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Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality  
The Chair

To the Chair(s) of the Committee(s) concerned

Dear Colleague,

For many years now the European Parliament has celebrated International Women's Day with a special event bringing together Parliamentarians from across Europe. We would like to continue this important tradition also in the new legislative term.

Much has been achieved so far in the fight for women's rights and gender equality, but there is still a long way to go. Education plays a crucial role in this respect and the education of girls in particular, is often seen as a multiplier for improvement of the lives of women and girls - and of future generations. Whilst many countries have made significant progress towards gender equality in education, the picture remains mixed in both developing and developed countries.

This is why, on the occasion of the 2015 International Women's Day, the EP's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) would like to invite Members of the National Parliaments of the EU Member States, the enlargement countries and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to attend an interparliamentary committee meeting on the theme:

***"Empowering women and girls through education"***

We look forward to discuss experiences and best practices on how to strengthen the rights of women and girls through education, as well as strategic actions and ideas for the way forward.

We are therefore very pleased to invite up to four Members of the corresponding committee(s) of each National Parliament (two from each chamber in the case of bi-cameral Parliaments) to attend this event on **Thursday, 5 March 2015, from 9.00 to 12.30 in the European Parliament in Brussels.**

In view to prepare this meeting, a short questionnaire will be made available to you, to guide the contributions for the discussion. Should you and/or your Members be unable to attend, we would welcome any written contributions which would be distributed to the participants.

Practical details regarding the meeting will be forwarded in due course to your Parliament's Representatives/Services responsible for relations with the European Parliament.

We sincerely hope that you will be able to accept our invitation and we are looking forward to welcoming you to the European Parliament on 5 March 2015.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iratxe GARCÍA PÉREZ', with a stylized, cursive script.

Iratxe GARCÍA PÉREZ