

S&D Executive Summary on



GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S RIGHTS



Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN DEMANDS

in the S&D Position Paper on Gender Equality and Women's Rights

As Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament our vision of the EU is a feminist one: we want a life in dignity for all and see gender equality as the basis of democracy, not the cherry on top. There is no way back to the last century. We are committed to safeguarding achievements that have been made and pushing for faster progress towards a gender equal European Union. How do we do this? By breaking gender stereotypes, strengthening women's position in political and economic decision making, helping women reach economic independence, breaking the cycle of violence, low pay and dependency, protecting every woman's bodily integrity and their right to decide over their own body, ensuring gender sensitive digital and green transitions and making sure that EU foreign policy is a feminist one.

To ensure that already achieved progress is safeguarded and women's rights are not taken for granted, we want:

- The commission to present an EU Women's Rights Charter
- Gender equality perspective to be integrated at all stages and levels of policies, programmes and projects
- The gender perspective to be integrated at all levels of the budgetary process, and revenues and expenditures must be restructured to be beneficial for achieving gender equality goals

To build a Europe that is free from discrimination and gender stereotypes we are calling for:

- Annual EU Campaign Against Gender Stereotypes, tackling different problems yearly
- Target harmful gender stereotyping and norms already at school through gender sensitive education programming for both boys and girls across the EU
- The Council to adopt the horizontal directive against discrimination
- LGBTI free zones to be recognized as a violation of freedom of movement and residence in the EU and for all families and Member States to introduce legislation for equal recognition of same-sex marriages and partnerships as well as an EU wide recognition of parenthood
- Calling for the international convention on LGBTIQ+ rights

To make sure that every woman has the freedom to decide over her own body we call for:

- The inclusion of SRHR in the next EU Health Strategy
- The addition of a designated chapter on the 'State of play of SRHR' in the EU Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy.
- The establishment of an EU Special Envoy on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- Universal access to sexuality and relationship education, modern contraceptive methods, family planning and to safe and legal abortion care
- A regulation that tackles demand for prostitution and that protects women and their rights, guarantees the end of their criminalisation and stigmatisation, introduces exit strategies, guarantees women's access to social security schemes, hampers human trafficking and organised crime, introduces information campaigns for men and training for law enforcement and social workers
- EU approach to regulate surrogacy

To enhance women's economic well being, we call for:

- A Care Deal for Europe that supports a transition towards a true care economy and ensures relevant investment and legislation at EU level with benefits from informal and formal carers and the people they care for
- Quick implementation of the 2019 Work-Life Balance Directive
- The Pay Transparency Directive to be applied to all workers
- Guidelines for gender-neutral job evaluation and classification systems and the definition of clear criteria
- The Commission to propose an anonymised "Europass CV" and Gender-blind CVs to be the norm to discourage companies and public administrations from operating gender bias during their recruitment processes

To tackle gender bias in taxation, we are calling for:

- Member States to phase in individual taxation while ensuring full preservation of all financial and other benefits linked to parenthood in current joint taxation systems
- Member States to provide VAT exemptions, reduced rates and zero-rates for products and services with positive social, health and/or environmental effects, in line with the ongoing revision of the EU VAT Directive
- The Commission to carry out regular gender impact assessments of fiscal policies from a gender equality perspective
- The Commission to promote best practices on taxation policies that take gender impact into account
- The inclusion of a gender analysis in the Commission's annual Taxation Trends in the European Union report

For women to be equally represented in the economic and political decision making we call for:

- A fairer representation of women in decision-making processes in politics as well as on company boards, by quota, reserved seats, and zip-lists
- The Council to finally unblock the “Women on Boards” Directive
- Establishment of Gender Equality and Equality Council Configuration to have a formal forum for the ministers responsible for gender equality

To put an end to gender based violence we call for:

- The European Commission to fulfill the goals set up in the Gender Equality Strategy 2020 - 2025 and make a proposal to the Council to identify gender-based violence as a new area of crime listed in the Article 83(1) TFEU
- A directive to eliminate gender-based violence both online and offline, that implements the standards of the Istanbul Convention and includes prevention measures, support services and protection measures for victims, measures to combat all forms of gender-based violence, minimum standards for law enforcement, measures to ensure cooperation and exchange of best practises among Member States. In addition, obligations for Member States to ensure that intimate partner violence is a decisive factor when examining custody cases.
- All EU Member States ensure universal access to age-appropriate and evidence-based sexuality and relationship education
- The Commission and the Member States collect and make available quality, disaggregated data on all forms of gender-based violence

To build a green future that works for women, we are calling for:

- Equal representation of women in all climate related decision making
- The Fit for 55 package policies must be designed and implemented with a clear gender and social dimension.
- The Commission to gender mainstream all transport-related legislation, policy and programmes
- The inclusion of gender criteria and work-life balance in the design of mobility planning
- Stakeholders promote standards as laid down in ILO Convention No. 190 on Violence and Harassment and to implement a zero-tolerance policy towards violence and harassment in the workplace
- The gender mainstreaming of The New Leipzig Charter and the New European Bauhaus
- The CAP Regulation ensures that the work that women do is more visible, better appreciated and taken into account within the specific objectives to be proposed by the Member States in their strategic plans
- Actions focused on promoting a greater inclusion of women in the rural economy

To build a gender equal digital society we call for

- Gender mainstreaming of digital education policies and programmes, through creating safe spaces for girls to learn, educating about gender stereotypes and setting up positive women role models
- EU wide life-long learning campaigns directed at women to improve digital literacy
- Commission to promote gender equality in companies in the ICT and related sectors, including through financing female-led projects in the digital sector, and the promotion of a minimum number of women researchers participating in ICT projects
- Designing of prizes and incentive schemes for companies and organisations actively implementing gender-neutral policies linked to measurable targets and annual reports on diversity
- Promoting gender equality in ICT by applying relevant public procurement policies and/or guidelines on the purchase of ICT services

For truly feminist foreign policy we are calling for:

- The EU to lead by example by ensuring gender equal representation of women in the key positions in EEAS, relevant Commission services, EU delegations and European agencies working outside of EU
- 85% of all new external actions shall incorporate gender as a significant or principal objective
- 20 % of official development aid in each country to be allocated to programmes having gender equality as one of its principal objectives
- Systematic implementation of rigorous gender analysis, gender-disaggregated data collection, gender budgeting and gender impact assessments to inform the design of all EU and EU Member States external financing



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