



WOMEN rainbowrose  
PROMOTING LGBT RIGHTS IN EUROPE

GLOBAL  
PROGRESSIVE  
FORUM

FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN  
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES  
FONDATION EUROPÉENNE  
D'ÉTUDES PROGRESSISTES



YOUNG  
EUROPEAN  
SOCIALISTS

## Step it up for Gender Equality

Youth for Gender Equality Forum 2016

*Brussels, European Parliament, 2 - 4 March 2016*

Gender equality is a fundamental right recognised since the Treaty of Rome in 1957 and the Charter of Fundamental Rights as well as in Article 8 of the TFEU. Despite the fact that the EU has adopted numerous texts to ensure equal opportunities and treatment for men and women and to combat all forms of discrimination based on sex, insufficient progress has been made and many inequalities still persist. Even though the CJEU has clarified that gender equality law also applies to equal treatment for transgender people, this principle is unevenly enforced across the EU. We want an inclusive and equal Europe for everyone. There is still a long way to go.

This is why we call on Youth to Step it up for Gender Equality, because sexual and reproductive health and rights, violence against women, Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Intersex rights, economic independence, the rise of anti-gender and anti-feminist movements are your fight. We wish to pass on the torch to a new generation of citizens actively committed to gender equality.

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### *Wednesday, March 2nd*

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*Individual arrivals in Brussels and check in at the Youth Hostel Brel (do not forget to pick your metro card at check in)*

**14:00** - Accreditation to the European Parliament

**14:30 - 15:30** Breaking the ice with **Izaskun Bernal Cerdeira** (S&D) and **Joana Triana Mazuera** (S&D)

**Joana Triana Mazuera** holds a degree in Political Sciences from the University of Complutense (Spain), a Master's degree in European Politics from Leeds University ( UK ), and a Harvard University certificate on Negotiations in multicultural environments (USA). She has been working as an advisor in the fields of international relations, human rights and development cooperation for more than ten years. Currently she is policy advisor at the European Parliament , where she lead a review of the EU's humanitarian aid policy and the EU's positioning on the first ever World Humanitarian Summit, as well as the Parliaments position on Addressing the Refugee Crisis in Europe: The Role of EU External Action. She provides pro bono advice to

different Foundations and nonprofit organizations on Human Rights, gender mainstreaming and sustainable development. [joana.triana@ep.europarl.eu](mailto:joana.triana@ep.europarl.eu)

**Izaskun Bernal Cerdeira:** Senior Policy Adviser at the European Parliament since 2004. Feminist, activist and strong committed to human rights and social movements. Currently she is President of the Spanish "Carmen Cerdeira Association of Jurists" on women's rights, equality and non-discrimination and "European social inclusion and diversity coordinator" for the Spanish Socialist Party. Most recent publications: policy paper on "*The EU legislation on women: differences by country*" published by the magazine "Tiempo de Paz" in its special edition on "Beijing +20" (12/2015) and "[The invisibility of women refugees](#)" published by the newspaper El Plural.com (10/2015). Mail: [izaskun.bernalcerdeira@ep.europa.eu](mailto:izaskun.bernalcerdeira@ep.europa.eu)

**15:30 -16:30** Interactive discussion: EU Strategy for Gender Equality 2015-2020 - Framing the debate, **Gina Horst**, Assistant to MeP Maria Noichl (S&D) and **Emmanuelle Le Texier** (S&D)

Participants will be split into three subgroups addressing three key questions:

1. How to improve gender equality in my country? Facilitator, **Nina Zivanovic** (YES)
  2. What does and should do the EU for gender equality? Facilitator, **Stefanie Ricken** (S&D)
  3. How do I raise awareness? Facilitator, **Emmanuelle Le Texier** (S&D)
- Collective Wrap up

**Emmanuelle Le Texier** - S&D Political Advisor in Committee for Women's Rights and Gender Equality, holds a PhD. in Political Science (Sciences Po Paris) with a focus on Latino Politics in the US. She was an Assistant Professor at the University of Lille. She joined the S&D Group in 2006. Her areas of expertise include: political science, international trade, foreign affairs and gender equality. [emmanuelle.letexier@ep.europa.eu](mailto:emmanuelle.letexier@ep.europa.eu)

**Stefanie Ricken** - S&D Political Advisor in Committee for Women's Rights and Gender Equality studied European history, Economics and linguistics in Germany, France and Spain; Master of International Politics at ULB Belgium; started her career in 1993 as Assistant to a Member of the European Parliament; worked over 19 years as Researcher and Senior Consultant at EU Office Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, a German political foundation dedicated to Social Democracy, International Dialog and Democracy Promotion; her fields of expertise are Enlargement, Neighbourhood Policy, empowerment of civil society. [stefanie.ricken@ep.europa.eu](mailto:stefanie.ricken@ep.europa.eu)

**Nina Zivanovic.** YES Secretary General - founder and coordinator of first Serbian office for equal opportunities, restless feminists and fighter for minority rights. In 2015 she was elected Secretary General of Young European Socialists which enables her to work actively on inclusion and to promote and strengthen cooperation between different regions in Europe. [nina.zivanovic@youngsocialists.eu](mailto:nina.zivanovic@youngsocialists.eu)

Reference paper:

EP Noichl report "EU Strategy for Gender Equality 2015-2020"

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+REPORT+A8-2015-0163+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

*Short break*

**17:00 - 18:00 Ask S&D Members of the European Parliament**

Selected participants will present the outcome of their discussion and engage with MePs.

In presence of S&D President, Gianni Pittella, and S&D FEMM spokesperson Marie Arena

**18:00 Transfer to the World Café event "All Women, All Rights"**

**Location: Les Ailes des Anges, 1 Rue Montoyer, Bruxelles**

**19:00** Welcome Address by sister parties organisers

**19:05** Opening Speeches: **Zita Gurmai**, President of PES Women

**19:15** Guest Speakers Adresses: "All Women All rights"

with **Mona Eltahawy**, journalist and author of "Headscarves & Hymens: Why the Middle East Needs a Sexual Revolution" (Egypt), **Shahira Amin**, journalist (Egypt) and **Baubô**, Street artist (France); **Sarah Monaghan**, Abortion Rights Campaign

**19:30** - World café sessions and Informal networking

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## ***Thursday, March 3rd***

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**8:30** Accreditation to the European Parliament (entrance: esplanade Simone Weil, place du Luxembourg)

**09:00 - 10:00** International Women's Day: Female refugees and asylum seekers in the EU

FEMM Committee, EP (*Room JAN 2Q2*)

Chair: **Iraxte Garcia Perez**, FEMM Committee Chair

Opening by **Martin Schulz**, President of the European Parliament

Speech by **Mary Robinson**, Former President of Ireland

**10:30 - 11:30** How to lobby?

Experts: European Women's Lobby, Mary Collins and Pierrette Pape

Speaker introduction and Q&A: exchange of best practices

**11:30 - 12:30** How to apply for EU funding for gender equality projects?

Experts: European Commission, Emilie Jarrett and Daniel Albuquerque

Speaker introduction and Q&A: exchange of best practices

**12:30 - 14:00** Buffet lunch/round tables - with MePs and S&D Staff

**14:30 - 17:30** Workshops at PES and FEPS headquarters

All workshops will be a chance to discuss possible challenges and provide recommendations.

Facilitators of each workshop should discuss together their methodology based on three key moments.

Participants can turn to the expert or MeP's assistants for questions

1. Content-based / orientation debate

2. Exchange of best practices

3. How do I raise awareness?

**Participants should nominate a "rapporteur" for the next day collective session.**

## **Group 1 - PES, rue du Trône 98**

**My body, my rights** ==> the right to contraception and abortion, and LGBTI rights

How to support sexual and reproductive health and rights, and LGBTI rights, particularly the right to legal gender recognition for trans people, in a context of conservative backlash.

**Trainer:** Baubô, Street artist (France)

**Facilitator:** Lesia Radelicki, PES Women, Expert: Shahira Amin, journalist (Egypt) ; Irene Donadio, IPPF ; Aurélien Mazuy, Rainbow Rose; Sarah Monaghan, Abortion Rights Campaign

**MeP Assistant:** Delphine Bladel (MeP Marie Arena)

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights -SRHR: cover sexual education, unwanted pregnancies, access to safe abortions, treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and the tackling of sexual violence. Currently four EU member states criminalise abortion, while pre- and post-natal health services are hit due to the crisis. A Barometer of Women's Access to Modern Contraceptive Choice in 16 EU member states also highlights that women's access to modern contraceptives varies significantly. Significantly, very few policies have improved, and alarmingly in most countries, the situation has stagnated, or even worsened, over the past few years. Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Intersex (LGBTI) rights: everyone has equal rights to live their lives how they choose, free from discrimination. The reality is that LGBTI people all over Europe are facing discrimination every day. Laws, procedures and policy practices are important elements that help protect their fundamental rights across Europe. But they have to go hand in hand with the deep-rooted social change required to ensure lasting equality. The discussion will focus on how to support sexual and reproductive health and rights, and LGBTI rights in the context of a conservative backlash. Gender equality in the education system will also be in focus.

**Shahira Amin** is an independent journalist based in Cairo. Long-time contributor to CNNs Inside Africa, she has filed feature stories from Egypt and the North Africa region on child marriages, gender based violence and female genital mutilation among others. Amin has been elected as Board Member of the International Women's Forum for the next 2 years and is also a recipient of the Global Thinkers Forum Excellence in promoting gender equity 2013 award. She is currently mentoring young women journalists as part of the Forums newly launched Mentoring Programme and is also a founding member of Egypt's Women Journalists Union, shortlisted among 6 finalists for the Responsible Leaders 2016 Awards in Berlin.

**Lesia Radelicki** Coordinator on PES Women and Adviser on Gender Equality and Women's Rights issues started at the PES 10 years ago working alongside PES Women President. Apart from advising the party on Gender Equality and Women's Rights issues, she has also dealt with Migration and Integration issues. She has supported several trainings across the MENA and CEE region. As an engaged feminist, she translates her convictions and professional know-how on women's rights and equal opportunities to local level where she ran as a candidate in 2012 and 2014 elections and just got appointed as a board member of the Public Centre for Social Action.

**Objective:** interactive session of the group including one key field expert and a trainer, who will try to come up with a creative way to express a statement on the future of the feminist fights and how to achieve the rights for everyone to make their own decisions concerning their own body and identity.

Reference papers:

IPPF Barometer [http://www.ippfen.org/sites/default/files/Call2Action\\_web\\_v4.pdf](http://www.ippfen.org/sites/default/files/Call2Action_web_v4.pdf)

EP Rodrigues report "Empowering Girls through Education"

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+REPORT+A8-2015-0206+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

FEPS Policy Brief : <http://www.feps-europe.eu/assets/030cb490-b84a-470f-bd01-d1994622b625/soos-eszter-weronika-grzabalska-feps-yan-contribution-1pdf.pdf>

## **Group 2 - PES, rue du Trône 98**

**Gender equality and refugees** ==> violence, refugees' rights and asylum seekers' rights, integration

Facilitator : Cécilia Gondard, GPF

Experts : Izaskun Bernal Cerdeira, S&D

MePs assistant: Catriona Gray, Assistant to MeP MaryHoneyball

**Izaskun Bernal Cerdeira:** Senior Policy Adviser at the European Parliament since 2004. Feminist, activist and strong committed to human rights and social movements. Currently she is President of the Spanish "Carmen Cerdeira Association of Jurists" on women's rights, equality and non-discrimination and "European social inclusion and diversity coordinator" for the Spanish Socialist Party. Most recently publications: policy paper on "*The EU legislation on women: differences by country*" published by the magazine "Tiempo de Paz" in its special edition on "Beijing +20" (12/2015) and "[The invisibility of women refugees](#)" published by the newspaper El Plural.com (10/2015). Mail: [izaskun.bernalcerdeira@ep.europa.eu](mailto:izaskun.bernalcerdeira@ep.europa.eu)

**Cécilia Gondard** has been working at the Global progressive Forum as a political advisor since 2009. Among other things, she coordinated the campaign on the financial transaction tax, organized conferences to support the social democratic forces in the Arab World and ensured political support to the World Social Forum and other international progressive initiatives such as the Progressive Alliance, the Arab Social Democratic Forum and SocDemAsia. Cécilia is also the elected representative of French migrants in Belgium and seats at the French Assembly of the French Abroad. [cecilia.gondard@gmail.com](mailto:cecilia.gondard@gmail.com)

Europe is experiencing one of the most significant influxes of refugees in its history. Pushed by wars and terror and pulled by the promise of a better life, hundreds of thousands of people have fled, risking their lives along the way. The increasing numbers of women who flee are vulnerable at all stages of their journeys; in countries of origin, transit and destination, and gender-based violence is a common feature throughout journeys to and within the EU. Many member states have still not signed and ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ('Istanbul Convention'). The Convention requires parties to interpret Refugee Convention grounds in a gender-sensitive way and to provide gender-sensitive reception conditions, support services and asylum procedures. The Convention requires states parties to interpret Refugee Convention grounds in a gender-sensitive way and to provide gender-sensitive reception conditions, support services and asylum procedures. Integration of refugees in the host society will also be key. This workshop will focus on concrete risks faced by female refugees and find practical recommendations to improve their integration in their new environment, on the eve of the World Humanitarian Summit.

### **Reflection on gender equality and the refugee crisis**

- Introduction by Cécilia Gondard; Situation of Women refugees - Presentation of the report in the European Parliament by Mrs. Honeyball MEP office, Catriona Gray ; Presentation of the GPF missions in Beirut and Turkey by Doriano Dragoni ; Intervention by Izaskun Bernal Cerdeira on the Mediterranean dimension

### **Raising awareness and sending messages to the Humanitarian Summit, the UN and the World Social Forum**

Young participants are invited to take the lead on this discussion and to propose common action, for example on social media, coordination of partners, etc.

- Project "Are you ready to be the next leader?" by Paolo Alberti, Head of communication
- Twitter storm before the Humanitarian Summit

#### Reference papers:

EP Honeyball report "The situation of women refugees and asylum seekers in the EU"

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A8-2016-0024&language=EN>

GPF Declaration adopted in February 2016 in Istanbul

### **Group 3 - FEPS - Rue Montoyer, 40**

**Gender equality, economic rights and austerity policies** ==> youth unemployment, equal pay, poverty.

Facilitator : European Women's Lobby, Mary Collins

Expert : Maciej Sobocinski, FEPS

MePs Assistant : Omri Preiss ( MeP JulieWard)

**Mary Collins** is Senior Policy and Advocacy Coordinator at the European Women's Lobby, where she has been working for a number of years. Her main portfolio covers issues relating to women's economic independence, including the gender pay, pension and poverty gaps, reconciliation of professional and private life, maternity leave, paternity and parental leave, self-employed workers, follow-up of the EU2020 Strategy from a gender perceptive and more recently a feminist economic model . Mary is Irish and has lived in Belgium for many years. [collins@womenlobby.org](mailto:collins@womenlobby.org)

**Maciej Sobocinski** holds a Master's Degree in Sociology from the University of Warwick. He has worked with NGOs and international bodies as a researcher and policy advisor on social and economic policy issues and currently works with the Party of European Socialists in Brussels. He is a member of FEPS Young Academics Network where he has recently co-authored a paper that investigated the impact of post-crisis public policies on gender equality in the EU. [macjek@gmail.com](mailto:macjek@gmail.com)

60% of all university graduates are women. Yet women in the EU earn 16% less than men, so women are effectively working two months a year for no pay. In the long-term, lower salaries result in lower pensions, which can lead to increased risks of poverty. The pension gap between women and men is around 39%. The Directive dealing with the principle of equal pay and equal treatment at work for men and women was adopted in 1975 and regularly updated, but with no changes in the present trend, equal pay will not become a reality before 2084.

The EU 2020 goal is 75% employment rate for all: with a 12% gap, the current employment rate for women is only 63 %. According to the OECD, the number of women taking up informal and unpaid jobs is rising. Austerity measures have been proved to finally have a great influence on the public sector, where the majority of women's jobs can be found. About 80% of the working poor are women and more than a third of older women in the European Union receive no form of pension. The feminisation of poverty is increasing: women are more at risk of falling into poverty than men, especially due to austerity policies.

The workshop will focus on gender equality and youth unemployment, equal pay and poverty, and provide recommendations.

#### Reference papers:

European Women's Lobby "European Women's Voice: Women's Economic Independence in Times of Austerity"  
<http://bit.ly/1yXec13>

FEPS : Cozzi, G., De Henau, J. (2015) "The Juncker Plan must not be a missed opportunity for gender equality in Europe", 2015.  
<http://www.feeps-europe.eu/assets/8b37f5c6-2609-4188-8f32-0dc803d036e9/pv-5-2015-gc-jdhv2pdf.pdf>

*Transforming economy, realizing rights*, UN Women, 2015 <http://progress.unwomen.org/en/2015/pdf/SUMMARY.pdf>

#### **Group 4 FEPS - Rue Montoyer, 40**

##### **The rise of anti-gender and anti-feminists movements**

Expert: Joel Le Deroff, Rainbow Rose; Weronika Grzebalska, FEPS

Facilitator: Judit Tanczos, FEPS

**Weronika Grzebalska** is a sociologist and feminist currently pursuing a PhD at the Graduate School for Social Research, Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. Her research focuses on Polish militarism, nationalism and the right seen from a gender perspective. In 2013, she published a book "Płeć powstania warszawskiego" [Gender of the Warsaw Uprising]. Since 2015, she has been researching anti-gender mobilizations, and has contributed to FEPS/FES book "Gender as symbolic glue. The position and role of conservative and far right parties in the anti-gender mobilisations in Europe". She is also a member of FEPS Young Academics Network and a founding member of the Polish Gender Studies Association. [weronika.zuzanna@gmail.com](mailto:weronika.zuzanna@gmail.com) +48 605 765 444

**Judit Tanczos** is Policy Advisor at FEPS, where she started working in August 2008. Among other responsibilities, she is in charge of the research programme on progressive feminism, entitled "Woman up!", which includes a network of over 200 engaged academics, politicians and civil society representatives, reached out to more than 2500 participants. She is the editor of the FEPS book series "Woman up!". She also leads FEPS research on political and social dimensions of EU enlargement and migrant integration. She is co-coordinator of the FEPS Young Academics Network (YAN). Her recent FEPS publications include: "[An opportunity for \(r\)evolution: 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action](#)" and "[Fresh approach for a maternity leave proposal?](#)" - [judit.tanczos@feps-europe.eu](mailto:judit.tanczos@feps-europe.eu) Mobile: +32492 73 03 34

**Joël Le Déroff** is a Board Member of Rainbow Rose. He currently works for the European Network Against Racism (ENAR). He previously worked for 5 years as Senior Policy & Programmes Officer with ILGA-Europe, the European region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, where he led advocacy strategies on policies and legislation related to equality, hate crime and asylum at OSCE, Council of Europe, EU and national levels. He also managed projects supporting national and local civil society organisations to build and reinforce their capacities. As an activist, Joël was one of the founders of Rainbow Rose, the network of European lesbian, gay and trans social-democratic activists. [joel.lederoff@gmail.com](mailto:joel.lederoff@gmail.com)

A transnational anti-gender movement has emerged since the Beijing 1995 Conference sponsored by the Catholic Church in response to the United Nations conferences in Cairo and Beijing, and has developed fiercely at European level in the last ten years, seriously challenging women's and minorities' rights, and attempting to undermine the very foundations of liberal democracy. While the concept of "gender" lies at the centre of these conservative mobilizations, they oppose a much broader spectrum of issues associated with progressive politics: gender equality and mainstreaming policies, LGBTI rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights (including contraception and abortion), sexual and relationship education. "Gender", therefore, is an ideologically and symbolically loaded umbrella term used to denote all these contested issues at once. The focus will be on reflection on the current situation of these movements at national/local level; analysing the main challenges and provide recommendations for strategies addressing the anti-gender/anti-feminist movements.

Reference paper:

E. Kováts and M. Pöim (eds.), *Gender as symbolic glue. The position and role of conservative and far right parties in the anti-gender mobilizations in Europe*, FEPS/FES 2015. <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/budapest/11382.pdf>  
FEPS Policy Brief <http://www.feps-europe.eu/assets/335b5eeb-68cd-4e9f-a565-4cbd61088bf8/feps-fes-policy-brief-finalpdf.pdf>

**17:30 - 19:00 Break**

**19:00 - 21:00** Informal Dinner (host S&D, Marie Arena, MeP, spokesperson for Women's Rights and Gender Equality ) and with civil society representatives (ILGA-Europe Sophie Aujean, IPPF Irene Donadio, COFACE Paola Panzeri, Rainbow Rose Aurélien Mazuy)

*Location:* Les Filles Table d'Hôtes  
46, rue du Vieux Marché aux Grains, 1000 Brussels  
<http://www.lesfillesplaisirsculinaires.be>

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## ***Friday, March 4th***

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**09:30** Accreditation to the European Parliament (entrance: esplanade Simone Weil, place du Luxembourg)

*Room A3H1*

**10:00 - 12:00** Debriefing of the workshops, in presence of Javier Moreno Sanchez, Secretary General, S&D Group, Annabel Garnier, Vice Secretary General, S&D Group, Marcel Mersch, Head Of Unit Economic and Social Model

**Presentation by Rapporteur of each workshop**

**Workshop 1: 8 minutes**

**Workshop 2: 8 minutes**

**Workshop 3: 8 minutes**

**Workshop 4: 8 minutes**

**Collective wrap-up - deliverables**

Video message for the 8 of March Day and social media

Conclusions and evaluation: Were your expectations fulfilled?