



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE
برلمان البحر الأبيض المتوسط

3rd Standing Committee on Dialogue among Civilizations and Human Rights

"PAM MPs for an end to Domestic Violence"

Rapporteur: Hon. Sandrine Mörch (France)

Recommendations

I, the Rapporteur on “Domestic Violence” on behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,

- a) *Welcoming* the increase availability of data on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and on the prevalence of intimate partners violence in recent years; *Recalling* that according to the World Health Organization (WHO), globally, 1 in 3 women has experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence by any perpetrator in their lifetime and *Noting with concern* that according to the WHO, the Eastern Mediterranean region has the second highest prevalence of VAWG worldwide (37 %);
- b) *Alarmed by* the surge in domestic violence during the COVID 19 pandemic globally and in the Euro-Mediterranean region and *concerned* that the COVID 19 pandemic acted as a magnifying glass to deeply rooted and widespread forms of violence;
- c) *Recalling* UNSG Guterres’s appeal of 6 April 2020 calling for a “domestic violence ceasefire” amid “horrifying global surge”;
- d) *Recalling* the “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women” (CEDAW), which entered into force in 1981 and the related Additional Protocol (A/RES/54/4), signed on 6 October 1999 and *welcoming* the signature and ratification of the CEDAW by all PAM Members States;
- e) *Recalling* the “Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence” (Istanbul Convention), signed on 11 May 2011 and *welcoming* the signature and ratification of the Convention by all PAM Member States who are members of the Council of Europe, but *regretting* the decision, announced on 20 March 2021, by the Turkish government to withdraw from the said convention without parliamentary debate;
- f) *Recalling* the African Charter on Human Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), adopted on 11 June 2003 and *noting* that not all PAM Members States

have signed or ratified the Protocol;

- g) *Recalling* the PAM resolution “Domestic Violence”, adopted on 29 October 2011, during the 6th Plenary Session in Palermo, Italy, and all other relevant PAM resolutions on Gender and Equality Issues;
- h) *Committed* to promoting and assisting the UN Secretary General’s ambition of moving the international community from a pattern of reaction to a culture of prevention of gender-based violence, in particular by having Parliaments acting as key partners in promoting and implementing domestic laws to protect women from domestic violence;
- i) *Convinced that* women’s equal participation in all aspects of life enhances economic results, prompts greater investment in social protection, leads to more sustainable peace and is the key to ending VAWG;

I. ***Condemn*** all forms of VAWG including domestic violence;

II. ***Encourage*** PAM Member Countries, which are members of the African Union, to sign and ratify the Maputo Protocol, also encourage PAM Member Countries associated to the Council of Europe to sign the Istanbul Convention, and encourage its Associated Countries to ratify and implement the CEDAW Convention;

III. ***Invite*** Turkey to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention and ***encourage*** the Grand National Assembly of Turkey to hold a parliamentary debate on the implications of such a decision for the international community;

IV. ***Urge*** PAM Member Parliaments to criminalize domestic violence in the private sphere, including marital rape, child marriage, and female genital mutilation/cutting; to legally, socially, and economically support survivors of domestic violence, and to ensure perpetrators’ prosecution and punishment;

V. ***Invite*** PAM parliaments to increase funding toward public health services which support survivors of violence, especially during a state of emergency;

VI. ***Encourage*** PAM Member Countries to monitor and evaluate policies against domestic violence, by establishing dedicated commissions or coalitions which interact with NGOs, civil societies, academic institutions, public health officials, and regional and local governments or authorities;

VII. ***Encourage*** PAM Member Countries to exchange positive examples of safety action plans established during the COVID 19 pandemic throughout the Euro-Mediterranean region;

VIII. ***Invite*** PAM Member Countries to continue to contribute to the “Global Database on Violence against Women”, promoted by UN Women, with information and updates regarding the measures undertaken by governments to address VAWG;

- IX. ***Calls on*** all PAM parliaments to mark 25 November as International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women;
- X. ***Call on*** PAM Member Countries to realize women's equal full rights, to work towards equal representation and to advance economic inclusion as a matter of priority;
- XI. ***Request*** the PAM Secretariat to continue pursuing multilateral efforts to combat domestic violence in the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf regions, analyzing its developments in the region and to encourage innovative solutions to curb violence against women and to support their empowerment;
- XII. ***Invite*** the PAM Secretariat to organize a conference dedicated to this issue in 2021.