the definition of domestic violence used in the campaign.

The resolution adopted by the 114th Assembly in Kenya in May 2006 recommends specific measures for combating domestic violence. It calls upon governments and parliaments:

- ▶ if they have not yet done so, to develop and implement specific legislation and/or strengthen appropriate mechanisms to handle criminal matters relating to all forms of domestic violence, including marital rape and sexual abuse of women and girls, and to ensure that such cases are brought to justice swiftly;
- ▶ if they have not yet done so, to develop and implement adequate legislation to combat domestic violence;
- ▶ to develop national plans to combat domestic violence that include measures related to research, prevention, education, information and penalisation, the prosecution and punishment of all acts of violence against women (including violence within marriage), social, financial and psychological support for victims (including children who have witnessed domestic

violence against their mothers), special support for the most vulnerable groups and effective legal tools to protect victims.

- ▶ to make certain that legislation on violence against women precludes any kind of culture-related violence; also calls upon legislators to deny any form of undue mitigation of sentence for crimes committed in the name of culture.
- ▶ to adopt measures to encourage adequate reporting of domestic violence and to combat recidivism.

It also urges governments and parliaments to ratify international and regional instruments pertaining to violence against women, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol, and to ensure full compliance with those instruments.

It calls upon parliaments to review legislation that impedes the attainment of equality between the sexes, in particular in education, health and access to property and land.

It encourages governments and parliaments to establish observatories on violence against women, and to develop indicators and compile data, disaggregated by sex, to monitor the effectiveness of policies for the elimination of such violence.

It encourages the establishment of parliamentary bodies to monitor and evaluate all international and national measures designed to prevent and eradicate violence against women.

Finally, it calls upon parliaments to ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to guarantee the implementation of legislation and measures designed to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, female genital mutilation and violence at the workplace, in human trafficking and in situations of armed conflict.

This resolution provides the basis on which the IPU works on improving parliamentary action to put an end to violence against women. It is working together with the United Nations, and particularly with the Division for the Advancement of Women, and we are confident that it will be able to make a major contribution to the work

carried out in this sphere by the United Nations.

I should also mention various follow-up activities conducted by the IPU in line with this resolution:

The seminar for parliamentarians on the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women held in Geneva by the IPU and the UN Division for the Advancement of Women on 19 October 2006, at which the subject of violence against women was discussed and at which the IPU resolution and the UN report on violence against women were presented.

The Conference for parliamentary committees on gender equality and the status of women concerning *the role of parliamentary committees in mainstreaming gender and promoting the status of women*, which is to be held in Geneva from 4 to 6 December 2006 and will include a debate on what parliamentarians can do to combat violence against women. Proposals by

the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the United Nations, Amnesty International and parliamentarians will be welcome at this conference.

From next year onwards, the IPU will hold regional seminars for parliamentarians on violence against women, which will be linked to the subject of gender-based budgeting (for example how national budgets can provide appropriate funding for efforts to combat violence against women).

Another sphere of activity to which we have made a substantial contribution is female genital mutilation. Four years ago the IPU launched a parliamentary campaign to combat this problem, held various parliamentary events on the subject and included on its website a database of all existing international legislation designed to combat female genital mutilation (<http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/fgm.htm>).

Recently a regional conference was

held in co-operation with the African Parliamentary Union and Unicef. I hope that we will be able to co-ordinate our activities given that female genital mutilation has now also spread to Europe. Spain has already introduced a number of measures to deal with the problem.

Finally, the connection between violence against women and violence against girls is obvious and this is an area to which the IPU is fully committed, together with UNICEF and other partners, and it is concerned that parliaments should take appropriate action. We cannot tackle violence in general or violence against women and girls in particular without having an overall view of the problem. Parliaments and the IPU will do everything in their power to rise to this challenge and will do so by rallying our forces in initiatives that are as laudable as the one that is being launched here today. ★

Speech: Mr Ramón Ropero Mancera

**Member of the
Congress of Local and
Regional Authorities,
Council of Europe**

Greetings.

This morning, the President of the Spanish Government referred to the government's determination to put a stop to, avoid and prevent domestic violence. In Spain the basic legislation on this subject is the Comprehensive Law against Gender Violence. From many standpoints, this is also fundamental for local and regional governments.

Regional governments in Spain, i.e. the Autonomous Communities, have power to legislate. In a democratic society, the different levels of government must conduct their action within the framework of existing legislation. Our laws should have a bearing on and promote not only prevention but also direct, daily action; in order to ensure that they are effective, the different institutions concerned must agree on how they are to be applied.

A substantial amount of funding must be made available to the community to help prevent domestic violence. As has already been pointed out, it is the sphere in which public and private matters are intricately linked. It is not easy to draw the line between the private affairs of the family and matters which flow over into the public sphere, but the lawmakers must define these limits clearly and firmly.

For a time, which I believe is now fortunately behind us, violence against women was considered to be a private matter, concerning only the family. Neither neighbours nor close relations, not to mention the authorities, had anything to say in the matter. The path to recognition of domestic violence as a social problem and, subsequently, its classification as a criminal offence, was long and strewn with

difficulties. Domestic violence was seen to be shameful and as a personal and private matter that was accepted in silence; coupled with a certain tacit acknowledgment and the financial vulnerability of women, it was one of those affairs that simply "did not exist".

As we, who have always believed in hard work and fighting as the way to solve problems, well know, it was women's NGOs and women's welfare groups which, through their daily efforts, brought this type of violence against women out into the open, with the result that it is now easier to condemn and punish.

The time when men and women in Spain did not share the same rights and duties has virtually been forgotten: as a result of women's gradual access to all spheres of society and, in particular, their presence in institutions and public administration, we can now see that we have all benefited from this co-operation between equals.

We need to ask ourselves if there are any public spheres in which violence against women is not being taken seriously. My answer is no. Despite incidents caused by public officials, who were perhaps afraid of sharing equality, and which are well-known because of the public contempt with which they were treated, all the Spanish public authorities have firmly rejected such behaviour, despite its persistence.

Like Mr Heliodoro Gallego, whom you had the opportunity to meet this morning at the launching ceremony, I am a mayor, and we share the task of representing all of the local organisations in the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, of which he is the President. From our privileged position on the executive board, we

can see how the municipalities are making the effort to use resources and capacities to prevent violence between neighbours. Violence is unacceptable to mayors and preventing violence against women is a priority. And it is a priority for us because it is also a priority for our neighbours. Public statements against domestic violence are followed up by our daily, local, institutional efforts to prevent violence and by immediate action.

Our commitment in the municipalities to preventing this type of violence is not new. We have always given a great deal of attention to the approaches taken and the progress made by the international community, and some of our female colleagues are particularly committed to this work. Spanish elected representatives have taken part in the successive world conferences on women, have disseminated and paid close attention to the resolutions of the UN General Assembly, the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, and also the European programmes and campaigns of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

All these texts, the guidelines they contain, the realities they reflect, the

long-term strategies, have resulted in a philosophy and action which have been given practical shape in the form of laws and common policies whose ultimate aim is to put a stop to violence against women.

In Spain it is currently the autonomous authorities which have most responsibility for taking measures to ensure equality and combat gender violence; but it is beyond all doubt the local authorities which are best placed to implement such measures because of their proximity to the citizens and because they are the most appropriate instrument for ensuring that such policies are effective, reach their target, become more widespread and are firmly established in society.

There are very few municipalities which do not nowadays have some type of measure or activity in the form of Plans or Programmes, which are reflected in local planning, awareness-raising activities, prevention and intervention in all Spanish municipalities, be they large or small, rural or urban. Teaching our citizens to be socially responsible is our starting point for guaranteeing that all women who are ill-treated, receive the attention, protection and help they require.

As we have seen, this is a social situation over which we clearly have administrative powers, not only at local level but also at regional and national level; and also in the different fields for which local authorities are responsible, in other words not only the specific fields of equality or women's affairs but also social services, education, health, the police, housing or employment, as well as in those fields for which supra-local authorities are responsible, such as justice, security, medical care and prevention. Local and regional welfare organisations are also part of the ever insufficient resources for dealing with a problem, which we need to tackle at the roots.

Co-ordinating this wide range of players working in the same field is an organisational challenge which requires the rationalisation and best possible use of public and social resources. This can only be achieved if there is the same responsible co-operation at institutional level. Meeting this challenge is the key to making steady progress towards eradicating the violence of which many – indeed too many – women are still victims.

Thank you very much. ★

Speech: Ms Hijran Huseynova

Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Issues, Azerbaijan

Ladies and gentlemen, dear participants in the conference,

Let me firstly greet you and express my gratitude to the Council of Europe, and especially to Mr Terry Davis, for organising such an important meeting to hold discussions on such a crucial issue.

If the first half of the 20th century is remembered for wars and political tensions, the period after the 1950s coincides with developments in the sphere of international law. It was the second half of the 20th century when a number of universal documents were adopted, human rights were brought to the forefront and some crucial steps to protect these rights were taken. But it has not yet been possible to restore justice completely, and violence still continues.

Significant achievements have been made in the study of the nature of violence at international and national levels. The extensive work undertaken at different levels has led to a better understanding of the nature and scope of violence against women and an appreciation of its impact on women and on societies. The causes of violence against women have been investigated from diverse perspectives, including feminism, criminology, development, human rights, public health and sociology. Theoretical and practical research into the reasons for the emergence of violence against women were carried out and the conclusion was that violence is a convergence of negative factors existing at individual, national, regional and universal levels.

Major achievements were also made in the sphere of extension of capacity building for women, increasing their participation on the decision-making level, combating against vio-

lence. International legal and political structures have been established and have been conducting improved monitoring of the various forms of violence in society and families. The actions of women's movements and organisations of rights protection deserve much respect.

The benefits of the international experience in combating violence and traditions of implementation of international standards in the national environment is widely used. Some of our very important obligations are strengthening measures on preventing cases of criminals evading from punishments in order to protect women from violence, ensuring superiority of law, protecting women in accordance with legal forms. This leads to more numerous and serious results. When offenders are not charged, impunity not only creates more victims of violence, but also gives rise to the negative opinion in society that violence against women is acceptable and inevitable. Failure to punish those who commit violence against women leads to a tendency to use this method as a control mechanism over women.

Violence against women is both universal and particular. It is universal in that there is no region of the world, no country and no culture in which women's freedom from violence has been secured. Progress in the development of international legal norms, standards and policies has not been accompanied by comparable progress in their implementation at the national level. The reason for this is that those standards are not adapted to local conditions. States have to mobilise their energy to combat violence against women in general, as well as specific forms and manifestations of such violence. These include violence

against women migrant workers; trafficking in women and girls; traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls; crimes against women committed in the name of “honour”; and domestic violence against women.

To eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in Azerbaijan is the priority issue of the policy of the Azerbaijan Government. In particular, great progress has been made towards the improvement of legislation. Monitoring has been carried out in order to determine the gaps between national legislation and international standards. The draft Law to Combat Domestic Violence has already been prepared and has been presented to the President's Office, the Cabinet of Ministers and Parliament.

A “Complex Programme on the fight against violence in daily life in democratic society” is being elaborated. The objective of the Programme is to reduce incidents of domestic violence by means of special measures in personal and public life of the population and prevention of violent behaviour.

I consider that promoting and protecting the human rights of women, and creating suitable conditions for women to use their ability and to achieve substantive equality between women and men are the main means of preventing violence against women. I should like to state that the

adoption of the Law on Gender Equality is the next step towards achieving gender equality in our Republic.

Gender issues feature in the mainstream of the State Programme for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development for 2006-2015. The “Gender Policy” sector include measures such as establishing a monitoring mechanism on gender-based violence, studying the negative impact of early marriages to the future life of girls, preparing and implementing social rehabilitation programmes for the victims of violence, and creating social rehabilitation centres for the victims of violence in different regions of Azerbaijan.

The draft National Plan of Action on Family and Women's Issues (2007-2010) has been prepared. The main objective of the Plan is to foster family and interfamily relations on the basis of gender equality.

The Blueprint of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 June 2006, has been translated into the national language and distributed to state agencies and the community. The Azerbaijan Government gives significant importance to the recommendations of the Council of Europe on protecting women against violence and expanding their opportunities. The State Committee for Family, Women and Children is always ready for co-opera-

tion with corresponding organisations in order to eradicate violence against women at international, regional and national levels.

The elimination of violence against women requires action in different areas, including: legislation; fair judgment; economic and social policies; awareness-raising; and education. In addition, Governments have to demonstrate political will. Political will can be demonstrated in different ways, of which the most important are:

- ▶ preparing national plans of action and appropriate legislative acts, and strengthening the control over the implementation;
- ▶ providing adequate resources to combat violence against women;
- ▶ achieving the sustained support of leaders and opinion-makers for efforts to eradicate impunity and impose fair punishment;
- ▶ creating an environment conducive to the effective functioning of NGOs working on this issue.

Violence against women will be eradicated with political will and commitment at the highest levels to make it a priority locally, nationally, regionally and internationally.

I should like to express my special gratitude to the Council of Europe for close support in combating violence against women and to call all participating states for closer co-operation to achieve our common goals.

Thank you for your attention. ★

CLOSING SESSION

Allocution de clôture : M. Philippe Boillat

Directeur général des
droits de l'homme,
Conseil de l'Europe

English version: page 113

Monsieur le Ministre, Madame la Présidente, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Nous arrivons au terme de nos travaux. Cette Conférence de lancement de la *Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique* a été un lieu d'échanges et de dialogue, selon la meilleure tradition du Conseil de l'Europe : des décideurs politiques des gouvernements nationaux, régionaux et locaux, des parlementaires, des représentant(e)s d'organisations internationales et d'ONG et des expert(e)s ont venus partager leur savoir, leurs expériences et leurs idées sur un pied d'égalité. Nous avons pu constater à quel point la qualité des débats et la richesse des interventions seront utiles pour notre travail, au sein du Conseil de l'Europe et au sein de nos Etats membres.

La réussite d'un événement de cette ampleur dépend aussi grandement de son organisation et j'aimerais remercier ici chaleureusement le Premier Ministre, M. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, le gouvernement espagnol, « Las Cortes Generales », les pouvoirs locaux et tous ceux et toutes celles qui ont contribué à la réussite de cet événement. Au nom du Secrétaire général du Conseil de l'Europe et en mon nom, je voudrais vous exprimer toute notre gratitude.

J'aimerais remercier tout particulièrement les rapporteuses pour leurs remarquables présentations ainsi que les présidents et les panélistes des tables rondes. Mes remerciements vont aussi à mes collègues de la Division Egalité et à mes autres collègues du Conseil de l'Europe qui se sont pleinement engagés dans la préparation de cette Conférence. Sans oublier,

bien sûr, nos collègues du Protocole et nos interprètes.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je me réjouis de voir que beaucoup de ceux et celles ici présents étaient également présents à la *6e Conférence ministérielle européenne sur l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes* qui a eu lieu à Stockholm, en juin dernier. Lors de cette Conférence, il avait été constaté que la violence à l'égard des femmes, contrairement à d'autres dimensions de l'inégalité entre les femmes et les hommes, avait été très longtemps entourée de silence et de déni. Les Ministres avaient alors émis le vœu que la *Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique* puisse contribuer à une réelle prise de conscience collective de ce phénomène déplorable et qu'elle rencontre un soutien actif de tous nos Etats membres. Votre participation, nombreuse et active à cette Conférence, montre que l'appel de nos Ministres a été entendu.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Le voile de silence est aujourd'hui levé. La lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes, commencée dès la fin des années 70 par le Conseil de l'Europe dans le contexte de la protection des droits humains, est désormais une priorité politique. Un nombre croissant de personnes a pris conscience que la violence à l'égard des femmes, et en particulier la violence domestique – souvent le fait des hommes – mettait en cause l'idée fondamentale qui est à la base de l'édifice des droits de l'homme, à savoir que tous les êtres humains ont une égale valeur et une égale dignité et que cette violence constituait probablement

l'obstacle le plus sérieux à une véritable égalité entre les femmes et les hommes. Nous avons pris conscience qu'il s'agit d'un problème d'ordre global, structurel et sociétal, et non d'une affaire privée. La lutte contre ce fléau engage la responsabilité de nos Etats. Je voudrais, à cette occasion, rendre hommage à l'action de tous ceux et toutes celles qui, dans le cadre de leurs activités, ont alerté les décideurs politiques et l'opinion sur cette grave violation des droits humains et ont ainsi incité à l'action.

Le Secrétaire Général, dans son discours, a décrit les étapes de l'action du Conseil de l'Europe dans ce domaine. Une nouvelle étape a été franchie avec la création de la *Task Force pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*, qui concrétise la volonté politique des Chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement, exprimée lors du 3e Sommet du Conseil de l'Europe, d'éradiquer la violence à l'égard des femmes. Cette Task Force a été chargée, entre autres, de préparer le programme de la Campagne européenne que nous venons de lancer.

La lutte contre la violence domestique nécessite une action concertée des pouvoirs publics et de la société civile. C'est pour cette raison que la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe réunit les représentants des gouvernements, les parlementaires, les autorités locales et régionales, les organisations internationales – gouvernementales et non gouvernementales – afin que toutes et tous travaillent ensemble à la réalisation d'objectifs dans les quatre grands domaines d'action de la Campagne : les mesures juridiques, le soutien et la protection des victimes, la collecte de données et, enfin, la sensibilisation.

Les débats sur ces objectifs lors des tables rondes nous ont appris que beaucoup de nos Etats membres avaient adopté de nouvelles mesures et des pratiques qui se sont révélées efficaces pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes. Nous avons déjà pu en tirer quelques conclusions qui nous permettront de développer des actions adaptées à nos quatre domaines d'action.

Tout d'abord, nous avons entendu que l'existence d'un cadre juridique approprié était primordiale pour assurer une protection efficace. Ce cadre juridique doit inclure, tout particulièrement, l'incrimination de tout acte de violence à l'égard des femmes, des ordonnances de protection pour toutes les femmes victimes de violence, des ordonnances d'éloignement de l'auteur des violences et l'aide juridique aux victimes.

Ensuite, il a été à juste titre relevé que le soutien et les services aux victimes doivent leur permettre de reprendre le contrôle de leur vie et leur procurer un nouveau bien-être en garantissant leur sécurité physique et leur indépendance économique. Nos discussions ont révélé que beaucoup restait à faire dans ce domaine. Les services, tels que les lignes téléphoniques d'urgence gratuites et disponibles 24 heures sur 24, les foyers, les centres de crise, les agences spécialisées, devraient être améliorés dans tous les Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe.

Il a également été rappelé qu'une collecte systématique de données statistiques ventilées par sexe, par type de violence et par relations entre auteurs et victimes, est essentielle afin d'évaluer la fréquence et l'incidence de la violence à l'égard des femmes. A cette fin, nous avons besoin d'élaborer une méthodologie globale pour col-

lecter des données fiables et comparables au niveau européen pour la planification, le développement et la mise en œuvre de mesures effectives et efficaces.

Enfin, nous sommes unanimes à dire que la sensibilisation de l'opinion publique joue un rôle crucial dans la prévention des violences futures et dans le changement des attitudes et des mentalités.

C'est à l'accomplissement de ces objectifs que notre Campagne doit servir et le Conseil de l'Europe vous invite à utiliser le programme de la Campagne comme feuille de route pour évaluer vos situations nationales, régionales ou locales, pour développer des plans d'action et pour mettre en œuvre la campagne. Cette campagne du Conseil de l'Europe doit également vous inviter à lancer à votre tour des campagnes nationales parallèlement ou en tant que suivi à cette Campagne profitant ainsi au mieux des synergies et des effets multiplicateurs.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

La peur et la honte de femmes victimes de la violence me fait penser à cette phrase de Simone de Beauvoir que j'aimerais vous livrer en guise de conclusions « La fatalité triomphe dès que l'on croit en elle ». Ne laissons plus la fatalité triompher, ne laissons plus les femmes seules avec leur peur. Aidons les à retrouver leur dignité et exercer leurs droits. J'exprime le souhait que notre Campagne marque une étape importante sur notre chemin pour la protection des droits des femmes et vers la réalisation de la pleine égalité entre les femmes et les hommes.

Je vous remercie de votre attention. ★

Closing speech: Mr Philippe Boillat

**Director General of
Human Rights, Council
of Europe**

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Ladies and gentlemen,

Our work is nearing completion. This Launching Conference for the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* has been a forum for exchange and dialogue, in keeping with the Council of Europe's tradition: political decision-makers from national, regional and local governments, members of parliament, representatives of international organisations and NGOs and experts have gathered together here to share their knowledge, experience and ideas on an equal footing. We have seen how useful the quality of the debates and the substance of the speeches will be to us in our work, within the Council of Europe and in our member states.

The success of an event of this scale also depends to a large extent on its organisation and therefore I would like to thank the Prime Minister, Mr José Luís Rodríguez Zapatero, the Spanish Government, "Las Cortes Generales", the local authorities and all the men and women who have contributed to this success. Please accept my thanks also on behalf of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

I should like to thank the rapporteurs in particular, for their remarkable presentations, as well as the chairs and panellists of the round table discussions. My thanks also go to my colleagues from the Equality Division and to my other colleagues from the Council of Europe who threw themselves wholeheartedly into the preparations for this Conference, not to forget of course our colleagues from Protocol and our interpreters.

I am delighted to see that many of those present here also attended the 6th European Ministerial Conference

on Equality between Women and Men in Stockholm in June last year, where we saw that violence against women, unlike other forms of inequality between women and men, had long been shrouded in silence and denial. The Ministers expressed the hope on that occasion that the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* would help to trigger real collective awareness of this deplorable problem and be actively supported by all the member states. The active participation of so many of you in this Conference is proof that our Ministers' appeal was heard.

Today, ladies and gentlemen, the veil of silence has been lifted. The battle to end violence against women, which was started in the late 1970s by the Council of Europe in the context of its human rights protection activities, has since become a political priority. A growing number of people have become aware that violence against women, and domestic violence in particular (often perpetrated by men) undermines the very foundation stone of the human rights edifice, namely the idea that all human beings are equal in value and in dignity, and that this violence is probably the most serious obstacle to genuine equality between women and men. We realise now that this is a problem on a global, societal and institutional scale, not just a private matter. It is the responsibility of our governments to fight this scourge. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the efforts of all those who, through their activities, have alerted political decision-makers and public opinion to this serious violation of human rights and in so doing, triggered a reaction.

In his speech the Secretary General highlighted the different phases of the Council of Europe's work in this field. A new stage was reached with the establishment of the Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence, which is a tangible result of the political determination of the Heads of State and Government, expressed at the Third Council of Europe Summit, to eradicate violence against women. This Task Force was given the task, *inter alia*, of preparing the programme for the European Campaign which we have just launched.

The battle against domestic violence requires concerted action by the public authorities and civil society. This is why the Council of Europe Campaign unites government representatives, members of parliament, local and regional authorities and international organisations (both governmental and non-governmental), working together to achieve the objectives in the Campaign's four priority fields of action: legal measures, support and protection of victims, data collection and awareness raising.

The round table discussions on these objectives taught us that many of our member states have adopted new measures and practices which have proved effective in combating violence against women. We have

already been able to draw a number of conclusions which will help us to develop policies adapted to our four priority fields of action.

Firstly, we have understood that an appropriate legal framework is essential to ensure effective protection. In particular, this framework must include the criminalisation of any act of violence against women, legislation to protect all women who are victims of violence, restraining orders for offenders and legal assistance for their victims.

Another point rightly made was that support and services for victims must help them to take charge of their lives and live in peace again, as well as helping them to achieve financial independence. Our discussions demonstrated that much remains to be done in this area. Services such as free 24-hour emergency helplines, shelters, crisis centres and specialised agencies should be improved in all the Council of Europe's member states.

We have also seen how essential the systematic gathering of statistics is, classified by gender, the type of violence and the relationship between offenders and victims, in order to assess the frequency and effects of violence against women. For this we need to develop a comprehensive method of gathering reliable data which can be compared across Europe, in order to

plan, develop and implement effective and efficient measures.

Finally, we unanimously agree that increased public awareness is fundamental in preventing future violence and changing attitudes and mentalities.

Our Campaign must work towards achieving this goal and the Council of Europe invites you to use the Campaign Programme as a road map in assessing the national, regional and local situations in your countries, developing action plans and implementing the Campaign. This Council of Europe Campaign must in turn encourage you to launch national campaigns to accompany it or follow it up, thereby creating synergy and a snowball effect.

The fear and shame of women who are victims of violence reminds me of these words of Simone de Beauvoir, on which I will conclude: "fate triumphs if one believes in it". We must no longer allow fate to triumph; we must not leave women alone with their fear. Let us help them recover their dignity and exercise their rights. It is my hope that our Campaign signals an important step on the way to protecting women's rights and achieving true equality between women and men.

Thank you for your attention. ★

Allocution de clôture : M^{me} Minodora Cliveti

**Présidente de la
Commission sur
l'égalité des chances
pour les femmes et les
hommes de
l'Assemblée
parlementaire du
Conseil de l'Europe**

Monsieur le Ministre, Monsieur le Directeur Général, Mesdames, Messieurs, chers collègues,

Permettez-moi, au nom de l'Assemblée parlementaire, de remercier chaleureusement le Conseil de l'Europe et les autorités espagnoles – en particulier la délégation espagnole auprès de l'Assemblée parlementaire – pour l'excellente organisation de cette Conférence de lancement de la *Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*. Cette conférence a réuni aujourd'hui d'éminents spécialistes de la question de la lutte contre la violence domestique à l'égard des femmes, mais aussi ceux qui vivent au plus près la réalité subie par les victimes de la violence domestique.

Tous unis pour combattre la violence domestique contre les femmes : voilà le message que nous entendons lancer solennellement ici à Madrid, au cœur même du Parlement espagnol qui nous a démontré que la volonté politique est une condition préalable et nécessaire pour faire évoluer les textes et faire changer les mentalités progressivement.

La Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe est une opportunité unique de mettre en commun, sur le continent européen, l'expertise qui a été développée par nos Etats mais aussi de confronter nos expériences et d'analyser les obstacles que nous rencontrons partout : comment lutter contre la violence subie par les femmes au sein de leur foyer ? Comment promouvoir la protection des droits fondamentaux des femmes ? Comment promouvoir et consolider l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes pour construire une société plus juste et plus démocratique ?

Je me fais l'écho des parlements des quarante-six Etats membres et des parlements qui ont le statut d'observateur, pour vous assurer que les parlements seront engagés dans ce travail de réflexion paneuropéen et dans la mise en œuvre d'actions pour faire de cette campagne un succès. Nous avons déjà commencé mobiliser nos parlements en organisant au cours de ces derniers jours une Journée d'action parlementaire contre la violence domestique contre les femmes. A Kiev, à Bruxelles, à Bakou, à Andorre, à Rome, à Monaco ou encore à Paris, les parlements nationaux se sont mobilisés, tout comme dans mon pays la Roumanie, où la Chambre des Députés et le Sénat ont adopté une déclaration jointe dans laquelle nous avons condamné, publiquement et sans réserve, la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence familiale. Nous nous sommes également engagés à faire de la prévention et de la lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes une priorité de notre agenda de travail, tant à l'intérieur de notre enceinte parlementaire que sur le terrain, dans nos circonscriptions électorales.

Je souhaitais également remercier les Présidents de cinq parlements nationaux qui ont exprimé, à travers l'Europe, leur soutien à la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe. Je vous invite vivement, à l'issue de notre conférence, à prendre connaissance des messages qui nous ont été transmis par les Présidents du Sénat français, du Parlement norvégien, du Parlement ukrainien, du Sénat roumain et du Sénat canadien. Cet engagement fort, au plus niveau parlementaire, nous confortent dans nos efforts et c'est cet élan européen que nous souhaiterions partager avec vous.

Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux,

Soyez convaincus de la volonté de l'Assemblée parlementaire d'appuyer vos efforts pour soutenir et concrétiser la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe. Le réseau des parlementaires de référence qui a été créé en octobre par l'Assemblée parlementaire a souligné lors de sa première rencontre sa volonté d'établir des passerelles avec les points de contacts gouvernementaux, les autorités locales et régionales, et bien entendu les organisations non gouvernementales dont le travail de proximité est essentiel. C'est ensemble que nous pourrons nous attaquer aux racines du mal et contribuer à faire évoluer la société.

En notre qualité de parlementaires, nous devons nous engager au cours de ces prochains mois pour améliorer les lois et lutter contre ces violences qui frappent les femmes dans leur espace le plus intime. Mais chacun de nous, à son niveau, peut faire une différence et combattre l'indifférence.

Nous savons que ce combat est de longue haleine, et qu'il nous faudra des années pour combattre un phénomène ancré très profondément dans nos sociétés. Nous n'aurons que quelques mois pour concrétiser les suggestions et propositions qui ont été formulées aujourd'hui dans le cadre de la Campagne. Mais nous savons aussi que la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe ne sera que le point de départ d'actions qui nécessiteront du temps, de la volonté, de la détermination.

Loin de nous décourager, il nous faut mobiliser autour des thèmes de travail que nous avons abordés aujourd'hui. Car n'oublions pas de garder, au cœur de nos préoccupations, les femmes victimes de toutes les formes de violence. Notre engagement politique, les actions concrètes que nous pourrons développer, notre détermination à combattre toutes les inégalités entre les femmes et les hommes, contribueront à permettre à ces femmes meurtries de vivre à nouveau dans la dignité et dans le respect de leurs droits humains. Au nom de toutes les femmes qui n'ont plus droit à la parole, unissons nous pour briser le silence.

Je vous remercie de votre attention. ★

Closing speech: Mr Jesús Caldera Sánchez-Capitán

Minister of Labour and
Social Affairs, Spain

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Conference to launch the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, is drawing to an end.

An end which is also a beginning. The beginning of a task that is not new, but that this Campaign will intensify, giving it a new impetus, a new breath and new means to combat the insult to humanity, the insult to democracy, that is violence against women, women who make up more than half of our societies.

Gender violence reflects a deficit of citizenship for women, who are deprived of the basic right to peaceful, democratic coexistence, and in some cases of such fundamental human rights as the right to life itself, and to physical and psychological integrity. This deprivation is an intolerable insult to socially minded, democratic, law-abiding states.

No government can remain aloof to the reality that fundamental human rights are being violated without seriously neglecting its constitutional duty which binds it, as in Spain, to take steps to foster effective freedom and equality and remove any obstacles to them.

Accordingly, the State, which is traditionally neutral in what is considered to be the “private” sphere, intervenes in an attempt to shape a new social reality where each and every individual, regardless of their gender, can live in dignity. The Spanish Government has passed special legislation against gender violence, a law that introduces positive action into our legal system to correct the inequalities, eliminate discriminatory situations, foster more equality and remedy the

discrimination against women as a social group.

On 25 June 2004 the Spanish Cabinet approved the draft Comprehensive Law against Gender Violence. With this measure, the President of the Government fulfilled a promise he made to the people of Spain in his inaugural speech.

In its parliamentary stage the project was enhanced by contributions from various professionals, women’s NGOs, Autonomous Communities and so on. These contributions helped to paint a fuller picture of gender violence and fuelled the debate. One of the great merits of this project was to draw the various political forces closer together, with the result that at the end of December 2004, almost two years ago now, the Spanish Parliament unanimously approved the Comprehensive Law against Gender Violence.

Throughout this Conference we have heard about violence against women in the Council of Europe’s member states, we have discussed support and protection for the victims, we have examined experiences concerning innovative laws and policies for addressing this form of violence, and the need to keep careful statistics and harmonise our criteria in the battle against this scourge.

Finally, this afternoon, we discussed the responsibility our governments and our societies have to change attitudes, and the need to achieve a certain unity in the effort to eradicate a situation which puts us all to shame, to say the least.

In this respect Spanish law clearly opts for what we might call an “unequal right to equality”, sidestepping the other side of gender violence, i.e. that against men, based on the convic-

tion that the positive effects of unequal treatment, even in criminal law, can be decisive in restoring a balance that is skewed from the start. The statistics speak for themselves: a Judicial Council report reveals that in 85 out of 91 cases of domestic violence, i.e. 93.4% of the total, the aggressor was a man. In 5 cases the aggressor was a woman and in 1 it was both the man and the woman. Of the 72 people who died from violence inflicted by their partner or former partner, 69 were women and 3 were men, i.e. 95.8% compared with 4.2%.

So the law is a pro-equality law.

On the one hand because it addresses the causes of the violence, and goes on to build up a comprehensive system of protection, the main purpose of which is to tackle and eradicate those causes. For that reason the protection system basically hinges on three lines of action: awareness and prevention, recognition of the victims' rights, to help them back into the social mainstream as full citizens, and punishment of the offenders.

And on the other hand because it introduces means of positive action into Spanish law aimed directly and exclusively at women.

As a result, the Law and the accompanying regulations provide a firm response to gender violence, with its roots deeply embedded in the conviction that there is inequality between human beings and in particular between women and men.

Lastly, the law is based on the conviction that combating this violence efficiently and effectively requires comprehensive, co-ordinated policies that address its many causes and effects.

In this respect, I should like to emphasise the importance of the setting up of the Special Government Delegation on Violence against Women, which together with the General Secretariat for Equality Policies helps to co-ordinate all the action taken to guarantee the efficacy and efficiency of the measures adopted in different fields. It was this co-ordination that made it possible for the Cabinet, in fourteen meetings, to adopt a number of important measures on this subject, and for practically all the ministries, the Judiciary, the State Prosecutor's Department, the Autonomous Communities and the municipalities to play an active part in this battle.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I cannot conclude without expressing the hope that this start we have made here in Madrid, what we might define as the "Madrid spirit against gender violence", will go on to gather momentum in the other member states.

Gender violence is not just a matter for women. It concerns us all. And eradicating it is a joint exercise in public justice, responsibility and dignity. Neither this country nor the other member countries of the Council of Europe can rejoice in the coming of age of our democracies while a social blemish of this magnitude persists.

Any sweeping social change is bound to trigger resistance, as we saw this afternoon, especially when it tends to do away with privileges. This new century we have entered must be that of equality, of the eradication of inequalities and privileges, the century when certain groups of people and the societies they live in gradually recover their lost dignity. It will not be easy, but it is well worth the trouble. Blaise Pascal said that "all our dignity is in our thinking" ... perhaps it is time to change the way we think.

Thank you. ★

PARTICIPANTS

List of participants/Liste des participant(e)s

Member states of the Council of Europe/États membres du Conseil de l'Europe

Albania/Albanie

Ms Marjeta Zace

Vice-Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Tirana

Ms Rajna Kovaci

Director, Equal Opportunities Directory, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Tirana

Andorra/Andorre

M^{me} Montserrat Gil

Ministre de la Santé, du Bien-être social et de la Famille, Gouvernement d'Andorre, Andorra la Vella

Ms Marta Monllor

Head, Specialised Social Area, Department of Social Welfare and Family, Ministry of Health, Social Welfare and Family, Andorra la Vella

Mr Vicenç Mateu Zamora

Ambassador, Embassy of Andorra, Madrid

Mr Jesús Ramírez Palomo

Attaché for Trade and Tourism, Embassy of Andorra, Madrid

Armenia/Arménie

Austria/Autriche

Ms Maria Rauch-Kallat

Federal Minister of Health and Women

[Apologised/Excusée]

Ms Martina Steiner

Referee of the Department of Strategic Communication and Basic Politics, Women and Equality Division, Strategic Communication and Basic Politics, Federal Ministry of Health and Women, Vienna

Azerbaijan/Azerbaïdjan

Ms Hijran Huseynova

Chairperson, State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Issues, Baku

Ms Besti Agarzayeva

State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Issues, Baku

Mr Anar Maharramov

Second Secretary, Bilateral Legal Affairs, Embassy of Azerbaijan, Madrid

Belgium/Belgique

M^{me} Christiane Vienne

Ministre de la Santé, de l'Action sociale et de l'Égalité des chances, Gouvernement wallon
[Apologised/Excusée]

Bosnia and Herzegovina/Bosnie-Herzégovine

Bulgaria/Bulgarie

Ms Ivanka Hristova

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Sofia

Ms Blagorodna Vesselinova

Head of Unit, International Relations Unit, Directorate for European Integration and International Relations, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Sofia

Croatia/Croatie

Ms Jadranka Kosor

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Family, Veterans' Affairs and intergenerational Solidarity, Zagreb

Mr Vedran Bajsić

Advisor to the Deputy Minister of the Republic of Croatia, Government of Croatia, Zagreb

Ms Helena Štimac Radin

Head of the Office for Gender Equality, Government of Croatia, Zagreb

Ms Mihaela Jović

Professional Associate, Office for Gender Equality, Government of Croatia, Zagreb

Mr Filip Vučak

Ambassador, Embassy of Croatia, Madrid

Mr Berislav Živković

Spokesperson of the Ministry of Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity, Zagreb

Cyprus/Chypre

Mr Kostas Veis

Superintendent B', Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Office, Department C', Cyprus Police Headquarters, Nicosia

Czech Republic/République tchèque

Mr Marian Hošek

Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Prague

Ms Hana Zdražilova

Desk Officer, Gender Equality Unit, Department of Family Policy and Gender Equality, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Prague

Denmark/Danemark

Ms Eva Kjer Hansen

Minister for Social Affairs and Gender Equality
[Apologised/Excusée]

Estonia/Estonie

Ms Katri Eespere

Chief Specialist, Gender Equality Department, Ministry of Social Affairs, Tallinn

Finland/Finlande

Ms Tuula Haatainen

Minister for Social Affairs and Health, Helsinki

Ms Päivi Yli-Pietilä

Senior Officer, Gender Equality Unit, Finance and Planning Department, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Helsinki

France

M^{me} Catherine Vautrin

Ministre déléguée à la Cohésion sociale et à la Parité, Paris

M^{me} Elise Bérolatti

Conseillère technique, Ministère délégué à la Cohésion sociale et à la Parité, Paris

M^{me} Géraldine Dalban-Moreynas

Conseillère presse, Ministère délégué à la Cohésion sociale et à la Parité, Paris

M. Claude Blanchemaison

Ambassadeur, Ambassade de France, Madrid

M^{me} Blandine Legout

Conseillère pour les Affaires sociales, Ambassade de France, Madrid

Georgia/Géorgie

Ms Maka Mdivani

Advisor to the State Minister on Reforms Coordination, State Chancellery, Tbilisi

Germany/Allemagne

Ms Silvia Berke

Deputy Head of Division, Protection of Women from Violence, Department for Equality Policy, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Bonn

Greece/Grèce

Ms Ifigenia Katsaridou

Director General at the Research Center on Gender Equality Issues, Athens

Hungary/Hongrie

Ms Edit Rauh

State Secretary for Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Budapest

Ms Ildikó Várkonyi

Interpreter, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Budapest

Iceland/Islande

Ms Pálína Rúnarsdóttir

Assistant to the Permanent Representative of Iceland to the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France

Ireland/Irlande

Mr Frank Fahey

Minister of State's Office, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Dublin
[Apologised/Excusée]

Ms Pauline Moreau

Head of Division, Gender Equality Division (including Violence against Women), Equality and Civil Law Reform, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Dublin

Italy/Italie

Ms Barbara Pollastrini

Minister for Rights and Equal Opportunities
[Apologised/Excusée]

M^{me} Donatella Linguiti

Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat, Ministère pour les droits et l'égalité entre hommes et femmes, Rome

M^{me} Paula Beatriz Amadio

Conseillère de la Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat, Ministère pour les droits et l'égalité entre hommes et femmes, Rome

Mr Gian Franco Pallanca

Public Relations Officer, Azienda Sanitaria Locale 2 Savonese, Savona

Ms Fulvia Diotti

President, IPOTESI Association, Savona

Latvia/Lettonie

Ms Dagnija Staķe

Minister of Welfare, Riga

Ms Elina Celmiņa

Deputy Head, Gender Equality Unit, Department of European and Legal Affairs, Ministry of Welfare, Riga

Liechtenstein

Ms Rita Kieber-Beck

Minister of Family Affairs and Equal Opportunities
[Apologised/Excusée]

Lithuania/Lituanie

Mr Vytautas Žiukas

Vice-Minister, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Vilnius

Luxembourg

M^{me} Brigitte Schmitz

Inspectrice Principale 1^{er} en rang, Ministère de l'Égalité des Chances, Luxembourg

M^{me} Isabelle Klein

Conseillère de direction 1^{re} classe, Ministère de l'Égalité des Chances, Luxembourg

Malta/Malte

Ms Marceline Naudi

Member of the Domestic Violence Commission, Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity, Valletta

Moldova

Ms Maria Tarus

Head of Mother and Child Health Assistance, Health Department, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Chişinău

Ms Oxana Domentii

Advisor on Social Issues to the President of Moldova, Administration of the President of the Republic of Moldova, Social Development Issues, Chişinău
[Apologised/Excusée]

Monaco

M^{me} Marina Ceysse

Secrétaire générale, Département des Relations extérieures, Ministère d'Etat, Monaco

Netherlands/Pays-Bas

Ms Dineke Mulock-Houwer

Director General, Directorate-General for Prevention, Youth and Sanctions, Ministry of Justice
[Apologised/Excusée]

Norway/Norvège

Ms Astri Aas-Hansen

Political Adviser, Ministry of Justice and the Police, Oslo

Poland/Pologne

Portugal

Mr Jorge Lacão

Secretary of State of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Lisbon
[Apologised/Excusée]

Ms Elza Pais

President of the Commission for Equality and Women's Rights, Lisbon

Ms Ivone Ferreira

Governmental Body to Combat Domestic Violence, Lisbon

Romania/Roumanie

Ms Maria Mota

President, National Agency for Equal Opportunities between women and men, Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, Bucharest

Ms Elena Dobre

Councillor of Integration, National Agency for Family Protection, Bucharest

Ms Ana-Maria Rusu

Inspector, National Agency for Equal Opportunities between women and men, Department for Strategies, Policies, Programmes and Monitoring, Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, Bucharest

Russian Federation/Fédération de Russie

Ms Tatiana Smirnova

Division for European Co-operation, Department for Humanitarian Co-operation and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Moscow

Ms Olesia Chutaeva

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Moscow

Ms Liubov Glebova

State Secretary – Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Social Development, Moscow

San Marino/Saint-Marin

M. Guido Bellatti Ceccoli

Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent de la République de Saint-Marin auprès du Conseil de l'Europe, Strasbourg, France

M. José Manuel de Mollinedo Martínez

Ministre plénipotentiaire, Ambassade de la République de Saint-Marin, Madrid

M^{me} Federica Bigi

Directrice des Affaires politiques, Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Saint-Marin

M. Andrea della Balda

Conseiller d'Ambassade, Ambassade de la République de Saint-Marin, Madrid

M^{me} Joanne Valentini

Interprète, Ministère des Affaires étrangères Saint-Marin

Serbia/Serbie

Ms Dragana Petrović-Vlasak

Vice President, State Gender Equality Council, Government of Serbia, Belgrade

Slovakia/Slovaquie

Mr Peter Sika

State Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Bratislava

Ms Zuzana Vranová

State Advisor, Social and Family Policy Section, Family and Gender Policy Department, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Bratislava

Mr Pavol Šveda

Interpreter, International Co-operation and Protocol Department, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Bratislava

Ms Viera Tomanová

Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Bratislava

Mr Miloslav Hetteš

Director General, European Union Affairs and International Relations Section, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Bratislava

Ms Viera Kusendová

Director General, Social and Family Policy Section, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Bratislava

Slovenia/Slovénie

Ms Sonja Robnik

Senior Advisor, Office for Equal Opportunities of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana

Spain/Espagne

Mr José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Prime Minister

Mr Juan Fernando López Aguilar

Minister of Justice

Mr Jesús Caldera Sánchez-Capitán

Minister of Labour and Social Affairs

Mr Manuel Marín González

President of the Congress of Deputies

Mr Francisco Javier Rojo García

President of the Senate

Mr Juan-José Lucas

Second Vice-President of the Senate

Sweden/Suède

Ms Katarina Schmidt

Deputy Director, Division for Gender Equality Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications, Stockholm

Mr Anders Rönquist

Ambassador, Embassy of Sweden, Madrid

Ms Monica Blomstrom

Desk Officer, Division for Gender Equality, Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications, Stockholm

Switzerland/Suisse

[Apologised/Excusée]

“The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”/« L'ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine »

Ms Elena Grozdanova

Head of the Unit for Gender Equality, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Skopje

Turkey/Turquie

Ms Nimet Çubukçu

State Minister for Women and Family Affairs, Ankara

Ms Pinar Cengiz

Chief of the Minister's Cabinet, State Ministry for Women and Family Affairs, Ankara

Ms Rukiye Karcaaltincaba

Advisor to the State Minister for Social Services State Ministry for Women and Family Affairs Ankara

Mr Musa Acar

Adviser to the Minister, State Ministry for Women and Family Affairs, Ankara

Ms Civelek Esengül

General Director, General Directorate on the Status of Women, Ankara

Ms Başak Tuğ

Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France

Mr Resul Kabataş

Chief of Security, State Ministry for Women and Family Affairs, Ankara

Ms Elif Ersozlu

Simultaneous Translator, Hacettepe University, Ankara

Ms Zeynep Kaleli

First Secretary, Embassy of Turkey, Madrid

Mr Yalcin Dogan

Columnist, Daily Hurriyet, Istanbul

Ukraine

Mr Illia Shevliak

First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sport, Kyiv

Ms Anna Galchenko

Second Secretary, Consular Affairs, Embassy of Ukraine, Madrid

United Kingdom/Royaume Uni

Ms Meg Munn

Deputy Minister for Women and Equality, Department for Communities and Local Government, London

Ms Charlene Gordon

Assistant Private Secretary to Meg Munn, Department for Communities and Local Government, London

Ms Nichola Coleman

Policy Advisor – Violence against women, Women and Equality Unit, Department for Communities and Local Government, London

Ms Sylvia Walby

Professor, Institute for Women's Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Lancaster University, Lancaster

Mr Bruce Bucknell

First Secretary, Social and Labour Affairs, Embassy of the United Kingdom, Madrid

Ms Barbara-Ann Collins

Assistant Director, Gender and Strategy Team, Department for Communities and Local Government London

Council of Europe Bodies/Organes du Conseil de l'Europe

Committee of Ministers/Comité des Ministres

M. Fiorenzo Stolfi

Président du Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe, Ministre des Affaires étrangères de la République de Saint-Marin, Saint-Marin

Mr Peteris Elferts

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Latvia to the Council of Europe, Thematic Coordinator on Gender Equality of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe/Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe

Mr René Van der Linden

President of the Parliamentary Assembly

Mr Lluís Maria de Puig

Chair of the Spanish Delegation, Senado, Madrid, Spain

M^{me} Minodora Cliveti

Chairperson of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, Bucharest, Romania

Ms Elmira Akhundova

Member of Parliament, Baku, Azerbaijan

Ms Aneliya Atanasova

Member of the National Assembly, Sofia, Bulgaria

Mr John Austin

Member of the House of Commons, London, United Kingdom

Ms Gülsün Bilgehan
Member of the Grand National Assembly,
Ankara, Turkey

Ms Oksana Bilozir
Member of Parliament, Kyiv, Ukraine

Ms Olena Bondarenko
Member of Parliament, Kyiv, Ukraine

Mr Krzysztof Bosak
Member of the Diet, Warszawa, Poland

M^{me} Mimount Bousakla
Senator, Brussels, Belgium

M. Jean-Guy Branger
Sénateur, Paris, France

M^{me} Cornelia Cazacu
Chairperson of the Committee on Equal Opportunities, Senate, Bucarest, Romania

Ms Ingrida Circene
Member of Parliament, Riga, Latvia

Ms Anna Čurďová
Member of Parliament, Praha, Czech Republic

Ms Maria Damanaki
Member of the House of Parliament, Athens, Greece

M. John Dupraz
Membre du Parlement, Berne, Suisse

Ms Lydie Err
Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Luxembourg

Ms María Emelina Fernández Soriano
Senator, Madrid, Spain

Ms Sonia Fertuzinhos
Membre du Parlement, Lisboa, Portugal

Ms Urszula Gacek
Senator, Tarnów, Poland

Mr Piotr Gadzinowski
Membre de la Diète, Warszawa, Poland

Ms Carina Hägg
Chairperson of the PACE Sub-committee on violence against women, Stockholm, Sweden

M. Ilie Ilaşcu
Senator, Bucarest, Romania

Ms Halide Incekara
Member of the Grand National Assembly,
Ankara, Turkey

Ms Danuta Jazłowiecka
Member of the Diet, Warszawa, Poland

Ms Eleonora Katseli
Member of the House of Parliament, Athens, Greece

Mr Tomasz Markowski
Member of the Diet, Warszawa, Poland

Mr José Mendes Bota
Membre du Parlement, Lisboa, Portugal

Ms Danguté Mikutienė
Member of Parliament, Vilnius, Lithuania

Ms Ilinka Mitreva
Member of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Skopje, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

Mr Burkhardt Müller-Sönksen
Member of Parliament, Berlin, Germany

Mr Ibrahim Özal
Member of the Grand National Assembly,
Ankara, Turkey

M^{me} Fatma Pehlivan
Senator, Brussels, Belgium

Mr Ivan Popescu
Member of Parliament, Kyiv, Ukraine

Ms Marlene Rupprecht
Member of Parliament, Berlin, Germany

Ms Klára Sándor
Member of the National Assembly, Budapest, Hungary

Ms Svetlana Smirnova
Member of the State Duma, Moscow, Russian Federation

M^{me} Rodica Stanoiu
Senator, Bucarest, Romania

Ms Darinka Stantcheva
Member of the National Assembly, Sofia, Bulgaria

M^{me} Ruth Gaby Vermot-Mangold
Conseiller national, Bern, Suisse

Ms Gisela Wurm
Member of Parliament, Wien, Austria

M^{me} Rosmarie Zapfl-Helbling
Conseiller national, Dübendorf, Suisse

Ms Krinio Kanellopoulou
Member of the House of Parliament, Athens, Greece

Spanish Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe/Délégation espagnole auprès de l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe

Mr Lluís María de Puig
Chairperson

Members

Ms María Rosario Fátima Aburto

Ms Elvira Cortajarena

Mr Ignacio Cosidó

Mr Adolfo Fernández Aguilar

Ms María Emelina Fernández Soriano

Ms María Josefa Porteiro García

Ms Adoración Quesada

Permanent Secretariat

Mr Jorge Villarino

Ms María Teresa Gómez-Bernardo

Contact parliamentarians and others/Parlementaires de référence et autres

Ms Gular Ahmadova
Member of the Committee on Foreign and Interparliamentary Relations, Baku, Azerbaijan

Ms Blanca Judith Díaz Delgado
Member of the Senate, Mexico D.F.

Ms Ketevan Makharashvili
Member of the Committee on Legal Affairs, Parliament of Georgia, Tbilisi
[Apologised/Excusée]

Ms Carmen Quintanilla
Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Representative of the Committee on Women's Issues, Madrid, Spain

Mr Gideon Sa'ar
Chairman of the Committee on the Status of Women, Knesset, Jerusalem, Israel

Ms Franca Bimbi
Chairperson of the Committee on EU Policies, Chamber of Deputies, Rome, Italy

Ms Claudia Corichi Garcia
Member of the Senate, Mexico D.F.

Ms Azucena Reyes Miranda
Substitute to Senator Claudia Corichi, Mexico D.F.

Ms Mirna Cecilia Rincón Vargas
Deputy of the Mexican Congress, Mexico D.F.

Delegation secretaries/Secrétaires de délégations

Ms Aleksandra Danilyuk, Interparliamentary Relations Department, State Duma, Moscow, Russian Federation

Ms Zlatina Khristova
Advisor, International Relations and Protocol Directorate, National Assembly, Sofia, Bulgaria

Ms Kirsti Pulkka-Ericson
International Secretary, Parliament, Stockholm, Sweden

Mr Volodymyr Rozputenko
Chief Consultant of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Department, Kyiv, Ukraine

M^{me} Claire Dossier-Carzou
Conseiller, Service des affaires européennes, Sénat, Paris, France

Ms Alona Fischer-Kamm
Minister Counsellor, Knesset, Israel

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe/Congrès des Pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe

Mr Ian Micallef
President of the Chamber of Local Authorities, Councillor of Gzira, Gzira Local Council, Gzira, Malta

Mr Valerio Prignachi
Head of Transport for the Province of Brescia, Deputy Mayor of Treviso Bresciano, Brescia, Italy

Ms Maddalena Damini
Assistant to Mr Valerio Prignachi, Brescia, Italy

Ms Sandra Barnes
Member of the Committee on Social Cohesion,

Leader, South Northants District Council, South Northamptonshire Council, Springfield, Towcester, United Kingdom

Mr Ramon Ropero Mancera
Member of the Committee on Social Cohesion, Mayor of Villafranca de los Barros, Villafranca de los Barros, Spain

Commissioner of Human Rights Office/Bureau du Commissaire aux Droits de l'Homme

Mr Thomas Hammarberg
Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe

Council of Europe Committees/Comités du Conseil de l'Europe

Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including domestic violence/Task Force pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique (EG-TFV)

Ms Dubravka Šimonović
Chair of the Task Force, Head of Human Rights Department, Directorate for International Organisations and Security, Department for Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Zagreb, Croatia

Ms Hilary Fisher
Vice-Chair of the Task Force, London, United Kingdom

Ms Feride Acar
Professor, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Middle East Technical University, İnönü Bulvarı, Ankara, Turkey

Ms Dagmara Baraniewska
Clinical Psychologist, Culture Anthropologist, Warsaw, Poland

Ms Helena Ewalds
Senior Officer, Department for Family and Social Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Helsinki

Mr Christopher Green
Executive Director, White Ribbon Campaign, Knott Hall, Charlestown, Hebden Bridge, United Kingdom

M. Manuel Lisboa
Professeur, Département de sociologie, Faculté des Sciences humaines et sociales, Université Nova de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal

Ms Rosa Logar
Director, Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre, Vienna, Austria

Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG)/Comité directeur pour l'Égalité entre les Femmes et les Hommes (CDEG)

M^{me} Isabel Romão
Présidente du CDEG, Chef de la Division Etudes et Formation, Commission pour l'Égalité et les Droits des Femmes, Lisboa, Portugal

States having Observer Status with the Council of Europe/États ayant le statut d'observateur auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

Canada

Ms Mylène Paradis
Agente politique, Ambassade du Canada, Madrid

Holy See/Saint Siège

M^{me} Maria Lourdes Azorin Ortega
Secrétaire Générale de la Fédération des Mouvements de l'Action Catholique espagnole, Saint-Siège, Madrid, Spain

Japan/Japon

Mexico/Mexique

Mr Ernesto Sosa
Advisor on Political Affairs, Embassy of Mexico, Madrid

United States of America/États-Unis d'Amérique

International organisations and institutions/Organisations et institutions internationales

Commission of the European Communities/Commission des Communautés européennes

Mr Vicente Nieto
Principal Administrator, Gender Equality Coordinator, Citizenship and Fundamental Rights

Unit, DG Justice, Freedom and Security, European Commission, Brussels

Council of the European Union/Conseil de l'Union européenne

[Apologised/Excusé]

European Parliament/Parlement Européen

Mr Raül Romeva i Rueda
Member of the European Parliament, Brussels

Ms Anna Záborská

Chairperson of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, European Parliament, Brussels

United Nations/Nations Unies

United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)/Division pour l'avancement de la femme des Nations Unies (DAW)

Ms Christine Brautigam

Chief of Women's Rights Section, Division for the Advancement of Women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, New York

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)/Le Fonds de développement des Nations Unies pour la femme (UNIFEM)

[Apologised/Excusé]

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Haut commissariat aux droits de l'homme

[Apologised/Excusé]

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)/Fonds des Nations Unies pour la population (UNFPA)

Ms Karin Heisecke

Programme Co-ordination Officer, United Nations Population Fund, Brussels Office, Brussels, Belgium

Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)/Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération en Europe (OSCE)

Parliamentary Assembly/Assemblée parlementaire

Ms Tone Tingsgård

Member of Parliament of Sweden, Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Special Representative on Gender, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Copenhagen, Denmark

World Health Organization (WHO)/Organisation Mondiale de la Santé (OMS)

Mr Anders Nordström

Geneva, Switzerland
[Apologised/Excusé]

Ms Isabel Yordi Aguirre

Technical Officer, Gender and Health Programme, Family and Community Health, WHO Regional Office for Europe, WHO Centre for Health Policy, Brussels, Belgium

Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe/Pacte de stabilité pour l'Europe du Sud-Est

Mr Erhard Busek

Special Co-ordinator, Brussels, Belgium
[Apologised/Excusé]

Gender Task Force of the Stability Pact/Groupe d'action sur le genre du Pacte de Stabilité

Ms Sonja Lokar

SP GTF Chair, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Conference of INGOs enjoying Participatory Status with the Council of Europe/Conférence des OING dotées du statut participatif auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

**Gender Equality Grouping/
Regroupement « égalité-parité
hommes-femmes »**

Ms Karine Henrotte Forsberg

Chair of the Gender Equality Grouping, Heusy, Belgium

NGOs active in preventing and combating domestic violence/ONG qui travaillent afin de prévenir et combattre la violence domestique

Fédération des femmes progressistes

M^{me} Enriqueta Chicano

Présidente et Vice-présidente de l'Observatoire national de la violence à l'égard des femmes

Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation

Ms Genoveva Tisheva

Managing Director, Sofia, Bulgaria

Amnesty International

Ms Widney Brown

Senior Director, International Law, Policy and Campaigns, International Secretariat, London, United Kingdom

Ms Jill Heine

Legal Advisor for Europe and Central Asia, London, United Kingdom

Ms Jezerka Tigani

Regional Campaign Co-ordinator for Europe and Central Asia, London, United Kingdom

Ms Eva María Aguilera González

Campaigning Co-ordinator, Amnesty International Spain

Ms Monica Costa

Foreign Affairs Co-ordinator, Amnesty International Spain

European Women's Lobby

Ms Tanja Auvinen, Executive Member, European Women's Lobby, Brussels, Belgium

Femmes en Détresse

M^{me} Joëlle Schranck

Chargée de direction, Luxembourg

**Violence against Women
Monitoring Programme Open
Society Institute**

Ms Eva Foldvari
Director, Budapest, Hungary

Ms Eniko Pap
Officer, Budapest, Hungary

Women Against Violence Europe

Ms Alina Zachar
Project co-ordinator, Wien, Austria

Ms Paula Bolyos
Assistant, WAVE – Network and Domestic
Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna, Vienna,
Austria

**Women's Human Rights Group
B.a.B.e**

Ms Ines Bojić
Legal expert, Zagreb, Croatia

Women's Rights Center

Ms Susanna Vardanyan
President, Yerevan, Armenia

Vilnius Women's House

Ms Lilija Vasiliauskiene
Director, Vilnius, Lithuania

Autonomous Women's Center

Ms Tanja Ignjatovic
Programme co-ordinator, Good practice devel-
opment programme in the field of domestic vio-
lence, Belgrade, Serbia

**Women's Aid Federation of
England**

Ms Nicola Harwin
Chief Executive, Bristol
[Apologised/Excusée]

Women's Forum Elbasan

Ms Shpresa Banja
Co-ordinator in the counselling centre for
abused women and girls in Elbasan District,
Women Forum of Elbasan, Elbasan, Albania
[Apologised/Excusée]

Keynote speakers

Ms Carol Hagemann-White
Professor, Department of Education, University
of Osnabrück, Osnabrück, Germany

Mr Thomas Hammarberg
Commissioner for Human Rights of the
Council of Europe

Ms Tuula Haatainen
Minister for Social Affairs and Health, Helsinki

Ms Yakin Ertürk
Professor of Sociology, United Nations Special
Rapporteur on Violence against Women,
Middle East Technical University, Ankara,
Turkey

Ms Widney Brown
Senior Director, International Law, Policy and
Campaigns, International Secretariat, Amnesty
International, Peter Benenson House, London,
United Kingdom

Guests of the Spanish authorities/Invité(e)s des Autorités espagnoles

**Ministry of Justice/Ministère de la
Justice**

Raquel Castillejo
Asesora del Gabinete del Ministro

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Cooperation/Ministère des
Affaires étrangères et de la
coopération**

Fernando Fernández-Arias Minuesa
Subdirector de la Oficina de Derechos
Humanos

José Luis Lozano García
Vocal Asesor para Asuntos Multilaterales y la
OSCE

Pilar Ortiz González
Jefa del Cuerpo de Subinspectores de Empleo y
SS, Servicio del Consejo de Europa, División de
Asuntos Multilaterales y OSCE

**Ministry of Labour and Social
Affairs/Ministère du Travail et des
Affaires sociales**

Soledad Murillo de la Vega
Secretaria General de Políticas de Igualdad

Encarnación Orozco Corpas
Delegada Especial del Gobierno contra la Vio-
lencia sobre la Mujer

Rosa María Peris Cervera
Directora del Instituto de la Mujer

Concepción Gisbert Jordá
Directora de Gabinete de la Secretaría General
de Políticas de Igualdad

Félix Albertos Carrión
Director de Comunicación

Eva Ferrús García
Vocal Asesora, Delegación Especial del Gobi-
erno contra la Violencia sobre la Mujer

María Pilar Moreno Fernández
Consejera Técnica, Delegación Especial del Go-
bierno contra la Violencia sobre la Mujer

Raquel Presa García-López
Consejera Técnica, Delegación Especial del Go-
bierno contra la Violencia sobre la Mujer

Beatriz Martínez Cano-Cortés
Delegación Especial del Gobierno contra la Vio-
lencia sobre la Mujer

Carmen Cánovas Vidal
Delegación Especial del Gobierno contra la Vio-
lencia sobre la Mujer

Rosana Arriola Algara
Delegación Especial del Gobierno contra la Vio-
lencia sobre la Mujer

Josefa Valdemoro Pascual
Delegación Especial del Gobierno contra la Vio-
lencia sobre la Mujer

Elena Peñafiel
Jefa de Área, Secretaría General de Políticas de
Igualdad

Elena Perela
Jefa de Servicio, Secretaría General de Políticas
de Igualdad

Beatriz Belenda Justo
Delegación Especial del Gobierno contra la Vio-
lencia sobre la Mujer

Alejandra Lato Meilan
Delegación Especial del Gobierno contra la Vio-
lencia sobre la Mujer

Gemma Ayuso Aragonés
Delegación Especial del Gobierno contra la Vio-
lencia sobre la Mujer

María Jesús Ortiz
Instituto de la Mujer

Hortensia Moriones Almaraz
Instituto de la Mujer

Cecilia Payno De Orive
Secretaría General de políticas de Igualdad

Mariano Alvaro

Isabel Herranz

**Senate and Congress of Deputies/
Sénat et Chambre des Députés**

Composición de la Mesa del Senado

Francisco Javier Rojo García
Presidente

Composición de la Mesa del Congreso

Manuel Marín González
Presidente

Carme Chacón Piqueras
Vicepresidenta Primera

Gabriel Cisneros Laborda
Vicepresidente Tercero

Isaura Navarro Casillas
Secretaria Cuarta

Composición de la Junta de Portavoces

Manuel Marín González
Presidente

*Composición de la Comisión Mixta de
los Derechos de la Mujer y de Igualdad
Oportunidades*

Carmen Alborch Bataller
Presidenta

María Antonia Martínez García
Vicepresidenta Primera

María del Carmen Quintanilla Barba
Vicepresidenta Segunda

Portavoces

María Assumpta Baig i Torras

Susana Camarero Benítez

Inmaculada Loroño Ormaechea

María Virtudes Monteserín Rodríguez

Portavoces Adjuntos

María Dolores Pérez Anguita

Vocales

Joaquín Antonio Bellón Martínez

José María Burgos García

Belén María Do Campo Piñeiro

María Isabel Flores Fernández

Francisco Orengo García
Médico psiquiatra

**Autonomous Communities/
Communautés autonomes**

Josefa María Carballo Saavedra
Directora General del Instituto de la Mujer de
Extremadura, Junta de Extremadura, Mérida,
Badajoz

Celsa Malanda Garrido
Instituto de la Mujer de Extremadura, Junta de
Extremadura, Mérida, Badajoz

Ana Luisa Bouza Santiago
Directora Servicio Galego de Igualdade, San-
tiago de Compostela, A Coruña

Paloma Recio Bernárdez
Directora Instituto de la Mujer de Murcia,
Murcia

Teresa Aranaz Jiménez
Dir. Gerente Instituto Navarro Mujer, Pam-
plona

**Spanish Federation of
Municipalities and Provinces
(FEMP)/Fédération des
municipalités et provinces (FEMP)**

Heliodoro Gallego Cuesta
Presidente

Gabriel Álvarez Fernández
Secretario General

Antonina Mielgo Casado
Directora de Área de Igualdad

Jesús Turbidí Pérez
Director Departamento Relaciones Interna-
cionales

María Dolores Agudo Masa

Carmen González Lahidalga

Rosario Soto Rico

Victoria Martínez Ocón

Encarnación Ocaña Pérez

Josep Mariné
Alcalde de la Alforja

Encarnación Mihi Tenedor
Diputada Cortes de Aragón

Antonio Clemente Olivert
Diputado Cortes Valencianas

Antonia Parrado Rojas
Delegada Igualdad Ayuntamiento Córdoba

María José Nicolás Martínez
Diputada Asamblea Regional de Murcia

María Pilar Collado Capilla
Directora Delegación Comunitat Valenciana en
Madrid

María Luisa Castejón Pinilla
Técnico de Igualdad del Ayuntamiento de
Villabilla, Madrid

Gema del Corral
Directora del Instituto de la Mujer, Ayunta-
miento de Málaga

**State Observatory on Violence
against Women/Observatoire
national sur la violence à l'égard des
femmes**

Adela Abarrategui Pastor
Jefa del Gabinete de Estudios y Programas, In-
stituto Andaluz de la Mujer, Sevilla

Eva Martínez Blasco
Dtra. Inst. Aragonés de la Mujer, Gobierno de
Aragón, Zaragoza

Isabel Llinás Warthmann
Directora Inst. Balear de la Mujer, Govern de les
Illes Balears, Palma, Mallorca

Ana Barceló Chico
Presidenta de la Comisión de Igualdad de la
Femp., Federación Española de Municipios y
Provincias, Madrid

Montserrat Comas d'Argemir i
Cendrá
Vocal Del Consejo GPJ, Consejo Gral. Poder Ju-
dicial, Madrid

Almudena Fontecha
Sindicato UGT, Madrid

Angeles Brunel Aranda
Secretaría de la Mujer, Sindicato CCOO,
Madrid

Dora Anadela Aguirre Hidalgo
Presidenta de la Asociación Rumiñahui y Vocal
del Foro S.D.L.Im., S.E. Inmigración y Emi-
gración (Foro Integración Social de los Inmi-
grantes), Madrid

Angela Alemani
Asociación de Mujeres Juristas Themis, Madrid

Enriqueta Chicano Jávega
Federación de Mujeres Progresistas, Madrid

Ana María Pérez Del Campo Noriega
Federación Nacional de Asociaciones de
Mujeres Separadas y Divorciadas, Madrid

Marisa Soletto
Fundación Mujeres, Madrid

Elsa Orozco Kaiser
Coordinadora Programa de Atención Integral
de la Mujer con Discapacidad en Andalucía,
Sevilla

Encarnación Talavera Muñoz
Vicepresidenta de la Asociación y Vocal de la
Confederación, Asociación para la Promoción
de la Mujer con Discapacidad LUNA de Anda-

Lucía, Confederación Andaluza de personas con discapacidad Física y Orgánica, Sevilla

Isabel Caballero
Confederación Andaluza de personas con discapacidad Física y Orgánica, Sevilla

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)/Organisations non gouvernementales (ONG)

Montserrat Boix
Mujeres en Red, Madrid

Marta Ortiz Díaz
Presidenta, Coordinadora Española para el Lobby Europeo de Mujeres, Madrid

Astrid Ruiz Thierry
Board Member, Madrid

María Soledad Muruaga López de Guereñu
Presidenta, Asociación de Mujeres para la Salud, Madrid

Pilar Pascual Pastor
Coordinadora, Madrid

Sara Añino Villaba
Fundación Secretariado Gitano, Madrid

Francisca Sauquillo
Movimiento por la Paz, el Desarme y la Libertad, Madrid

Rocío Nieto Rubio
Asociación para la Prevención, Reinserción y Atención de la Mujer Prostituida, Madrid

Sara Lucía Díaz Martín
Vocal, Federación Mujeres Jovenes, Madrid

Consuelo Abril González
Presidenta, Comisión para la Investigación de Malos Tratos a la Mujer, Madrid

Milagro Rodríguez Marin
Delegada, Sevilla

María Francisca Fernández Reyero
Asociación Española de Mujeres Separadas y Divorciadas "Carmen García Castellón", Madrid

Ana María García Fernández
Abogada, Madrid

Esperanza Rodríguez Saavedra
Abogada, Madrid

María Teresa González Galiana
Médicos del Mundo, Madrid

Others/Autres

Ms Maria Bustelo
Associate Professor, MAGEEQ and QUING research projects, Political Science and Public Administration, Complutense University at Madrid, Pozuelo de Alarcón, Madrid

Ms Mireia Espiau
Responsible for Gender Equality, EUDEL, Association of Basque Municipalities, Bilbao

Ms Emanuela Lombarda
Director, Department of Political Science and Administration, Faculty of Political Science and Sociology, European Projects MAGEEQ and QUING, Pozuelo de Alarcón, Madrid

Ms Silvia López
Researcher, Department of Political Science, Complutense University at Madrid, Madrid

Ms Reyes Selvi
Director, Foundation of the Community of Valencia against Domestic Violence, Valencia

Mr Jesús Solá Sevilla
President of the Liedra Network Association, President of the Aragonese Association of Local Authorities (ASAEL), Mayor of Herrera, Councilman of Daroca Region, Presidency, ASAEL, Zaragoza

Adela Prat
Responsable del departamento de difusión, Difusión medio rural, Asociación Liedra, Zaragoza

Mercedes López
Directora del Gabinete del Director del Gabinete de la Presidencia del Gobierno, Madrid

María Luisa Revilla Blanco
Vocal Asesora del Gabinete de la Presidencia del Gobierno, Madrid

Isabel Martínez Lozano
Vocal Asesora del Gabinete de la Vicepresidenta del Gobierno, Madrid

Juan López
Subdirector General de Ordenación Académica

Balbina Del Carmen Cortijo Cadenas
Asesora Técnica docente en la Secretaría General de Ordenación Académica

Juan Antonio Redondo Parral
Subdirector General de Coordinación, Administración Periférica

Paloma Marín
Letrada del Consejo General del Poder Judicial

Anabel Vargas
Fiscal Adjunta del Tribunal Supremo

Maribel Montaña Requena
Responsable de la Secretaría Federal de Igualdad del PSOE

Rosalina Curras Novas

Montserrat Santos Velasco

Reyes Navarro Ribera
Concejal de Asuntos Sociales, Salud y Consumo, Mujer y Festejos, Ayuntamiento de Villalbilla, Madrid

Isabel Antunez Nieto
Diputada provincial de Badajoz, Grupo Socialista, Diputación de Badajoz, Badajoz

Carmen Hermosín Bono
Diputada por Sevilla, Grupo parlamentario Socialista, Congreso de los Diputados, Madrid

Sandra Figaredo Gutiérrez
Asistente de Carmen Hermosín, Madrid

Pilar Requena Marco
Técnico de Programas, Comisión de la Mujer (Federación COAMIFICOA), Madrid

Susana Martín Polo
Gerente, ASPAYM, Madrid

María Teresa Gallego Ergueta
Responsable Área de la Mujer, Madrid

Dolores Carrion
Subsecretaria, Ministerio de Administraciones Públicas, Madrid

Pilar Ramiro Collar

Concha Hernández

María Fernanda Bolaño

Luís Martín

María Florentina Alarcón Hita

Penélope Poblete Pérez

Luisa López
Advertising Agency Gisbert

Isabel Abella

Claudia Monzo

Juana María Santana Hernández

**Sign language interpreters/
Interprètes en langue des signes**

Natalia Iglesias Santabarbara
Spain

Natividad Moreno Santana
Spain

Ana Rioz Mateos
Spain

Secretariat of the Council of Europe/Secrétariat du Conseil de l'Europe

Secretary General of the Council of Europe/Secrétaire Général du Conseil de l'Europe

Mr Terry Davis

Private Office of the Secretary General/Cabinet du Secrétaire Général

Mr Gianluca Esposito
Advisor/Conseiller

Protocol/Protocole

Mr Muammer Topaloğlu
Director of Protocol

M^{me} Isabelle Flecksteiner
Assistante au Directeur du Protocole

**Parliamentary Assembly/
Assemblée parlementaire**

Mr Mateo Sorinas
Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly/Secrétaire Général de l'Assemblée Parlementaire

Ms Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele
Deputy-Head of the Private Office of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly/Chef Adjoint du Cabinet du Président de l'Assemblée Parlementaire

Mr Francesc Ferrer
Administrative Officer, Communication Unit/Administrateur, Unité de Communication

Ms Tanja Kleinsorge
Head of the Secretariat of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men/Chef du Secrétariat de la Commission sur l'égalité des chances pour les femmes et les hommes

Ms Sylvie Affholder
Deputy Secretary to the Committee/Secrétaire adjointe de la commission

Mr Lamine Diallo
Deputy Secretary to the Committee/Secrétaire adjoint de la commission

Ms Jannick Devaux
Deputy Secretary to the Committee/Secrétaire adjointe de la commission

Ms Anne Muller
Administrative assistant to the Committee/Assistante administrative de la commission

Ms Beejul Tanna
Administrative Assistant to the Committee/Assistante administrative de la commission

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe/Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe

Ms Dolores Ríos
Secretary of the Committee on Social Cohesion

Directorate General of Human Rights/Direction générale des droits de l'homme

M. Philippe Boillat
Director General of Human Rights/Directeur général des droits de l'homme

Ms Marta Requena
Head of the Equality Division/Chef de la Division Égalité

Ms Renate Zikmund
Principal Administrator, Equality Division/Administratrice principale, Division Égalité

Ms Johanna Nelles
Administrator, Equality Division/Administratrice, Division Égalité

Ms Taina Riski
Advisor, Equality Division/Conseillère, Division Égalité

Mme Yvette Schiller
Administrative Assistant, Equality Division/Assistante administrative, Division Égalité

Ms Louise Everts
Administrative Assistant, Equality Division/Assistante administrative, Division Égalité

Ms Sandra Doña
Study visitor/Visiteuse d'études, Equality Division/Division Égalité

Commissioner of Human Rights Office/Bureau du Commissaire aux Droits de l'Homme

Mr Manuel Lezertua
Director of the Office/Directeur du Bureau

**Directorate of Communication/
Direction de la Communication**

Ms Seda Pumpyanskaya
Director of Communication/Directrice de la Communication

Ms Louise Ansari
Deputy Director of Communication/Directrice adjointe de la Communication

Ms Cathie Burton
Press Officer/Attachée de Presse

Mr Pierre Kaerle
Cameraman

Mr Sandro Weltin
Photographer/Photographe

Interpreters/Interprètes

Ms Sally Bailey-Ravet
Head of the Team of Interpreters/Chef d'équipe d'interprètes, Interpretation Department of the Council of Europe/Service de l'Interprétation du Conseil de l'Europe

Ms Fausta Libardi
Madrid, Spain

Mr Massimo Campagnola
Paris, France

Mr Paul Belopolsky
Paris, France

Ms Jolyn Jeelof-Wuhrmann
Madrid, Spain

Mr Vladislav Glasunov
Paris, France

Ms Astrid Borg
Sceaux, France

Ms Ariane Corbin-Favier
Paris, France

Ms Catherine Hess-Rothey
Paris, France

Ms Maria Sánchez Puig
Madrid, Spain

Ms Grita Loeb sack de Sáenz
Madrid, Spain

Ms Elsa Yndurain
Madrid, Spain

Ms Elena Cisneros Cristóbal
Madrid, Spain

**BLUEPRINT
OF THE COUNCIL
OF EUROPE CAMPAIGN**

Blueprint of the Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence

prepared by the Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including domestic violence (EG-TFV) and adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 June 2006

Outline of the Campaign

I. Introduction

Violence against women is the result of an imbalance of power between women and men, leading to serious discrimination against women, both within society and the family. Violence in the family or domestic unit occurs in every Council of Europe member state despite positive developments in law, policies and practices. Violence against women is a violation of human rights, the very nature of which deprives women of their ability to enjoy fundamental freedoms. It often leaves women vulnerable to further abuse and is a major obstacle to overcoming inequality between women and men in society. Violence against women is a detriment to peace, security and democracy in Europe.

States have a responsibility to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all their citizens. Therefore, states must ensure that they have taken all reasonable measures to prevent, investigate and punish all forms of violence against women, including in the family and domestic unit. Violence against women is a complex issue, particularly when it occurs within the home, which can be compounded by the response of authorities to whom women turn for help.

While the specific approaches of governments to violence against women will vary depending on particular country situations, all require a multifaceted response. This needs to address both the root causes of violence and its consequences, as well as challenge attitudes and behaviours and extend to legal, policy and practical measures.

A recent Stocktaking Study prepared by the Council of Europe¹ pointed out that not all member states provide adequate resources for victims of violence, collect national data on the number of cases of violence occurring in the family or domestic unit that come to the attention of the police and/or health services and track neither referral nor judicial outcomes in a systematic process. Thus, there is no baseline from which the effectiveness of legal and other measures for combating violence against women can be measured.

To this end, member states of the Council of Europe are urged to prioritise preventing and combating violence against women, including violence in the family or domestic unit and are encouraged to become actively involved in implementing this Council of Europe Campaign that calls for strong commitment at the national level.

II. Definition

In accordance with the definition contained in the appendix to *Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of women against violence*, the term “violence against women” is to be understood as any act of gender-based violence, which results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. This includes:

1. Stocktaking Study on the measures and actions taken in the Council of Europe member states to combat violence against women, 2006.

“violence occurring in the family or domestic unit”, including, *inter alia*, physical and mental aggression, emotional and psychological abuse, rape and sexual abuse, incest, rape between spouses, regular or occasional partners and cohabitants, crimes committed in the name of honour, female genital and sexual mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, such as forced marriages.

This definition is used for the purpose of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*.

III. Main theme

Bearing in mind the Action Plan adopted during the 3rd Summit of the Council of Europe and Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 of the Committee of Ministers, the theme of the Campaign will be: *Prevent and combat violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit (domestic violence)*.

IV. Aims of the Campaign

The aims of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* are:

- ▶ to raise awareness across the Council of Europe member states that violence against women is a human rights violation and encourage every citizen to challenge it;
- ▶ to urge states to demonstrate political will by providing adequate resources to deliver concrete results in ending violence against women;
- ▶ to promote the implementation of effective measures for preventing and combating violence against women, through legislation and national action plans for the implementation of Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 of the Committee of Ministers and to regularly monitor the progress achieved;

V. Objectives

Protection of women against violence in the family or domestic unit should be placed at the highest political level in all Council of Europe member states, and should conse-

quently be allocated the necessary financial resources. All member states should be committed to preventing this type of violence, to protect its victims and provide adequate services, legal redress and compensation as well as to prosecute, punish and provide treatment to the perpetrators. In addition, member states should raise awareness of this problem with all available means, in particular through the media and educational curricula.

Patriarchal culture is an important force in legitimising power inequalities between women and men. It is therefore essential that member states address discriminatory traditions and attitudes as well as gender stereotypes as root causes of violence against women.

Low income, unemployment and poverty are major risk factors for violence against women in the family or domestic unit. Therefore, states should take effective measures to promote economic independence of women.

Member states should commit themselves to elaborate and implement concrete and effective measures for preventing and combating violence against women as contained in Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 through legislation and national plans of action and, at the end of this Campaign, to report on progress achieved.

All measures contained in this Recommendation are equally important and should be fully implemented. Recognising the different stages of member states in implementing this Recommendation, member states are urged to make significant progress during the Campaign in the following areas:

a. Legal and policy measures

- ▶ review and amend, where necessary, national legislation in order to identify and fill gaps in the protection of women from all forms of violence occurring in the family or domestic unit, repeal laws that discriminate against women and criminalise any act of such violence against women including rape between spouses;

- ▶ establish effective legal protection, including protection orders, for all women victims of violence, and regularly monitor and evaluate its effective implementation;
- ▶ ensure that immigration laws and administrative procedures do not prevent women from leaving violent relationships due to fear of deportation, loss of legal status or revoked custody over the children;
- ▶ identify and put in place measures to increase the rate of reporting, prosecution and sanctions of perpetrators of violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit;
- ▶ provide victims with legal aid, psycho-social support and guarantee protection for witnesses;
- ▶ develop risk assessment and safety planning as standard procedure in crime prevention to prevent violence against women, and ensure special attention is given to high risk victims who face repeated incidents of violence.

b. Support and protection for victims

- ▶ provide the necessary resources for free 24-hour helplines staffed by adequately trained personnel and other emergency services for all women victims of violence;
- ▶ provide adequate support and advocacy services, that meet quality standards, to all victims of violence and empower women and ensure that services are accessible to all women, including socially excluded women and recent migrants, refugees, women from ethnic minority groups and those with disabilities;
- ▶ provide resources for an adequate number of safe shelters for women victims of violence who have to flee from violence (one place in a women's shelter per 7 500 inhabitants) as well as for women's advocacy services and crisis centres in all regions of the country and provide these services with the necessary human and financial resources;
- ▶ develop a co-ordinated, well-resourced multidisciplinary specialist sector to increase capacity building across core national and

local agencies such as health, justice, social welfare and education, in order to provide women victims of violence with immediate, comprehensive and coordinated support;

- ▶ organise integrated training on the continuum of violence against women for professionals who deal with women victims of violence occurring in the family or domestic unit (e.g. police, medical professionals, judicial officials, etc.);
- ▶ include the issue of violence against women as a violation of women's human rights and a public health issue in the education curricula of all studies and training for judicial and security personnel, health care professionals, social workers, teachers and others;
- ▶ encourage at all levels the work of NGOs involved in combating violence against women, and establish active co-operation with these NGOs, including appropriate logistic and financial support;
- ▶ provide financial support, housing, independent rights to residence as well as training and employment to women victims of violence to enable them to freely decide whether or not to leave their violent partner;
- ▶ encourage the establishment of nationally co-ordinated and locally based programmes for perpetrators. These programmes must have at their core the need for women's safety and be organised in close co-operation with services for women victims.

c. Data collection

- ▶ ensure the systematic collection of statistical data disaggregated by sex, by type of violence as well as by the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim in all fields. This collection should be carried out by national statistics offices or other bodies (e.g. national observatories on domestic violence);
- ▶ develop and use a methodology that allows for gender analysis and comparison with other member states of the Council of Europe;
- ▶ collect and disseminate good practices for preventing violence occur-

ring in the family or domestic unit, protecting its victims and prosecuting the perpetrators at national, regional and local level.

d. Awareness-raising

- ▶ publicly denounce violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit as a violation of women's human rights and commit to taking action against it at the highest political level;
- ▶ raise awareness on violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit using all available means, in particular through the media and educational curricula to challenge prevailing gender stereotypes, and discriminatory cultural norms and public opinion about its acceptability;
- ▶ encourage national and community leaders and opinion formers to publicly acknowledge the gravity of violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit, to condemn its perpetration and the use of custom, tradition or religion to excuse it;
- ▶ translate, if they have not done so, into their national language(s) and disseminate Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 and its Explanatory Memorandum;
- ▶ support specific awareness raising initiatives aimed at men in order to mobilise them to take an active part in eliminating all forms of violence against women, including violence in the family or domestic unit.

VI. Messages

Combating domestic violence calls for joint public action

Violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit (domestic violence) continues to be a serious problem that extends to all Council of Europe member states, regardless of culture, religion, times of peace, conflict or disaster. It takes on many forms and is too frequently tolerated. Therefore, urgent action is required by governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities and international governmental organisations as well as civil society to stop violence against

women occurring in the family or domestic unit.

Domestic violence is a human rights violation

Violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit should not be regarded as a private matter. Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Therefore, states have the responsibility to act with due diligence to prevent this type of violence, to protect its victims, to award them compensation and to prosecute and punish the perpetrators. Consequently, states have an obligation to take all reasonable measures to ensure that women are not exposed to violence and provide protection for those at risk as well as redress for victims. Culture, custom, family or religion should never be used as an excuse for turning a blind eye to human rights violations against women in the home.

Domestic violence seriously injures women and damages the whole of society, including future generations

Many women in many countries die as a result of violence occurring in the family or domestic unit. Furthermore, the physical and psychological health of the surviving victims is seriously affected. This type of violence also has serious consequences for the families as well as society as a whole and is often perpetuated from one generation to another. Violence against women, over and above the personal and social consequences, has a high economic cost (medical care, psychological treatment, absenteeism, less productivity at work etc.). Ending violence against women in the family or domestic unit is the responsibility of everyone. Being silent means complicity.

Domestic violence calls for men's active participation to combat violence against women

During this campaign, active participation of men in activities aimed at combating violence against women should be encouraged. Men have the responsibility to stand up and challenge violence occurring in the family or domestic unit. To this end, they

have an important role to play and can bridge the gap to other men as well as encourage them to speak out against such violence.

VII. Target groups

The Council of Europe will work with a variety of partners and target groups to deliver the *Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*. These include:

- ▶ Heads of State
- ▶ Heads of Government
- ▶ Ministers of national governments
- ▶ Presidents of parliaments
- ▶ Members of parliament
- ▶ Members of regional and local authorities
- ▶ International intergovernmental organisations
- ▶ International and regional women's and human rights non-governmental organisations
- ▶ National opinion formers
- ▶ Local community leaders
- ▶ Regional and national business leaders
- ▶ Law-enforcement officials
- ▶ Members of the judiciary

- ▶ Social and health-care workers and state-run social services organisations
- ▶ National women's NGOs providing support services to women
- ▶ Education professionals and groups
- ▶ Trade unions
- ▶ All women
- ▶ Women victims and survivors
- ▶ Men as agents of change
- ▶ Youth audience
- ▶ Youth workers

VIII. Slogan

The slogan of the Council of Europe Campaign is "Stop domestic violence against women".

IX. Duration

Preparations for the Council of Europe Campaign began at the beginning of 2006. A high-level conference to launch the Campaign, with participants from governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities, international intergovernmental organisations and NGOs was organised in the Spanish Senate in Madrid,

Spain, in November 2006 (around International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November and marking the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence). The Campaign will end in the first half of 2008.

X. Division of responsibilities

The implementation of the Campaign is carried out involving the Committee of Ministers through the Directorate General of Human Rights – DG II (Equality Division) for the intergovernmental dimension of the Campaign, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for the parliamentary dimension and the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe for the local and regional dimension. Furthermore, this Campaign is carried out in partnership with governments and parliaments of the member states, international intergovernmental organisations as well as NGOs involved in the protection of women against violence.

Action to be carried out in the framework of the Council of Europe Campaign

The Council of Europe Campaign includes two implementation levels through which the Campaign is carried out. The first level includes activities directly carried out by the Council of Europe, reflecting its intergovernmental, parliamentary and local and regional dimensions. The second level consists of national campaigns and national activities carried out by the member states of the Council of Europe at national, local and regional level.

I. Council of Europe activities

a. A launching conference

A high-level conference to launch the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* with participants from governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities, international intergovernmental organisations and NGOs was organised

on 27 November 2006 in the Spanish Senate in Madrid, Spain.

The Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence had recommended that the launching conference of the Council of Europe Campaign be organised at the highest political level and with wide participation of NGOs working in this field.

b. Media and campaign activities

The launching Conference of the Campaign was given wide media coverage throughout Council of Europe member states.

c. Regional seminars

Five high-level seminars will be organised in the requesting Council of Europe member states highlighting the different objectives of the Campaign. Member states are encouraged to undertake this activity.

d. Activities to be carried out by the Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) and Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will implement the parliamentary dimension of the Campaign. Similarly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities will implement the local and regional dimension of the Campaign.

e. Setting up a special Campaign website

A special Web site devoted to the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* was created at <http://www.coe.int/stopviolence/>, providing detailed information on the campaign and its activities. The Web site also provides information on national activities and campaigns and provides a link to national campaign websites. In addition, it serves as an interactive forum for

exchanging information and good practices.

f. Dissemination of Campaign material for member states and Council of Europe Information and Field offices

- ▶ Campaign material was distributed to participants at the Council of Europe's launching Conference and will be further distributed to participants at regional seminars as well as to the Council of Europe's Information and Field Offices.
- ▶ Campaign material will be distributed to NGOs and the general public by the Council of Europe Secretariat.

II. Activities organised by the member states

a. Setting up Focal Points

Each member state will appoint a high-level official and a focal point for the purpose of the Council of Europe Campaign as well as for national campaigns. The high-level official will champion the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, with the support of a Focal Point. Focal Points should be supported by a national Task Force on violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit which should include women's NGOs and others working to combat violence against women. The role of the national Task Force is to support the delivery of member states' national campaigns to combat violence against women, including violence in the family or domestic unit.

It should be advisable that this Focal Point appointed by national authorities would be a person holding responsibilities at national level in the field of combating violence against women. National Focal Points will contribute to the Council of Europe Campaign by providing information and making available national good practices to combat violence against women which will be published on the Council of Europe website. The

Council of Europe will encourage member states with experience and expertise in legislative, policy and other measures to share their knowledge with other member states to support the national campaigns.

Focal Points are encouraged to disseminate campaign material as widely as possible for all requesting actors at national level, in particular social and health care workers, the police, the judiciary, policy makers and NGOs working to combat violence against women.

Each member state will inform the Council of Europe Secretariat about the appointment of a national Focal Point. Subsequently, information concerning all 46 national Focal Points will be published on the Council of Europe's Web site.

b. Campaign Action Plans

National Task Forces are encouraged to develop their own National Campaign Action Plan based on the Blueprint. The following steps should be included:

- ▶ Analysis of the country situation to identify success and gaps in combating violence against women.
- ▶ Collection and/or organisation of existing data to develop a baseline national information sheet.
- ▶ Define concrete activities based on the objectives in the Blueprint to fill the gaps.
- ▶ Earmark appropriate resources, identify time-frame, etc.
- ▶ Campaign Action Plans should be shared with the Council of Europe for information and exchange.

Member states are invited to submit to the Council of Europe Secretariat an interim report by 2 July 2007 and a final report on activities and concrete results of their national campaigns in 2008 for consideration by the Task Force. In accordance with its mandate, the Task Force will evaluate progress at national level and establish instruments for quantifying developments at pan-European level with a view to drawing up proposals for action.

c. Key Opportunities for Campaigning

- ▶ Date: 8 March. Significance: International Women's Day

International Women's Day is a key opportunity to organise public events and carry out media work in partnership with women's organisations in the field of violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit. All member states participating in the Council of Europe Campaign are invited to prioritise this type of violence as their theme for International Women's Day 2007 and 2008 and to promote the messages of the Campaign.

- ▶ Date: 15 May. Significance: International Day of the Family

International Day of the Family provides an important opportunity to highlight violence against women in the family or domestic unit. Member states are invited to organise public campaigning and media activities to speak out against such violence.

- ▶ Date: 25 November-10 December. Significance: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and the 16 Days of Activism campaign provide an opportunity for media action and campaigning. Member states participating in the Council of Europe campaign are invited to speak out publicly on violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit and join women's non-governmental organisations and others at the national level that are participating in the 16 Days of Activism to campaign together on ending violence against women.

Member states are also invited to use key national dates to publicly highlight the Campaign and to issue joint statements during Committee of Ministers' meetings over the course of the Campaign.

Campaign material

Printed material produced

- ▶ posters
- ▶ factsheets
- ▶ bookmarks
- ▶ folders
- ▶ booklets
- ▶ stickers
- ▶ calendars

Audiovisual material to be produced subject to the availability of funds

- ▶ television and radio spots
- ▶ public service announcements
- ▶ video packages
- ▶ photographic exhibition
- ▶ video

- ▶ web animation
- ▶ web viral

The Campaign material produced is available at the Council of Europe website devoted to the Campaign at <http://www.coe.int/stopviolence/>.

Timetable

Year 2006

- ▶ The blueprint for the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* was finalised by the Task Force during its second meeting on 25-27 April and adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 June.
- ▶ The Launching conference took place in the Spanish Senate in Madrid, Spain, on 27 November.
- ▶ A special Council of Europe website devoted to the Campaign was set up at <http://www.coe.int/stopviolence/>.

- ▶ Council of Europe member states have been requested to appoint high-level officials and national focal points and to launch national campaigns as far as possible in 2006.

- ▶ Interim national reports on Campaign activities will be submitted to the Task Force for consideration.

Year 2007

- ▶ Regional seminars will be organised in the Council of Europe member states.
- ▶ National campaigns will continue to be carried out and launched by those member states which have not yet done so.

Year 2008

- ▶ Closing conference of the Campaign will be organised.
- ▶ Final national reports on Campaign activities will be submitted to the Task Force for consideration.
- ▶ Final activity report of the Task Force (including evaluation of the Council of Europe Campaign) will be adopted. ★

Programme de la Campagne pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique

préparé par la Task Force pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique (EG-TFV) et adopté par le Comité des Ministres le 21 juin 2006

Cadre général de la campagne

I. Introduction

La violence à l'égard des femmes découle de rapports de forces inégaux entre femmes et hommes et aboutit à une grave discrimination envers le sexe féminin tant au sein de la société que de la famille. La violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer existe dans tous les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe, malgré les progrès intervenus en droit ainsi que dans les politiques et les pratiques. La violence à l'égard des femmes est une violation des droits de la personne humaine, dont la nature même prive les femmes de leur capacité de jouir des libertés fondamentales. Elle rend souvent les femmes plus vulnérables à de nouveaux sévices et fait sérieusement obstacle à la possibilité de surmonter les inégalités entre les hommes et les femmes dans la société. La violence à l'égard des femmes porte préjudice à la paix, à la sécurité et à la démocratie en Europe.

Il incombe aux États de respecter, de protéger et de réaliser les droits de la personne humaine de tous leurs citoyens. En conséquence, les États doivent veiller à prendre toutes les mesures raisonnables visant à prévenir, instruire et sanctionner toutes les formes de violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris au sein de la famille et du foyer. La violence à l'encontre des femmes, notamment lorsqu'elle s'exerce au sein du foyer, est un problème complexe, qui peut encore être aggravé par la réaction des autorités auxquelles les femmes demandent de l'aide.

Chaque gouvernement a une approche spécifique de la violence à l'égard des femmes en fonction de la

situation particulière de son pays, mais toutes les approches doivent comporter plusieurs aspects : il faut s'attaquer à la fois aux causes profondes de la violence et à ses conséquences, essayer de faire évoluer les mentalités et les comportements et prendre des mesures juridiques, politiques et pratiques.

Un bilan dressé récemment par le Conseil de l'Europe² montre que les États membres ne fournissent pas tous des ressources suffisantes pour les victimes de violences, ne recueillent pas tous des données nationales sur le nombre de cas de violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer signalés à la police et/ou aux services de santé et ne recherchent pas tous de façon systématique les résultats des renvois devant les tribunaux ni les décisions judiciaires rendues. L'on ne dispose donc pas d'une base de départ à partir de laquelle il serait possible de mesurer l'efficacité des mesures juridiques et autres prises pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes.

Les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe sont appelés à donner la priorité à la prévention et à la lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer, et sont encouragés à participer activement à la mise en œuvre de la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe qui demande un engagement fort au niveau national.

II. Définition

Conformément à la définition figurant dans l'annexe à la *Recommandation Rec (2002) 5 du Comité des Ministres aux États membres sur la*

2. Étude du bilan des mesures et actions prises pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes dans les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe, 2006.

protection des femmes contre la violence, le terme de « violence envers les femmes » désigne tout acte de violence fondé sur l'appartenance sexuelle qui entraîne ou est susceptible d'entraîner pour les femmes qui en sont la cible des dommages ou souffrances de nature physique, sexuelle ou psychologique, y compris la menace de se livrer à de tels actes, la contrainte, la privation arbitraire de liberté, que ce soit dans la vie publique ou dans la vie privée.

Cette définition s'applique, notamment, à :

« la violence perpétrée au sein de la famille ou du foyer », et notamment les agressions de nature physique ou psychique, les abus de nature émotive et psychologique, le viol et l'abus sexuel, l'inceste, le viol entre époux, partenaires habituels, partenaires occasionnels ou cohabitants, les crimes commis au nom de l'honneur, la mutilation d'organes génitaux ou sexuels féminins, ainsi que les autres pratiques traditionnelles préjudiciables aux femmes, telles que les mariages forcés.

Cette définition est utilisée aux fins de la *Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*.

III. Thème principal

Ayant à l'esprit le Plan d'action adopté lors du 3^e Sommet du Conseil de l'Europe et la Recommandation Rec (2002) 5 du Comité des Ministres, la campagne aura pour thème : *Prévenir et combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer (violence domestique)*.

IV. Buts de la campagne

La *Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*, a pour but de :

- ▶ sensibiliser l'opinion publique dans les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe au fait que la violence à l'égard des femmes est une violation des droits de la personne humaine et encourager tout citoyen à la combattre ;

- ▶ presser les gouvernements à manifester leur volonté politique en offrant les ressources nécessaires pour pouvoir présenter des progrès tangibles vers l'élimination de la violence à l'égard des femmes ;
- ▶ promouvoir l'application de mesures efficaces de prévention et de lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes au moyen de la législation et de plans d'action nationaux pour mettre en œuvre la Recommandation Rec (2002) 5 du Comité des Ministres et évaluer régulièrement les progrès accomplis.

V. Objectifs

La protection des femmes contre la violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer devrait être placée au plus haut niveau politique dans tous les États membres de Conseil de l'Europe et devrait, en conséquence, bénéficier des ressources financières nécessaires. Tous les États membres devraient s'engager à prévenir ce type de violence, à en protéger les victimes, à prévoir des services adaptés, des recours juridiques et des réparations ; ils devraient également s'engager à poursuivre et sanctionner les auteurs de violences et à leur procurer un traitement. Les États devraient en outre sensibiliser le public à ce problème par tous les moyens disponibles, notamment les médias et les programmes d'enseignement.

La culture patriarcale contribue beaucoup à légitimer les inégalités de pouvoirs entre les femmes et les hommes. Il est donc essentiel que les États membres s'attaquent aux traditions et attitudes discriminatoires ainsi qu'aux stéréotypes de genre en tant que causes profondes de la violence à l'égard des femmes.

Un faible revenu, le chômage et la pauvreté sont des facteurs importants de risque de violences à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer. C'est pourquoi les gouvernements devraient prendre des mesures efficaces pour promouvoir l'indépendance économique des femmes.

Les États membres devraient s'engager à préparer et mettre en œuvre des mesures concrètes et efficaces pour prévenir et combattre la violence

à l'égard des femmes, telles que celles contenues dans la Recommandation Rec (2002) 5, au moyen de dispositions législatives et de plans d'action nationaux, et à la fin de la campagne ils devraient rendre compte des résultats obtenus.

Toutes les mesures figurant dans la Recommandation Rec (2002) 5 sont d'égale importance et devraient être pleinement mises en œuvre. Les États membres se trouvent à des stades différents de la mise en œuvre de la Recommandation, mais chacun est vivement encouragé à accomplir, pendant la campagne, des progrès réels dans les domaines suivants :

Mesures juridiques et politiques

- ▶ revoir et modifier, si nécessaire, la législation nationale, pour déceler et combler ses lacunes en matière de protection des femmes contre toutes les formes de violence au sein de la famille et du foyer, abroger les lois discriminatoires à l'égard des femmes et incriminer tout acte de cette violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris le viol entre époux ;
- ▶ mettre en place une protection juridique efficace, incluant notamment des ordonnances de protection pour toutes les femmes victimes de violences, et suivre et évaluer régulièrement sa mise en œuvre effective ;
- ▶ veiller à ce que les lois sur l'immigration et les procédures administratives n'empêchent pas les femmes de mettre fin à une relation violente par crainte d'être expulsées, de perdre leur statut juridique ou de se voir retirer la garde de leurs enfants ;
- ▶ préparer et mettre en œuvre des mesures destinées à faire augmenter la proportion des cas de violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer qui font l'objet d'un signalement, donnent lieu à des poursuites contre l'auteur et aboutissent à sa condamnation ;
- ▶ procurer aux victimes une aide juridique et un soutien psychosocial et garantir la protection des témoins ;
- ▶ développer l'évaluation des risques et l'organisation de la sécurité en

tant que procédure standard de la prévention de la criminalité pour prévenir la violence à l'égard des femmes et garantir qu'une attention particulière est portée aux victimes à haut risque qui sont exposées à des actes de violence répétés.

Soutien et protection des victimes

- ▶ fournir les ressources nécessaires au fonctionnement de lignes téléphoniques d'urgence gratuites et disponibles 24 heures sur 24 avec du personnel spécialement formé ainsi qu'au fonctionnement d'autres services d'urgence pour toutes les femmes victimes de violences ;
- ▶ fournir un soutien approprié et des services de défense des droits des femmes, qui répondent à des normes de qualité et donnent aux femmes la capacité d'agir, et veiller à ce que ces services soient accessibles à toutes les femmes, y compris aux femmes en situation d'exclusion sociale, aux femmes migrantes récemment arrivées, aux femmes réfugiées, aux femmes de minorités ethniques et aux femmes handicapées ;
- ▶ fournir les ressources permettant de disposer d'un nombre suffisant de foyers sûrs pour les femmes victimes de violences qui doivent les fuir (une place en foyer pour 7 500 habitants) ainsi que de services de défense des droits des femmes et de centres de crise dans toutes les régions du pays et doter ces services du personnel et du budget nécessaires ;
- ▶ mettre en place un secteur spécialisé multidisciplinaire coordonné, pourvu des ressources nécessaires, pour créer des moyens renforcés, aux niveaux national et local, dans des services clés tels que la santé, la justice, la protection sociale et l'éducation, afin que les femmes victimes de violences bénéficient d'un soutien immédiat, complet et coordonné ;
- ▶ organiser une formation intégrée sur la gamme complète des violences à l'égard des femmes, à l'intention des professionnels qui s'occupent de femmes victimes de violences au sein de la famille ou du

foyer (par exemple, police, professionnels des soins de santé, services judiciaires, etc.) ;

- ▶ faire figurer la question de la violence à l'égard des femmes en tant que violation des droits de la personne humaine et question de santé publique dans les programmes d'enseignement de toutes les études et formations du personnel judiciaire, des forces de sécurité, des professionnels des soins de santé, des travailleurs sociaux, des enseignants, etc. ;
- ▶ encourager à tous les niveaux l'action des ONG qui luttent contre les violences à l'égard des femmes et instaurer avec ces ONG une coopération active comprenant un soutien financier et logistique approprié ;
- ▶ fournir un soutien financier, un hébergement, un droit de séjour indépendant ainsi qu'une formation et un emploi aux femmes victimes de violences, afin qu'elles puissent décider librement de quitter ou non leur partenaire violent ;
- ▶ encourager la mise en place de programmes pour les auteurs de violences, coordonnés au niveau national et répartis au niveau local. Ces programmes doivent être centrés sur la nécessité de garantir la sécurité des femmes et être organisés en étroite collaboration avec les services d'aide aux femmes victimes.

Collecte de données

- ▶ assurer la collecte systématique de données statistiques ventilées par sexe, type de violence et relation entre l'auteur et la victime dans tous les domaines. Cette collecte devrait être faite par le Bureau national des statistiques ou d'autres organismes (un observatoire national de la violence domestique, par exemple) ;
- ▶ développer et utiliser une méthodologie permettant une analyse de genre et une comparaison avec les autres États membres du Conseil de l'Europe ;
- ▶ collecter et diffuser les bonnes pratiques en matière de prévention de la violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer, de protection des victimes

et de poursuite des auteurs, aux niveaux national, régional et local.

Sensibilisation

- ▶ dénoncer publiquement la violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer en tant que violation des droits humains des femmes et s'engager à la combattre au plus haut niveau politique ;
- ▶ sensibiliser le public à la violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer en utilisant tous les moyens disponibles, notamment les médias et les programmes d'enseignement, afin de renverser les stéréotypes de genre actuellement répandus, les normes culturelles discriminatoires et la tolérance de cette violence par l'opinion publique ;
- ▶ encourager les dirigeants nationaux et locaux et les faiseurs d'opinion à reconnaître publiquement la gravité de la violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer et à condamner sa perpétration ainsi que le recours à la coutume, la tradition ou de la religion pour la justifier ;
- ▶ faire traduire, si ce n'est déjà fait, dans la ou les langues nationales et diffuser la Recommandation Rec (2002) 5 et son exposé des motifs ;
- ▶ soutenir des actions de sensibilisation spécialement destinées aux hommes, afin de les inciter à participer activement à l'élimination de toutes les formes de violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer.

VI. Messages

La lutte contre la violence domestique nécessite une action concertée des pouvoirs publics

La violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer (violence domestique) continue d'être un problème grave qui concerne tous les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe, indépendamment de la culture et de la religion, de la paix, des conflits ou des catastrophes. Elle se manifeste sous de nombreuses formes et est trop souvent tolérée. Les gouvernements,

les parlements, les autorités locales et régionales et les organisations internationales intergouvernementales ainsi que la société civile doivent donc se mobiliser d'urgence pour mettre fin à la violence domestique.

La violence domestique est une violation des droits de la personne humaine

La violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer ne doit pas être considérée comme une affaire privée. Elle porte atteinte à leurs droits de la personne humaine et à leurs libertés fondamentales et les empêche, partiellement ou totalement, de les exercer. Il incombe par conséquent aux États d'agir avec la diligence voulue pour prévenir ce type de violence, protéger les victimes, les indemniser et poursuivre et sanctionner les auteurs. Les États sont donc tenus de prendre toutes les mesures raisonnables pour garantir que les femmes ne sont pas exposées à la violence et assurer la protection de celles qui sont en danger ainsi que l'indemnisation des victimes. La culture, la coutume, la famille et la religion ne doivent jamais servir de prétexte pour fermer les yeux sur les violations des droits humains des femmes à la maison.

La violence domestique blesse gravement les femmes et nuit à la société tout entière, y compris aux générations futures

De nombreuses femmes, dans de nombreux pays, meurent des suites de la violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer. En outre, la santé physique et psychologique des victimes survivantes est gravement compromise. Ce type de violence a aussi des répercussions importantes sur les familles et sur la société dans son ensemble et se perpétue souvent d'une génération à l'autre. La violence à l'égard des femmes, en plus et au-delà des conséquences personnelles et sociales, a également un coût économique élevé (soins médicaux, traitement psychologique, absentéisme, baisse de la productivité au travail, etc.). Mettre fin à

la violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer est l'affaire de tous. Le silence est un acte de complicité.

La violence domestique nécessite la participation active des hommes pour lutter contre la violence à l'égard des femmes

Pendant la campagne, il convient d'encourager la participation active des hommes aux activités destinées à combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes. Les hommes doivent se mobiliser et combattre la violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer. Ils ont un rôle important à jouer dans cette perspective et ils peuvent faire le lien avec d'autres hommes et les encourager à s'élever contre cette violence.

VII. Groupes cibles

Le Conseil de l'Europe mènera sa *Campagne pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*, en collaboration avec divers partenaires et groupes cibles :

- ▶ les chefs d'État,
- ▶ les chefs de gouvernement,
- ▶ les ministres des gouvernements nationaux,
- ▶ les présidents de parlements,
- ▶ les parlementaires,
- ▶ les élus locaux,
- ▶ les organisations internationales intergouvernementales,
- ▶ les organisations non gouvernementales internationales et régionales de femmes et de défense des droits de la personne humaine,
- ▶ les faiseurs d'opinion nationaux,
- ▶ les dirigeants locaux,
- ▶ les chefs d'entreprises régionales et nationales,
- ▶ les membres des forces de l'ordre,
- ▶ le personnel des services judiciaires,
- ▶ les travailleurs sociaux, les professionnels de santé et les organisations de services sociaux gérées par l'État,

- ▶ les ONG nationales de femmes fournissant des services de soutien aux femmes,
- ▶ les professionnels et groupes du secteur de l'éducation,
- ▶ les syndicats,
- ▶ toutes les femmes,
- ▶ les femmes victimes et survivantes,
- ▶ les hommes en tant qu'acteurs du changement,
- ▶ les jeunes,
- ▶ les éducateurs.

VIII. Slogan

Le slogan pour la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe est « Stop à la violence domestique faite aux femmes ».

IX. Durée

La préparation de la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe a commencé au début de l'année 2006. Une conférence de haut niveau a été organisée pour lancer la campagne, avec des participant(e)s des gouvernements, des parlements, des autorités locales et régionales, d'organisations internationales intergouvernementales et d'ONG. Elle s'est tenue au Sénat espagnol de Madrid en novembre 2006. La campagne se terminera à la fin du premier semestre 2008.

X. Partage des responsabilités

La mise en œuvre de la campagne est assurée par le Comité des Ministres, par l'intermédiaire de la Direction générale des droits de l'homme – DG II (Division Égalité), pour la dimension intergouvernementale de la campagne, par l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe pour la dimension parlementaire et par le Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe pour la dimension locale et régionale. Cette campagne est en outre menée en partenariat avec les gouvernements et les parlements des États membres, des organisations internationales intergouvernementales et des ONG œuvrant pour la protection des femmes contre la violence.

Actions à mener dans le cadre de la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe

La Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe comportera deux niveaux de

mise en œuvre qui sont ceux auxquels la campagne sera menée. Le premier

niveau comporte les activités directement menées par le Conseil de l'Eu-

rope, reflétant ses dimensions intergouvernementale, parlementaire ainsi que locale et régionale. Le second niveau consiste en campagnes et activités nationales organisées par les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe aux niveaux national, local et régional.

I. Les activités du Conseil de l'Europe

a. Conférence de lancement

Une conférence de haut niveau a été organisée pour lancer la *Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*, avec des participant(e)s des gouvernements, des parlements, des autorités locales et régionales, d'organisations internationales intergouvernementales et d'ONG. Elle s'est tenue au Sénat espagnol de Madrid en novembre 2006.

La *Task Force pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*, avait recommandé d'organiser la conférence de lancement de la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe au niveau politique le plus élevé et d'y associer largement les ONG travaillant dans ce domaine.

b. Médias et campagnes

La conférence de lancement de la Campagne a bénéficié d'une large couverture médiatique au sein des États membres du Conseil de l'Europe.

c. Séminaires régionaux

Cinq séminaires de haut niveau seront organisés dans les États membres qui en feront la demande pour mettre en lumière les différents objectifs de la campagne. Les États membres sont encouragés à participer à cette activité.

d. Activités à organiser par l'Assemblée parlementaire (APCE) et le Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux

L'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe mettra en œuvre la dimension parlementaire de la campagne. De même, le Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux s'occupera de sa dimension locale et régionale.

e. Création d'un site Web spécialement consacré à la campagne

Un site Web spécialement consacré à la *Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*, a été créé pour donner des informations détaillées sur la campagne et ses activités. Il permet également de se renseigner sur les activités et les campagnes nationales et comporte des liens vers les sites Web des campagnes nationales. De plus, il sert de forum interactif pour échanger des informations et des bonnes pratiques. Ce site peut être consulté à l'adresse <http://www.coe.int/stopviolence/>.

f. Diffusion des documents de la campagne auprès des États membres, des Bureaux d'information et des Bureaux extérieurs du Conseil de l'Europe

Les documents de la campagne ont été distribués aux participants lors de la conférence de lancement et lors des séminaires régionaux ainsi qu'aux Bureaux d'information du Conseil de l'Europe et à ses Bureaux extérieurs.

Les documents de la campagne seront distribués aux ONG et au grand public par le Secrétariat du Conseil de l'Europe.

II. Activités organisées par les États membres

a. Création de points de contact

Chaque État membre désignera un(e) fonctionnaire de haut niveau et un point de contact aux fins de la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe et des campagnes nationales. Le/la haut(e) fonctionnaire se fera le champion de la *Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*, avec l'aide d'un point de contact. Les points de contact devraient être soutenus par une Task Force nationale sur la violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer, qui devrait comporter des ONG de femmes et d'autres ONG engagées dans la lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes. Le rôle de la Task Force nationale est de soutenir la mise en œuvre de la campagne

nationale pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer.

Il est souhaitable que ce point de contact désigné par les autorités nationales soit une personne exerçant des responsabilités au niveau national dans le domaine de la lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes. Les points de contact nationaux apporteront leur concours à la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe en communiquant des informations et en faisant part des bonnes pratiques en vigueur dans leur pays, qui seront publiées sur le site Web du Conseil de l'Europe. Le Conseil de l'Europe encouragera les États membres disposant d'une expérience et de compétences en matière de mesures législatives, politiques et autres à partager leur savoir avec d'autres États membres, qui pourront s'en inspirer dans leurs campagnes nationales.

Les points de contact sont invités à diffuser les documents de la campagne aussi largement que possible au niveau national, auprès de tous les acteurs qui en feront la demande, en particulier auprès des travailleurs sociaux, des professionnels des soins de santé, de la police, des services judiciaires, des responsables politiques et des ONG luttant contre la violence à l'égard des femmes.

Chaque État membre informera le Secrétariat du Conseil de l'Europe de la nomination d'un point de contact national. Par la suite, les informations concernant les 46 points de contact nationaux seront publiées sur le site Web du Conseil de l'Europe.

b. Plan d'action des campagnes

Chaque Task Force nationale est encouragée à élaborer son propre plan d'action pour la campagne nationale en s'inspirant du programme général. Les étapes suivantes devraient être incluses :

- ▶ analyse de la situation nationale pour identifier les succès et les lacunes de la lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes ;
- ▶ collecte des données et/ou organisation des données existantes pour établir une fiche d'information nationale sur la situation de départ ;

- ▶ définition d'activités concrètes, fondées sur les objectifs définis dans le programme général, pour combler les lacunes ;
- ▶ prévision des ressources nécessaires, établissement d'un calendrier, etc. ;
- ▶ communication des plans d'action des campagnes nationales au Conseil de l'Europe pour information et échange.

Les États membres sont invités à soumettre au Secrétariat du Conseil de l'Europe un rapport intérimaire pour le 2 juillet 2007, puis un rapport final sur les activités et les résultats concrets de leur campagne nationale en 2008, pour examen par la Task Force. Conformément à son mandat, la Task Force évaluera les progrès accomplis au niveau national et élaborera des instruments permettant de quantifier les progrès observés au niveau paneuropéen en vue de formuler des propositions d'action.

c. Dates clés pour faire campagne

- ▶ Date : 8 mars. Signification : Journée internationale de la femme

La Journée internationale de la femme est une excellente occasion d'organiser des manifestations publiques et de collaborer avec les médias, en partenariat avec les organisations de femmes, sur le thème de la violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille et du foyer. Tous les États membres participant à la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe sont invités à donner la priorité à ce type de violence comme thème de la Journée internationale de la femme en 2007 et 2008 et à promouvoir les messages de la campagne.

- ▶ Date : 15 mai. Signification : Journée internationale de la famille

La Journée internationale de la famille est une bonne occasion pour appeler l'attention sur la violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer. Les États membres sont invités à organiser des campagnes publiques et des activités médiatiques pour s'élever contre cette violence.

- ▶ Dates : 25 novembre-10 décembre. Signification : Journée internationale pour l'élimination de la violence

à l'égard des femmes et 16 Jours d'activisme contre la violence faite aux femmes

La Journée internationale pour l'élimination de la violence à l'égard des femmes et les 16 Jours d'activisme contre la violence faite aux femmes sont aussi de bonnes occasions pour des actions médiatiques et des campagnes. Les États membres participant à la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe sont invités à s'élever publiquement contre les violences à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer et à s'associer aux organisations non gouvernementales de femmes et aux autres ONG nationales engagées dans les 16 Jours d'activisme, afin de faire campagne ensemble pour l'élimination de la violence à l'égard des femmes.

Les États membres sont également invités à utiliser les dates clés nationales pour mettre en lumière la Campagne et à faire des déclarations communes au cours des réunions du Comité des Ministres tout au long de la Campagne.

Matériel de la campagne

Matériel produit à ce jour

- ▶ affiches
- ▶ fiches d'information
- ▶ marque-pages
- ▶ dossiers
- ▶ brochures
- ▶ autocollants
- ▶ calendriers

Matériel audiovisuel à produire, sous réserve de disponibilité de financement

- ▶ Messages à la radio et à la télévision
- ▶ Communications des pouvoirs publics
- ▶ Kits vidéo
- ▶ Exposition de photos

- ▶ Vidéo
- ▶ Animation Web
- ▶ Auto propagation par le Web (*Web viral*)

Le matériel de la campagne produit à ce jour est disponible sur le site Web du Conseil de l'Europe consacré à la campagne, consultable à l'adresse <http://www.coe.int/stopviolence/>.

Calendrier

Année 2006

- ▶ Le programme général de la *Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*, a été mis au point par la Task Force lors de sa deuxième réunion qui s'est tenue du 25 au 27 avril et a été adopté par le Comité des Ministres le 21 juin.
- ▶ La Conférence de lancement s'est tenue au Sénat espagnol de Madrid le 27 novembre 2006.

- ▶ Un site Web du Conseil de l'Europe spécialement consacré à la campagne a été créé ; il est consultable à l'adresse <http://www.coe.int/stopviolence/>.
- ▶ Il a été demandé aux États membres du Conseil de l'Europe de désigner un(e) fonctionnaire de haut niveau ainsi qu'un point de contact et de lancer des campagnes nationales, dans la mesure du possible dès 2006.

Année 2007

- ▶ Des séminaires régionaux seront organisés dans les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe.
- ▶ Les campagnes nationales se poursuivront ou seront lancées par les États membres qui ne l'auront pas encore fait.
- ▶ Des rapports nationaux intérimaires sur les activités de campagne seront soumis à la Task Force pour examen.

Année 2008

- ▶ Une Conférence de clôture de la campagne sera organisée.
- ▶ Les rapports nationaux finals sur les activités de campagne seront soumis à la Task Force pour examen.
- ▶ Un rapport d'activité final de la Task Force sera adopté (comprenant une évaluation de la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe). ★

**Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking Division
Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs
Council of Europe**

F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

**Division pour l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes
et la lutte contre la traite
Direction générale des Droits de l'Homme et des Affaires Juridiques
Conseil de l'Europe**

F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

www.coe.int/stopviolence