

Parliamentary Assembly  
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE    CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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## **PARLIAMENTS UNITED IN COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**Joint meeting of Regional Groups C and F**

**Organised by Ms Quintanilla, Co-ordinator of Regional Group C, with  
the support of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**

**Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg**

**5 October 2007**

## **CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSED FOLLOW-UP**



At the halfway point of the campaign, the contact parliamentarians present in Strasbourg at the joint meeting of groups C and F on 5 October 2007<sup>1</sup> took stock of the activities undertaken in their national parliaments since November 2006<sup>2</sup>.

Aspects needing improvement were discussed. As a result of a consultation procedure with all members of groups C and F [still in progress], new lines of action for the second - and final - phase of the campaign were proposed.

#### **TOOLS REQUIRED FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAMPAIGN:**

- adoption of a law on marital violence;
- allocation of appropriate budgetary resources so as to implement to good effect the measures adopted to combat domestic violence against women;
- follow-up of application of the law and of measures to combat domestic violence, raising awareness among members of national parliaments.

#### **FIELDS FOR FURTHER WORK**

- access to free legal aid for victims;
- introduction of accelerated trial procedures;
- collection of data about the nature of the sentences imposed on perpetrators of violence;
- full protection for victims, including payment of a maintenance allowance to meet their children's needs;
- ensuring that immigrants and women without identity documents are not deported after reporting an incident or making a complaint at a police station or at a women's centre;
- a study of cases of violence in rural areas and within immigrant families, where access to information and to women's centres is limited.

#### **PROPOSED FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT IN ALL MEMBER STATES OF GROUPS C AND F	IMPLEMENTATION DATE	CONTACT PARLIAMENTARIAN (PROPOSED BY)
1. Setting up of a network of male members of each national parliament who are involved in the effort to prevent violence against women	<b>As soon as possible</b>	1. Mr José MENDES BOTA (Portugal) 2. 3.
2. Drafting of a manifesto to be read out during plenary sittings of parliament	<b>April 2008</b>	1. Ms Carmen QUINTANILLA (Spain) 2. 3.
3. Observation of one minute's silence during sittings of parliament in memory of the victims of domestic violence	<b>June 2008</b>	1. Ms Carmen QUINTANILLA (Spain) 2. 3.
4. Organisation of a concert of classical music in memory of the victims	<b>8 March 2008</b>	1. Ms Carmen QUINTANILLA (Spain) 2.

<sup>1</sup> See appendix II.

<sup>2</sup> See appendix I.

		3.
5. Event centring on 25 November, <i>International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women</i> , on the theme of “the involvement of men in the prevention of violence against women” (the MPs involved in the campaign will distribute an information leaflet, stickers and white ribbons at the entrances to their national parliaments)	<b>November/ December 2007</b>	1. Ms Carmen QUINTANILLA (Spain) 2. 3.
6. Event centring on 8 March	<b>March 2008</b>	1. Ms Carmen QUINTANILLA (Spain) 2. 3.
7. Fact-finding visits by Portuguese MPs	<b>As soon as possible</b>	1. Mr José MENDES BOTA (Portugal) 2. 3.
8. Visits to European schools and universities	<b>As soon as possible</b>	1. Mr José MENDES BOTA (Portugal) 2. 3.
<b><u>FURTHER PROPOSALS:</u></b>		

## Appendix I

### Summary of oral contributions

#### **Opening by Ms Carmen Quintanilla, Regional Co-ordinator of Group C**

**Ms Carmen Quintanilla** welcomed participants and thanked the Parliamentary Assembly for organising this regional parliamentary seminar in Strasbourg. She reminded those present of the main aims of these meetings, which were being held as requested by the contact parliamentarians at their second meeting, in June 2007.

#### **Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member states on the protection of women against violence**

**Mr Jan Kleijssen**, Director of Standard-Setting in the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs, congratulated Mr José Mendes Bota on his excellent report and reiterated the main aims of the Recommendation adopted in April 2002, especially in the fields of prevention and victim protection, and the adjustment of the criminal and civil law, including the judicial procedure, in all member states, in order to penalise aggressors.

#### **The seven priority measures to be taken by parliaments**

**Mr José Mendes Bota**, PACE rapporteur on “Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women”, who had written an assessment of the campaign at the halfway stage, emphasised the importance of contact parliamentarians’ role, especially in respect of the adoption and application of new laws. The rapporteur also pointed to the need to set up a network of male members of national parliaments to facilitate effective use of the legislative and budgetary tools.

#### **Making domestic violence against women, including marital rape, a criminal offence**

**Ms Maria Rosa Ferrer Obiols**, contact parliamentarian for Andorra, said that her country’s Criminal Code did not classify domestic violence as a crime in its own right, but that plans were afoot to amend it. She also reported that some thoughts had been expressed about the application of penalties to aggressors, but that statistics were lacking, and a shortage of evidence was another obstacle to obtaining convictions. The Council of Europe campaign had played an important role, enabling much to be done to combat the domestic violence suffered by women in Andorra.

#### **Guaranteeing effective access to the courts and protection measures for victims**

**Ms Gular Ahmadova**, contact parliamentarian for Azerbaijan, reported on the steps taken by her country’s Ministry of the Interior to prevent marital violence and to protect both victims and witnesses, mainly involving data collection and the raising of awareness among members of the police force.

#### **The creation of an adequate number of emergency shelters**

**Ms Gülsün Bilgehan**, contact parliamentarian for Turkey, reported on the progress observed in Turkey since the Council of Europe campaign began. Over 30 victim centres had been set up, and training programmes devised to increase awareness of the principles of equality in the police force and the gendarmerie.

**Mexico's "General Law on women's access to a life without violence"**

**Ms Martha Leticia Sosa Govea**, a member of the Mexican parliament, described the main features of Mexico's General Law, which provided for protective measures in the event that violence occurred within the family or at the workplace. The law provided access to free counselling for both victim and aggressor, and also made it possible to pursue occupational rehabilitation programmes.

**Parliament's monitoring role**

**Ms Carmen Quintanilla**, contact parliamentarian for Spain, described the main aspects of the Order on the protection of victims of domestic violence (2003) and of implementing Law No. 1/2004 on full protective measures against gender-based violence, which made it possible for victims to be better dealt with through accelerated trial procedures and through the provision of financial and psychological support to victims.

## Appendix II

### List of participants

#### GROUP C:

- **Andorra:** Ms Maria Rosa Ferrer Obiols
- **Azerbaijan:** Ms Gular Ahmadova
- **Portugal:** Mr José Mendes Bota
- **San Marino:** Mr Alessandro Rossi
- **Spain:** Ms Carmen Quintanilla
- **Turkey:** Ms Gülsün Bilgehan

*Apologised for absence:*

- **Armenia:** Ms Hranush Hakobyan
- **Cyprus:** Ms Sotiroulla Charalampous
- **Georgia:** Ms Ketevan Makharashvili
- **Greece:** Ms Maria Kollia
- **Italy:** Ms Titti De Simone

#### GROUP F:

- **Mexico:** Ms Martha Leticia Sosa Govea

*Apologised for absence:*

- **Canada:** Ms Lorna Milne
- **Israel:** Mr Gideon Sa'ar

#### OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina delegation**

Mr Vinko Zoric	Chair of the Equality Committee of the Chamber of
	Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ms Mirjana Malic	Member of Parliament and Member of the delegation to PACE
Mr Davorin Semenik	Secretary to the Equality Committee

- **Netherlands delegation**

Ms Corien W.A. Jonker	Member of the delegation to PACE
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***Secretariat of the Council of Europe***

**Mr Jan Kleijssen**, Director of Standard-Setting in the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs

**Johanna Nelles**, Administrator, Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking Division, Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs

***Secretariat of the PACE***

**Mateo Sorinas**, Secretary General

**Sylvie Affholder**, Secretary a.i of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men

**Lamine Diallo**, Deputy Secretary to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men

**Guillaume Parent**, Deputy Secretary to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men

**Juliette Araujo**, Deputy Secretary to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men