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MIGRATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN EUROPE

**10-11 December 2009
Paris, France**

European regional conference co-organised by
the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Address :
10 December 2009, morning (9 am – 12.30 pm): Room 6217 / Palais Bourbon
126, rue de l'Université

10 December 2009 (2.30 pm – 6 pm) and 11 December (9.30 am – 4.30 pm): Salle Lamartine
101, rue de l'Université

Working languages:
English, French, German, Italian, Russian

Thursday, 10 December 2009

Morning (Room 6217 / Palais Bourbon)

8.30 am Registration of the participants

9 am Welcome addresses

- French National Assembly
 - Patrice Martin-Lalande, Executive President of the French group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
 - Jean-Claude Mignon, Chairperson of the French delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)
- Pia Cayetano, Senator (Philippines), President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians
- Paul Wille, Deputy (Belgium), Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

*Chairperson : Pia Cayetano, Senator (Philippines),
President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians*

9.30 am Introductory session

Introductory presentations by:

Dubravka Šimonović, Member and former Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

José Mendes Bota, Deputy (Portugal), PACE Rapporteur on *Combating violence towards women: for a Council of Europe convention*

Discussion

10.30 am Session 1- Migrant women: more vulnerable to gender-based violence

A review will be undertaken of the factors that heighten the vulnerability of women migrants to gender-based violence: discrimination based on gender or origin, isolation, precarious situation, dependence on employer or (former) intimate partner, status under immigration laws (migrant women who arrive in Europe on the grounds of family reunification, undocumented migrant women or those who risk losing their status of immigrant), etc. The obstacles encountered by women migrants who are victims/survivors of violence in accessing emergency and protective services, the justice system and rehabilitation facilities will also be examined. A special focus will be given to the violence faced by migrant women at different stages of migration.

Presentations by Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, Gender Specialist, Office of the Director General, International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

Introduction to debates by:

- ✓ Karin Woldseth (Norway), contact parliamentarian for Norway and PACE Rapporteur on "Migrant women: at particular risk of domestic violence"

12.30 pm Official photo

12.45 pm Lunch (free time)

Afternoon (Salle Lamartine)

*Chairman : Andrej Zernovski, Member of parliament ("The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia")
PACE Rapporteur on "asylum and gender- based persecution"*

2.30 pm Session 2 - Gender-based violence and persecution, grounds for international protection: what implementation in Europe?

Sexual violence in armed conflicts, female genital mutilation, forced marriages, domestic violence and other affronts to physical and psychological integrity drive women to flee their countries of origin. These forms of gender-based persecution can constitute grounds for asylum. What is the reality of the situation? The Guiding Principles on Gender-Related Persecution published by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 2002 and their implementation by European States will be examined as well as how to incorporate a gender-sensitive perspective in the asylum-seeking process.

Presentations by Gisela Thater, Legal Officer at the Protection Operations and Legal Advice Section, UNHCR Division of International Protection Services (DIPS), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Maurice Wren, Director of Asylum Aid
Asylum is not gender neutral - a project of the European Women's Lobby and the Refugee Women's Resource Project (RWRP) at Asylum Aid

Introduction to debates by:

- ✓ Göran Lindblad, Member of parliament (Sweden), Member of the PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population

Discussion

4.15 pm Coffee break

*Chairman: Kent Olsson, Deputy (Sweden)
Chairman of the PACE sub committee on trafficking in human beings*

4.30 pm Session 3- Protecting migrant women from trafficking in human beings

At the heart of trafficking in human beings, there are significant gender disparities because 80 per cent of victims are women and girls, mostly exploited in prostitution or forced labour networks. The scale of this problem and implementation of regional and international instruments to combat this scourge will be examined. The role of parliamentarians in ensuring proper implementation and following up progress made, with a special focus on the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and other international instruments, will also be addressed.

Presentations by Anthony Steen, Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the trafficking of women and children, Parliament of the United Kingdom

NN, Amnesty International

Introduction to debates by:

- ✓ David Darchiashvili, Member of parliament (Georgia), Member of the PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population

6 pm End of the session

8 pm *Dinner offered by the French group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Restaurant of the Assemblée nationale
7th floor of the Jacques Chaban-Delmas building, 101 rue de l'Université, 75007 Paris*

Friday, 11 December 2009

Morning (Salle Lamartine)

*Chairperson: Pernille Frahm, Member of parliament (Denmark)
Chairperson of the PACE Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men*

9.30 am Session 4 - Women migrant workers: towards reinforced protection of their fundamental rights?

The regional and international legal frameworks guaranteeing protection of the fundamental rights of working migrant women and preventing all forms of violence against them will be looked at. Special attention will be paid to State commitments in this field, including standards governing working conditions related to jobs often held by migrant women. The role of parliaments in ensuring compliance with these standards will also be examined.

Presentations by Abdelhamid El Jamri, Chairman of the United Nations Committee on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families

 Nicole Ameline, Deputy (France), Member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

 Pia Cayetano, Senator (Philippines), President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians

Introduction to debates by:

- ✓ John Greenway, Member of parliament (United Kingdom), Member of the PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population

Discussion

11 am Coffee break

11.15 am Session 5 - Strengthening protection for migrant women who are victims of violence in Europe: possible lines of action at national and regional levels

This session will examine how the various components of a comprehensive response to violence against women (prevention, protection and support for victims/survivors, and prosecution and punishment of perpetrators) must include special provisions guaranteeing the rights of migrant women who are victims/survivors of violence. Case studies will be presented on specific measures designed to protect, assist and empower migrant women who are victims of violence.

Presentation by: Anna Čurdová, Deputy (Czech Republic), Vice-President of the PACE Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men

 Virginia Wangare Greiner, European Network of Migrant Women (to be confirmed)

Introduction to debates by:

- ✓ Marlene Rupprecht, Deputy (Germany), Member of the PACE Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men

Discussion

1 pm Lunch (free time)

Afternoon (Salle Lamartine)

*Chairperson: Robert del Picchia, Senator (France)
Chairman of the Group of partnership between women and men of the IPU*

2.30 pm Session 6 - International cooperation and extra-territorial protection of women and girls normally resident in Europe against practices contrary to human rights

This session will be dedicated to the crucial role of bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation in combating violence against women, including in judicial areas, to prosecute the perpetrators, but also to promote the prevention, protection and assistance to victims/survivors. It will examine extraterritorial legislative provisions aimed at protecting women and girls normally residing in Europe from violence they have suffered or risk suffering in their country of origin. In this context, the session will look at the added value of the extraterritorial provisions envisaged in the future Council of Europe convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

Presentation by Eric Ruelle, Co-Chairperson of the Council of Europe's ad hoc Committee on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CAHVIO) : first elements

Christiane Vienne, Senator (Belgium), Member of the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men

Introduction to debates by:

- ✓ Deborah Bergamini, Deputy (Italy), contact parliamentarian for Italy and Chair of the Council of Europe's North-South Centre (to be confirmed)

16h Conclusion of the proceedings

- ✓ Corien W.A Jonker, Deputy (The Netherlands), Chairperson of the PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population
- ✓ Pia Cayetano, Senator (Philippines), President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians
- ✓ Pernille Frahm, Member of parliament (Denmark), Chairperson of the PACE Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men

4.30 pm End of proceedings