

Addressee:

To the Chairs of the Committees concerned

Vienna, 30 January 2014

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Invitation to the Conference: *Violence against women across the EU: Abuse at home, work, in public and online*, 5 March, Brussels

Dear Madam/Sir,

On behalf of the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the European Union/General Secretariat for Gender Equality and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) we are delighted to invite Members of national Parliaments of the EU Member States to the high-level conference '***Violence against women across the EU: Abuse at home, work, in public and online***'. The event will take place on on 5 March 2014 in the Council of the EU in Brussels.

The conference will be dedicated to the launch of the findings from the largest survey on violence against women to date and will be an excellent opportunity to underline the Member States continuous commitment to combating violence against women in the EU.

Women of Europe face physical, sexual and psychological violence and abuse at the hands of partners, ex-partners, co-workers and strangers. The European Parliament and the Council of the EU have highlighted the urgent need for comparable EU-level data to help policy makers to assess and review existing policies, and to develop new measures to combat violence against women, inviting the FRA to undertake relevant research in this area. The FRA EU-wide survey responds to that invitation.

FRA has carried out the largest survey to date on violence against women in the European Union, which will provide key stakeholders with the data that they have long requested. Over 42,000 women aged 18-74 from across the European Union were asked about their experiences of physical, sexual and psychological abuse, including incidents of domestic violence. Women were also asked about their experiences of stalking, and sexual harassment, and the role played by new technologies in women's experiences of abuse. The shocking results provide a solid basis for decision makers to urgently act to combat this pervasive form of violence affecting more than half of Europe's population.

The conference will gather together decision makers and practitioners to discuss the findings and their relevance for EU and national policy makers. About 250 representatives from EU institutions and bodies, international organisations, national governments and parliaments, national human rights bodies and civil society organisations are expected to attend.

We hope you will be available to take part in this important event and look forward to meeting you in Brussels.

Yours sincerely,



Vasso Kollia
Secretary General for Gender Equality
Greece



Morten Kjaerum
Director
FRA