



EPP WOMEN RESOLUTION ON COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN POLITICS AND PUBLIC LIFE

- End Violence — Online and Offline. Protect Women, Defend Democracy-

Adopted by EPP WOMEN at the Autumn Academy in Larnaca, Cyprus on 18 October 2025

Preamble

The European People's Party (EPP) Women:

- **Observes with grave concern** the alarming rise of **politically motivated violence against women in European countries**, fueled by polarization, disinformation, misogyny, and authoritarian practices, which undermine both stability and democracy¹;
- **Notes** that women in politics, journalism, and public life are disproportionately targeted by violence, including **physical aggression, threats against their families, psychological harassment, and economic coercion**. Attacks frequently take the form of **sexist humiliation, misogynistic slurs, sexualized abuse, cyber harassment, online and offline bullying, and threats of rape or death**²;
- **Underlines** that women in politics are more exposed to all forms of violence than men, as confirmed by the **Council of Europe/IPU study (2018)** and **PACE Resolution 2480 (2023) on Men and Boys in Preventing Violence Against Women**³;
- **Raises concern** that these practices create a **chilling effect**: women often refrain from expressing opinions or withdraw from public life due to fear of reprisals or online hate campaigns⁴;

¹ [European Parliament, Violence against women active in politics in the EU, 2024; PACE Doc. 16211, 2025](#)

² [Council of Europe/IPU Study on sexism and violence in parliaments, 2018](#)

³ [PACE Res. 2480, 2023](#)

⁴ [OSCE Toolkit on Addressing Violence Against Women in Parliaments, 2022](#)

- **Emphasizes** that the continuation of such attacks risks driving away **women of integrity, competence, and democratic values**, leaving space for women backed by **oligarchic and criminal networks** who do not represent or defend genuine women's rights;
- **Recalling** SDG goal # 5 that achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls is essential for sustainable development⁵;
- **Highlights with alarm** that according to the **EU Agency for Fundamental Rights**, one in three women in Europe has experienced gender-based violence⁶;
- **Expresses deep concern** over the **rise of authoritarian practices**, physical threats, **misogynistic and graphic violence** in several European countries, amongst others Albania⁷ and Georgia⁸, where **women politicians, journalists, and activists face systemic physical attacks, intimidation, harassment, and persecution**, in violation of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR, Articles 3, 5, 6, 8) and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention, CETS No. 210)⁹; *Note: detailed cases in the Annex 1 of the attached report on VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN POLITICS AND PUBLIC LIFE IN EUROPE)*

Calls for Action

EPP Women calls upon the **EPP, the EPP Member Parties and European institutions** to:

1. **Endorse this resolution** and reaffirm that violence against women in politics is a **direct attack on democracy**;
2. **Condemn all forms of violence and intimidation** against women in politics, including when perpetrated or tolerated by state officials, political actors, or criminal groups;
3. **Integrate women's safety in politics as a benchmark** in EU enlargement and international cooperation frameworks, supporting the **European Commission's Roadmap for Women's Rights (2025)**¹⁰ and the **European Democracy Shield**¹¹;

⁵ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>

⁶ European Parliament Briefing, 2024

⁷ ["May 11 election massacre/ Vokshi denounces: Criminals threatened me along with my daughter! - Ditari i Opozitës](#)

⁸ [JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION on media freedom in Georgia, particularly the case of Mzia Amaglobeli | RC-B10-0282/2025/REV1 | European Parliament](#)

⁹ [Council of Europe, Istanbul Convention](#)

¹⁰ [European Commission, 2025](#)

¹¹ [EP Legislative Train, 2025](#)

4. **Adopt zero-tolerance party policies** on political violence against women; set up **internal reporting and monitoring mechanisms**; and create **women's groups** to provide peer support;
5. **Implement the four pillars**—prevention, protection, prosecution, and policy coordination—as set out by the **OSCE Toolkit (2022)**¹²;
6. **Ensure equal representation of women and men** in political lists, leadership, and delegations, with oversight to monitor violence against women in politics;
7. **Advocate for ratification and enforcement of the Istanbul Convention** across all European states¹³, as well as for **the implementation of EU Directive 1385 of 14 May 2024** on combating violence against women and domestic violence¹⁴; take the necessary measures to reduce and eliminate domestic violence, in accordance with the Istanbul Convention and the EU Directive; recognize femicide as the most extreme form of gender-based violence and urge European institutions and national governments to adopt comprehensive strategies for its prevention, investigation, and prosecution, ensuring that no case of femicide remains unpunished;
8. **Organize campaigns with the aim of raising awareness**, e.g. the *16 Days of Activism against Violence* campaign between 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and 10 December, Human Rights Day;
9. **Investigate and prosecute perpetrators**, including state authorities or those linked to organized crime;
10. **Protect women human rights defenders and opposition leaders**, in line with **PACE Resolution 2554 (2024)**¹⁵ and **UN CEDAW General Recommendation 35 (2017)**¹⁶;
11. **Promote awareness, education, and responsible media practices** to counter misogyny, hate speech, and gendered disinformation, as outlined in the **Council of Europe Recommendation on Hate Speech (2022)**¹⁷;
12. Address digital violence and disinformation targeting women in politics by integrating specific measures into EU and national cybersecurity, digital governance, and media literacy strategies, as well as integrating specific measures on regional and local political levels; ensure that online platforms are held accountable for not preventing hate speech, coordinated harassment, and gender-based threats in the digital sphere;

¹² [OSCE, 2022](#)

¹³ [Council of Europe, Istanbul Convention](#)

¹⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/oj/eng>

¹⁵ [PACE Res. 2554](#)

¹⁶ [UN CEDAW](#)

¹⁷ [CoE Recommendation, 2022](#)

13. **Provide adequate funding and protection measures** (legal aid, psychological support, security measures) for women in politics, journalism, and activism facing threats;

Conclusion

Violence against women in politics and public life is not an individual tragedy but a **systemic assault on democracy**.

From **Helsinki to Athens and from Tirana to Tbilisi**, women leaders, alongside women journalists and activists, face **threats, harassment, and intimidation**. These cases confirm a dangerous regional trend, where misogyny, political repression, and criminal collusion converge to erode democracy.

EPP Women calls on all European institutions and political actors to act decisively—through prevention, protection, prosecution, and policy reform—to ensure that women in politics and public life can speak, decide, and lead **free from fear, harassment, and violence**.

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