

Highlights of the January 2007 part-session

- ▶ **22 January:** Chris Green, Manager of the White Ribbon Campaign (UK) is meeting parliamentarians in Strasbourg (information stand, 1 p.m.-2 p.m.). Chris Green will meet parliamentarians on the issue of the role of men in combating domestic violence against women and the White Ribbon Campaign in the United Kingdom during the part-session. As a member of the Council of Europe Task Force, he will also participate in an exchange of views with members of the Equality Committee on the same day.
- ▶ **23 January:** Projection of the Swiss documentary "Seules avec nos histoires" in partnership with ARTE (1 p.m., projection room of the Council of Europe – in French and German) followed by an exchange of views at 1.40 p.m. with a representative of ARTE on how medias and MPs can work together to raise awareness on the issue of combating domestic violence.
- ▶ **22-26 January:** PACE information stand on the Assembly action "parliaments united in combating domestic violence" near the hemicycle.

What can you do to support the Campaign?

The Parliamentary Assembly puts at your disposal campaign material to support and implement the parliamentary dimension of the Campaign:

- ▶ Wear the "White Ribbon": At the initiative of its Equality Committee, the Assembly has decided to join the White Ribbon Campaign. You are all invited to wear it.
- ▶ Disseminate the *Handbook for Parliamentarians*: This handbook is a practical tool for parliamentarians. It sets out practical ideas for elected representatives to back the Council of Europe Campaign.
- ▶ Distribute posters, leaflets and all campaign material produced by the Assembly in your parliament and local constituency.
- ▶ Get in touch with the contact parliamentarian in charge of the Campaign in your country. List of appointed contact parliamentarians available on www.coe.int/stopviolence/assembly.

A website for parliamentarians involved in the Council of Europe Campaign

Timetable of activities, list of contact parliamentarians, country fact sheets, exchange of good practice, interviews, Council of Europe reference texts, useful links, etc. – all this information is available on the Parliamentary Assembly website dedicated to the Campaign (www.coe.int/stopviolence/assembly).

Contact

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Council of Europe Campaign "Stop domestic violence against women" (2006-2008)

Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women

PACE Action Newsletter No. 1 – January 2007



The contact parliamentarians appointed by national parliaments are mobilised to contribute to the Campaign to combat domestic violence against women at parliamentary level. The network of parliamentarians first met in Strasbourg on 19 October 2006. To date, 40 contact parliamentarians have been appointed, including by the European Parliament and the Nordic Council.

Successful launching of the Campaign in the Spanish Senate on 27 November 2006



"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", Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) President René van der Linden said in Madrid at the launching of the Council of Europe Campaign to combat domestic violence. The launching conference was a great success with 400 participants and benefited from large media coverage. Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Terry Davis, participated in the launching ceremony among other high ranking personalities.

www.coe.int/stopviolence/assembly

**Stop domestic
violence
against women**

Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Parliaments united to launch the Campaign at national level

25 parliaments across Europe launched the Campaign at national level by organising parliamentary Days of Action in the following countries:

21 November 2006 – Kiev (Ukraine)
23 November 2006 – Brussels (Belgium)
23 November 2006 – Bucharest (Romania)
23 November 2006 – Roma (Italy)
24 November 2006 – Andorra (Andorra)
24 November 2006 – Zagreb (Croatia)
24 November 2006 – Vaduz (Liechtenstein)
24 November 2006 – Oslo (Norway)
24 November 2006 – San Marino (San Marino)
24 November 2006 – Skopje (“The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”)
24 November 2006 – Ljubljana (Slovenia)
24 November 2006 – Sofia (Bulgaria)
25 November 2006 – Paris (France)
27 November 2006 – Madrid (Spain)
28 November 2006 – Ottawa (Canada)
4 December 2006 – Vienna (Austria)
5 December 2006 – Prague (Czech Republic)
7 December 2006 – Lisbon (Portugal)
7 December 2006 – Bratislava (Slovakia)
8 December 2006 – Sofia (Bulgaria)
11 December 2006 – Monaco (Monaco)
13 December 2006 – Stockholm (Sweden)
21 December 2006 – Baku (Azerbaijan)
17 January 2007 – Dublin (Ireland)



Excerpt from the interview with Mr Mendes Bota, contact parliamentarian for Portugal, on the role of men in combating domestic violence (available on the website www.coe.int/stopviolence/assembly)

“Men still have a lot of prejudices about questions relating to women’s emancipation and equal opportunities. The image of the committees and organisations in which practically no one but women are seen really does not assist in breaking down this barrier. There should be more men participating in these organisations so that people stop thinking these subjects can be handled only by women. (...) Men are the protagonists of a paternalistic, male-centred society which perceives women as inferior, submissive beings with secondary status in power relationships. It is important that men appear in the vanguard, precisely in order to tell other men that the path leading to domestic violence is not the right one and constitutes a violation of human rights.”



A new pan-European initiative in support of the Campaign: Day of Parliamentary Hearings

The Parliamentary Assembly’s Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men is proposing a new high-profile initiative by parliaments in conjunction with International Women’s Day.

National parliaments are invited to organise a Day of Parliamentary Hearings, in conjunction with International Women’s Day on 8 March 2007, to say “Stop domestic violence against women”.

These hearings will be the opportunity to bring together all the players involved in combating violence against women and to take stock of national legislation. Parliaments are invited to associate government representatives and local and regional elected officials, professionals working with the victims (police, courts, social and educational services, medical services, etc.) and NGOs involved in defending human rights and protecting women who are victims of domestic violence. These hearings could be organised by Committees on Equal Opportunities, Committees on Human Rights or specialised sub-committees. Films, talks, exhibitions and any other high-profile initiatives members of parliament can imagine could also be organised on this Day of Action.

In March 2007, the parliaments of Europe will be uniting to provide a forum for the victims of domestic violence and those involved in combating it. I call on all our colleagues to join with the contact parliamentarians in contributing to this Pan-European Day of Parliamentary Hearings and, in so doing, break the law of silence.

Minodora Cliveti

Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly on “Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women”

The Nordic Council supports PACE action to combat domestic violence against women

The Nordic Council will devote its meeting of 30 January 2007 to the Council of Europe Campaign, in the presence of Ms Carina Hägg, Chair of the PACE Sub-Committee on Violence Against Women. The Nordic Council and the Baltic Assembly have also decided to carry out joint actions in 2007 to support the parliamentary dimension of the Council of Europe Campaign. (www.norden.org)