



**DRAFT PROGRAM (18 December 2018)**

# **Step it up for Gender Equality in a Progressive Society**

***2019 Progressive Youth Forum***

***Brussels, European Parliament, 5 - 8 March 2019***

**Tuesday, 5 March 2019**

***Individual arrivals in Brussels - Check in at Youth hostel***

**14:30** Meeting in front of European Parliament (EP), Accreditation to the European Parliament

**15:00** **Welcome and Introduction to the programme** - by S&D FEMM, PES Woman, YES, FEPS, Rainbow Rose

**15:30 - 17:30 WARM UP-WORKSHOPS (in parallel)**

) **Group 1 - Boosting Young Women in Politics - What is (Still) Keeping Them Away from Elected Positions?** hosted by YES (Tuulia) and FEPS (Laetitia)

In this session, the Young European Socialists and the Foundation for European Progressive Studies lead the participants through research and possible solutions for the political engagement of young women. We discuss the results of the new FEPS study Millennial Dialogue, which gives us insights on what the millennial generation expects from politics and on their main priorities for gender equality. Based on the research we debate on the solutions and methods of change to answer this challenge. How to tackle sexism in the public debate and politics? How to balance work and family life for women and men? How to increase the number of women in electoral lists? How to ensure that electoral parity is translated into elected office?

) **Group 2 - Gender recognition on intersex in the EU** hosted by Rainbow Rose (Jose)

In the EU, intersex issues have progressively emerged as relevant to fundamental rights protection. However, they are still largely treated as medical issues falling outside the scope of public scrutiny. A number of developments at EU level in recent years have contributed to a better understanding of the problems intersex people face. For example, in 2013, the ‘working definitions’ laid down by the Council of the European Union stated that traditional notions of maleness and femaleness are culturally established. ‘Intersex’ is used as an umbrella term to denote a number of different variations in a person’s bodily characteristics that do not match strict medical definitions of male or female. These characteristics may be chromosomal, hormonal and/or anatomical and may be present to differing degrees. Many variants of sex characteristics are immediately detected at birth, or even before. Sometimes these variants become evident only at later stages in life, often during puberty. While most intersex people are healthy, a very small percentage may have medical conditions which might be life-threatening, if not treated promptly. Medically, some of these variants are grouped under ‘disorders of sexual development’.

) **Group 3 - Combating sexism in politics** hosted by PES Woman (Lesia, Katja)

Almost every woman on the planet has encountered sexual harassment or sexualised violence. In a society where this is the norm, politics cannot be unaffected - not even socialist politics. In this workshop, we discuss sexist power structures in left-wing organisations, the current political anti-feminist backlash and what changes have to be made in order for women to be safe in politics.

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

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*Free evening*

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**Wednesday, 6 March 2019**

**9:00 - 10:00 Presentation of workshop results and debate with S&D members of FEMM committee**

**10:00 - 11:30 Sustainable Equality in a Progressive Society: Our vision for 2019-2024**

The EU must change gear to accelerate its transition to a sustainable and fairer society, by placing well-being for everyone at the heart of its project for the next parliamentary term. So far, the EU has not grasped the full nature of the crisis, which is both social and ecological. We want to re-empower people in our weakened democracies, to re-shape capitalism, to re-build social justice, to ensure real social-ecological progress and to radically change the way European economic, social and environmental policies are framed. Gender Equality is a crosscutting objective in our fight for a fairer and progressive society.

**Presentation and Interactive discussion on the S&Ds 110 radical proposals for change**

with **S&D Progressive Society Team**

**11:30 - 12:30 Meeting and Discussion with Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission, in charge of Better regulation, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights**

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**12:30 - 13:30 Lunch break**

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**13:30 - 15:00 EU Platform for social-democratic Cities against sexist advertisement**

Last year, at the occasion of the IWD 2017, the S&D group in the EP launched an EU wide platform of social democratic led cities and municipalities who have banned or are willing to ban sexist advertisement from public spaces. What has happened meanwhile? We will discuss the impact of sexist advertisement on our society and share experiences, challenges and best practices on how to ban sexist advertisement from public spaces with stakeholders.

**15:15 - 17:15 Women for the planet!**

Global Progressive Forum (GFP) will organise a documentary screening on women who have collectively engaged in local fights against climate change, deforestation, and pollution. We will host a debate on the impact of women grass-roots movements within their communities, on the links between fights for equality and sustainability and on women empowerment.

This film screening and debate will contribute to the work of the GPF on raising awareness on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and on mainstreaming gender equality in all EU policies including in its external dimension.

**17:30 - 19:00 Meet your MEP, a Parliamentary Assistant or S&D trainees!**

Participants are hosted in selected MEP's offices

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**19:30 Informal Dinner with civil society representatives**

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**Thursday, 7 March 2019**

**9:00 - 12:30**            **Attend the Committee of Women's Rights and Gender Equality**  
**Inter-parliamentary Conference on Women in Politics**

**Panel 1:** *Women's Power in politics*

**Panel 2:** *Young women in politics*

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**12:30 - 13:30**            **Sandwich Lunch**

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**14:00 - 16:30**            **Public Conference**

**Backlashes in Gender Equality in Europe:**

**Experiences from the ground and how to counter them**

Interactive panel discussion with experts, stakeholders, MePs and NGOs

**16:30 - 18:00**            **Conclusions and looking ahead**

with the participation of (TBC):

**S&D Secretary General Javier Moreno Sanchez**

**PES Women President Zita Gurmai**

**YES Secretary General Tuulia Pitkanen**

**Rainbow Rose President Camila Garfias**

**FEPS representative**

**Closing reception *hosted by GPF***

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***Free evening***

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**Friday, 8 March 2019 - International Women's Day -**

**09:30 - 11:00**

**How to lobby?**

Introduction, interactive session and Q&A: exchange of best practices  
Expert: **Mary Collins, European Women's Lobby**

**11:00- 12:30**

**How to apply for EU funding for Youth Projects?**

Speaker's introduction and Q&A  
Expert: **Michalis Moschovakos, European Commission (TBC)**

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**12:30 - 13:30**

**Lunch Break Sandwich Lunch**

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early afternoon (tbc) Participation in **8 March Women's Strike March** in Brussels

***End of Program - departure of participants***

*(participants can stay longer at their own cost, of course)*