



GLOBAL
PROGRESSIVE
FORUM



DRAFT PROGRAMME

Step it up for Gender Equality

Youth for Gender Equality Forum 2017

Brussels, European Parliament, 8 - 9 February 2017

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.

Tuesday, February 7th

Optional

Individual arrivals in Brussels and hotel check in

15:45 -16:00 Accreditation to the European Parliament (entrance: esplanade Simone Weil, place du Luxembourg)

16:00 - 18:00 Group Visit to Parliamentarium - Meeting Point at the entrance of the Museum

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/visiting/en/brussels/parlamentarium>

18:00 -19:30 Attend the S&D Group Meeting and Watch the Debates

Free evening

Wednesday, February 8th

08:30-8:45 Welcome to the EP - Accreditation

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

- **9:30 - 10:30 Round table** Breaking the ice with **Izaskun Bernal Cerdeira** (S&D) and **Joana Triana Mazuera** (S&D)
- **10:30 - 12:00** Presentation of the **S&D Group priorities on Women's Rights and Gender Equality**

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) **Stefanie Ricken** (S&D)

- **12:00 - 13:00:** Exchanges of best practices from participants
 1. How to improve gender equality in my country?
 2. What does and should do the EU for gender equality?
 3. How do I raise awareness?

Lunch break (host S&D) with S&D Assistants to MePs and NGOs - EP Building

- **15:00 - 16:00 How to lobby?**

Experts: European Women's Lobby

Speaker introduction and Q&A: exchange of best practices
- **16:00 - 17:00 How to apply for EU funding for Gender Equality projects and for Youth Projects?**

Experts: European Commission

Speaker introduction and Q&A: exchange of best practices
- **17:00 - 18:00 Ask S&D Members of the European Parliament**

Selected participants will present the outcome of their day and engage with S&D MePs.

19:00: Informal Dinner with civil society representatives - Host S&D

Thursday, February 9th

08:30-8:45: Welcome to the EP - Accreditation to EP or to PES Women headquarters

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

09:30 - 12:30

- **Group 1** (facilitators: PES Women /IPFF/S&D):
My body, my rights (focus on mobilization for access to contraception and safe and legal abortion)

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. The discussion will focus on how to support sexual and reproductive health and rights in the context of a conservative backlash, with a focus on creative skills and exchange of communication strategies from national experiences.

- **Group 2** (facilitator : from PES Women)
Gender Equality and Cyber empowerment

How to guarantee the freedom of speech of women and LGBTI in the digital age and the context of a severe religious, socially conservative or extreme backlash on the slow progress made by the fight for gender equality, which translates into harassment, cyber stalking and cyber bullying. The political debate online is too often over-dominated by men expressing strong opinions while women prefer to stay aside and remain almost invisible. Some communities are organising in order to systematically exclude women, such as the online gaming community where some are trying to recreate a man's club. This, however, is also the sign that women are making their way into all corners of the internet, meeting some resistance, but also breaking grounds.

- **Group 3** (facilitator : from YES/EWL)
Economic rights, empowerment and austerity policies

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.

- **Group 4** (facilitator: S&D/Rainbow Rose)
LGBTI and women's rights: United against anti gender movement?

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.

- **12:30 - 14:00 Sandwich Lunch** (S&D host)
- **14:00 - 15:00 Debriefing Meeting with the High Ground Platform (each workshop reports back)**

High Ground – the alliance for choice and dignity in Europe, is an alliance of six international NGOs all working in Europe. Each NGO has some of the strongest credentials in its own field, and is a trusted partner for numerous national and European elected representatives, policy-makers, and institutions : Catholics for Choice (CFC) ; European Humanist Federation (EHF) ; European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF) ; European Region of the International LGBTI Association (ILGA-Europe) ; European Women's Lobby (EWL) ; International Planned Parenthood Federation – European Network (IPPF-EN)

<http://www.highgroundalliance.eu>

- **15:00 - 16:00 Gender equality and refugees** (Facilitator : GPF): role plays and interactive discussion on asylum seekers' and refugees from vulnerable groups

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. The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ('Istanbul 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 and LGBTI refugees.

Break

- **16:30 - 17:30 Meeting with PES Women** (Members of national Parliaments and executive board Members)
Workshops - collective debriefing
Open debate on strategies for Gender Equality at local and national level
- **17:30 - 18:00 Conclusions and evaluation:** interviews with S&D Communication team - short video messages
- **19:00 - Dinner - Social event and networking** (Host: PES Women) - Inspiring Speakers will debate Gender equality and Youth Perspectives

END OF PROGRAMME - Check out / Return Friday 10/02/2017