



Joint Statement by Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) and the feminist Spanish organisations on the proposed EU European Directive on Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence

On behalf of the Women Against Violence in Europe Network (WAVE) and our allied organisations in Spain, ASPACIA and others, we address the Spanish government in its role at the Presidency of the Council of the European Union with an urgent and unified call. At this crucial moment of inter-institutional negotiations between the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the EU, we make a strong call to ensure that the EU Directive to combat gender-based violence in the EU currently under discussion truly reflects the needs of all survivors and victims of violence against women and domestic violence.

This EU Directive is not only a matter of EU public policy, it is an ethical imperative and a necessity to effectively address gender-based violence in the European Union. We demand the Spanish government in its leadership role to give the highest priority to this discussion and to defend a proposal that is profoundly feminist and progressive, which guarantees a gendered approach, human rights, intersectionality and child protection provided for in the international treaties signed by European countries. Furthermore, it is essential to recognise the essential role played by feminist organisations in the prevention, protection and provision of services to victims of gender-based and multicultural violence. Their experience and expertise are invaluable and should be taken into account.

In this context, it is imperative that the negotiating institutions ensure that this Directive does not undermine the rights already acquired by women, does not render migrant women invisible and does not constitute a step backwards in the hard-won gains made to ensure gender equality. The Directive must reaffirm and build on already established international standards, such as the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, also known as the "Istanbul Convention", and other binding international human rights standards.

WAVE and its partner feminist organisations in Spain will continue to closely monitor the inter-institutional negotiations to ensure that women's rights are not marginalised and that the final text of the Directive is in line with the demands of women and girls across the European Union.

It is time for the European Union to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to gender equality and the eradication of violence against women. We call on all institutions and Member States to join us in this joint effort to ensure a safer and more equal future for all women in Europe.

Together, we can make a real and meaningful change in the lives of women and girls across the European Union, and promote more just and equitable societies where the effects of violence are not trivialised.