

Amendment 1

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on behalf of the ID Group

Report**A9-0234/2020****Maria Noichl**

The EU Strategy for Gender Equality
(2019/2169(INI))

Motion for a resolution (Rule 181(3) of the Rules of Procedure) replacing non-legislative motion for a resolution A9-0234/2020

European Parliament resolution on the EU Strategy for Gender Equality

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 6 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to Articles 21 and 23 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
 - having regard to the Commission's 2019 report on equality between women and men in the EU,
 - having regard to its resolution of 26 February 2014 on sexual exploitation and prostitution and its impact on gender equality¹,
 - having regard to Rule 54 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas it is of the utmost importance to safeguard the rights of women and men, while ensuring respect for their equal worth and unique characteristics and ensuring that they complement each other in their differences;
- B. whereas the right to equal treatment is a defining fundamental right recognised in the EU Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights that is essential for the further development of the principle of equal treatment;
- C. whereas violence against women and men in all its forms is a violation of human rights; whereas legislative measures and awareness-raising schemes should not exacerbate antagonism between the two sexes, and should instead address and seek to eliminate any clear violations or inequality;
- D. whereas trafficking in human beings is one of the most evil violations of fundamental rights and human dignity; whereas women and girls make up 80 % of the registered victims of trafficking and 95 % of the registered victims of trafficking for purposes of

¹ OJ C 285, 29.8.2017, p. 78.

sexual exploitation; whereas trafficking in human beings is a growing branch of organised crime, a form of slavery and a human rights violation, and concerns mostly women and children, especially for the purpose of sexual exploitation; whereas the prostitution market and pornography industry fuel the trafficking of women and children and exacerbate violence against them; whereas Member States need to design their social and economic policies in such a way as to help vulnerable women and girls to leave prostitution, including by introducing specific social and economic policies designed to help them;

- E. whereas poverty and social exclusion have structural causes that need to be eradicated and reversed, in particular through policies on employment, housing, mobility, entrepreneurship and access to public services; whereas prostitution, trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, for sexual exploitation is a form of slavery and a direct attack on inherent human dignity; whereas, as a result of the increase in organised crime and its profitability, human trafficking is on the rise around the world;
 - F. whereas psychological or sexual harassment of women and men in the workplace and at home should be wholeheartedly condemned;
 - G. whereas women should have the right to choose to dedicate themselves to their role as mothers, as this is crucial for the next generation; whereas the demographic decline facing all Member States is a cause for great alarm and an incentive to support mothers and their families; whereas pregnant women should have access to excellent medical care, support and information to bring their pregnancy to a successful end; whereas the EU-wide fertility rate is unsustainably low, at only 1.55 children per woman;
 - H. whereas women succeed in many areas of work, such as among informal carers, teachers, judges, doctors and nurses², and whereas women make up the majority of graduates in all disciplines, except for information technology and engineering³;
1. Calls on the Member States to ensure fair and equal treatment of women and men and eliminate discrimination and all forms of violence, while respecting the existing differences relating to the characteristics of sex or race;
 2. Calls for the promotion of a society based on rewarding merit rather than imposing quotas as the only tool to balance the sexes in careers, leadership positions, home life and education; recognises the given complementarity between the sexes, which are of equal value and have their own abilities and complementing strengths;
 3. Encourages the Member States to promote the foundational unit of the family, by promoting and supporting the role of mothers at a time when dangerously low birth rates across the EU are threatening the survival of our nations; encourages the Member States to improve maternity leave measures, taking account of the unpaid household work done by women;
 4. Encourages the Member States to tackle challenges such as higher rates of suicide,

² World Health Organization, Health Workforce Working Paper 1, *Gender equity in the health workforce: Analysis of 104 countries*, March 2019.

³ Eurostat (2015), <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/DDN-20170710-1>

murders and homelessness among men;

5. Encourages the Member States to fight all organised crime, in particular human trafficking, prostitution and pornography, which abuses and degrades its victims, most of whom are women and children; urges the Member States to endorse the prosecution of the purchasers of sexual abuse and to support and protect its victims;
6. Acknowledges that sexual exploitation for surrogacy and reproductive purposes or purposes such as forced marriages, prostitution and pornography is unacceptable and a violation of human dignity and human rights;
7. Calls for respect for Member States' sovereignty and national competences in the field of women's rights, including abortion law and sexual education, where no legally binding international rights exist; strongly condemns all ideologies that support female genital mutilation, forced sterilisation, so-called honour-related violence and forced marriages; encourages the Commission and Member State to foster the European way of life by prosecuting all perpetrators of such degrading practices; therefore condemns mass migration and the ensuing attempts at the Islamisation of Europe as a threat to our security and an attack on religious freedom and women's rights;
8. Underlines the fact that violence against women is one of the root causes of women's homelessness; urges the Member States, therefore, to take the necessary measures to prevent violence against women leading to extended periods of homelessness;
9. Urges the Member States to provide support for the victims of abuse, particularly vulnerable women and children, by offering shelter, psychological assistance and other practical help;
10. Asks the Member States, in the light of the proven benefits of mother's milk for newborns, to promote breastfeeding, especially for pre-term infants; calls on the Member States to support policies which enhance the uptake of mother's milk, including both breastfeeding and donated milk, for pre-term infants, and to promote the cross-border use of milk banks to ensure that women in border regions can avail themselves of this support when necessary;
11. Encourages the Member States to support women and men in their social, psychological and health challenges, taking note of the different problems they both face, including those particularly affecting men such as higher rates of suicide, the denial of parental rights following a marriage breakup, and the high percentage of homelessness;
12. Reiterates that women must be able to access the same employment positions and benefit from the same rates of remuneration where their work and abilities are the same as a man's;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and the parliaments of the Member States.

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