



## *ACTION KIT*



**ACT AGAINST RAPE!**  
**USE THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION!**

**Europe mobilises against rape and  
for the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention  
as a tool for change**

# *ACTION KIT*

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Organisations involved:

Council of Europe, European Women's Lobby,

Organisers at country level



## INTRODUCTION

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The European Women's Lobby (EWL) is happy to share with you the Action Kit for the project "Act against rape! Use the Istanbul Convention!", a joint project with the Council of Europe (CoE). The aim of the project is to promote the Istanbul Convention by raising awareness on the positive changes it can bring with a special focus on sexual violence, including rape.

Why focus on rape? Rape continues to be one of the most devastating forms of gender-based violence, yet it is too often a taboo subject and it remains shrouded in silence. Reference at European level indicates that only between 2% and 10% of rapes are reported<sup>1</sup>. Being crucial for the European Women's Lobby (EWL) to improve awareness of the scale and gravity of this form of male violence against women, and focus attention on the need for improved responses in the criminal justice system, the 2013 EWL Barometer focused on the criminalisation of rape and especially the definitions used in criminal codes. The Barometer provides an important European overview of legislation and data collection practices comparing European countries with regard to the extent of their compliance with human rights standards for legislation on rape.

The Council of Europe *Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence* (also known as the Istanbul Convention) sets standards for comprehensive measures to prevent and combat violence against women, recognising that "violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared to men" (Preamble). The Istanbul Convention requires States Parties to adapt their criminal legislation on sexual violence and rape to focus on the **lack of consent** as a constituent element of crime and move away from the still widespread requirement of use of physical force.

Thanks to the financial support of the Government of Finland to the Council of Europe, the EWL and the CoE are joining forces in this project with the aim of initiating debate at national and European levels around inadequate criminal legislation in the area of sexual violence, and how the Istanbul Convention can serve as a tool for change. Overall, the project will **promote the signature, ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention**, tailoring messages to the context in the respective country<sup>2</sup>.

**Mobilisation around Europe in this project will urgently demand justice and support for victims of rape.** Wide mobilisation will take place in 33 European countries<sup>3</sup> during the sixteen days of activism against violence against women, between 25 November and 10 December 2013. Public events in the form of seminars, debates, talks, etc. will be organised at EU and country level in the 33 European countries. The [website](#) of the project "Act against rape! Use the Istanbul Convention!" has been launched to show the widespread mobilisation thorough Europe.

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<sup>1</sup> European Women's Lobby (2013): EWL Barometer on rape in the EU 2013. Brussels: Creative Commons.

<sup>2</sup> So far, the Convention has been ratified by Albania, Portugal, Italy, Montenegro and Turkey, and signed by a further 27 member states. Please regularly check the status of signatures and ratifications, as many countries are actively working towards ratification and rapid developments are expected especially during the months of November and December 2013: [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about_en.asp)

<sup>3</sup> Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom.



## HOW TO USE THIS ACTION KIT

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This Action Kit is aimed at helping you organise the events at country level, keeping coherence among all the events as part of a joint EWL – CoE project.

With the aim to provide a practical and user friendly action kit:

Grey boxes like this one highlight the actions that the organisers are kindly requested to take.

Tips and hints are highlighted through this symbol. 

This Action Kit comprises information on:

- Key messages
- Information and Resources, including facts and figures
- Information for the organisation of the events
- Tips and recommendations to build up alliances for the event
- Ideas for communication and media
- Tools: templates for press release and reporting, etc.

Please feel free to contact EWL with any questions as you plan your public event.



## 1. Aims and Objectives

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### Aims:

- Put sexual violence and rape up on the political agenda by initiating public debate around inadequate criminal legislation, the lack of services and support for survivors, the lack of investment in prevention and limited access to justice for victims of rape.
- Promote the use of the Istanbul Convention as a concrete tool for change to eradicate all forms of male violence against women, and specifically rape.

### Objectives:

1. **Raise awareness** and **Inform** on the phenomenon of rape as one of the most devastating and very common forms of violence against women.
2. Raise awareness about the Istanbul Convention and its specific provisions on sexual violence and rape.
3. Taking into account the results of the EWL Barometer on rape in Europe 2013, find and highlight possible ways forward in the country, the obstacles to overcome and the progress to accomplish in order to improve legislation, services and data collection mechanisms.

### *What change will the Istanbul Convention bring for preventing and combating sexual violence?*

**The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence requires States Parties to:**

- **Adapt criminal legislation** to ensure that the definition of the criminal offense of sexual violence, including rape is based on the **lack of consent** as a constituent element of crime (Article 36)
- **Ensure there is no 'marriage exemption'** for rape, so that rape against current or former spouses or partners is criminalised on the same basis as rape against any other person (Article 36)
- **Collect disaggregated relevant statistical data** at regular intervals on sexual violence and rape (Article 11)
- **Provide** specialist services to support women victims of sexual violence, including rape. (Chapter IV. Specifically, Article 25)
- **Invest in measures to prevent** sexual violence through awareness-raising, education, media and involvement of the private sector (Chapter III)
- **Promote access to justice for victims of rape, in particular by ensuring that:**
  - prosecution of sexual violence is not fully dependent on the victim's complaint (Article 55)
  - evidence relating to the sexual history and conduct of the victim is permitted only when relevant and necessary (Article 54), since such evidence is sometimes used to challenge the respectability, the credibility and the lack of consent of the victim
  - mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes or sentencing, including mediation and conciliation, are prohibited (Article 48)
  - victims are protected at all stages of investigations and judicial proceedings (Article 56)
  - victims have access to legal assistance and to free legal aid (Article 57)



## 2. Key Messages

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“Act against rape! Use the Istanbul Convention!” is the slogan of the Project.

It has been chosen because:

- It combines both aims of the project: raise awareness against rape and promote the signature, ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention.
- It is addressed to our main target audience which are political decision makers, calling them to take action on the topic of rape.
- It is sufficiently open to be inclusive of all the specificities in each country regarding the status of adoption the Istanbul Convention (signature, ratification and/or implementation).

**This slogan will be translated by the organisers into all languages.**

- ✓ Please send the [EWL](#) the translation of the slogan into your language, as soon as you have it.
- ✓ The slogan will be used as part of the visual identity of the Project (see [below](#))

Besides the common slogan, key messages have been developed in relation to:

1. The phenomenon of rape in Europe.
2. The provisions of the Istanbul Convention compared to the actual situation in Europe, according to the EWL Barometer on Rape in 2013.

- ✓ The following key messages will be taken into account to frame the public events to be organised.
- ✓ However, there is flexibility to adapt these key messages to the specific context of each country. The organisers can choose the focus and priorities.
- ✓ Please inform the [EWL](#) about the focus of the project at country level.

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### 1. KEY MESSAGES ON THE PHENOMENON OF RAPE IN EUROPE

- Sexual violence against women and specially rape continues to be one of the most devastating forms of gender-based violence, yet it is too often a taboo subject and it remains shrouded in silence/‘forgotten’.
- Rape is a serious form of violation of human rights as a violation of the individual’s sexual autonomy and bodily integrity.
- Sexual violence, including rape, is rooted in unequal power relations between women and men.
- A great majority of sex crimes remain undisclosed and sexual violence remains underestimated. Reference at European level indicates that only between 2% and 10% of rapes are reported. Many experts highlight that a large number of rapes remain unreported because women are afraid to ask for protection, do not know where to go and/or do not believe that the existent legal system is going to protect them. Moreover, gender stereotypes as well as societal expectations with regard

to women and men's behaviour (gender roles) can contribute to an atmosphere where rape is possible and indeed acceptable<sup>4</sup>.

- **The road 'from report to court'<sup>5</sup> is paved with many obstacles for women's access to justice.** Many reported rapes are never prosecuted and from those that are prosecuted, the vast majority do not end in a conviction. Existing comparative research shows that in Europe, on average, 14% of reported rapes end in a conviction, with rates falling as low as 5% in some countries.<sup>6</sup>
- **Official data on sexual violence are difficult to find and studies on the prevalence of violence against women often fail to estimate the extent of sexual violence.**

✓ Please, adapt these key messages to the context of your country by including reference to statistical data and studies. Use the information of your country page of the [EWL Barometer on Rape in Europe in 2013](#).

💡 On the gender stereotypes regarding rape, see [section 3](#).

## 2. KEY MESSAGES ON THE PROVISIONS OF THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION COMPARED TO THE ACTUAL SITUATION IN EUROPE, ACCORDING TO THE EWL BAROMETER ON RAPE IN 2013.

- **The Istanbul Convention is a very important tool to improve legislation and policies on rape.**
- **The Istanbul Convention should be signed, ratified and implemented in a timely manner as an effective tool to prevent and combat rape and protect its victims.**
- **The Istanbul Convention sets comprehensive standards for legislative and other measures to prevent and combat rape, in particular:**
  - a) the legal definition of rape;
  - b) data collection on all forms of violence against women, including rape;
  - c) protection and support for women victims;
  - d) prevention;
  - e) access to justice, and
  - f) protection for migrant women, refugee women and women asylum-seekers.

- ✓ **The key messages below will be adapted considering the situation in your country compared to the Istanbul Convention Standards.**
- ✓ **Highlight the ways ahead in your country.**

<sup>4</sup> Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, *Date Rape Cases among Young Women: Strategies for Support and Prevention*, University of Nicosia Press, Nicosia, 2008.

<sup>5</sup> Borrowing the title of the following report: Hester, M 2013, 'From Report to Court: Rape and the Criminal Justice System in the North East'. Bristol: University of Bristol.

<sup>6</sup> Jo Lovett and Liz Kelly (2009) *Different systems, similar outcomes. Tracking attrition in reported rape cases across Europe*. London: CWASU, London Metropolitan University. (Funded by Daphne II). Hester, M 2013, 'From Report to Court: Rape and the Criminal Justice System in the North East'. Bristol: University of Bristol.





To do so, please, check the CoE Factsheet “[12 steps](#)” and the Factsheet on sexual violence (see [below](#)).

### a. Legal definition of rape

- **The Istanbul Convention is a very important tool to improve legislation on rape.**

Force-based definitions of rape offer inadequate protection for women against sexual violence. In the case of *M.C. v. Bulgaria*, the European Court of Human Rights has stated this and considered rape legislation that focusses exclusively or unduly on proving the use of force rather than the lack of consent of the victim to be in violation of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Istanbul Convention incorporated this judgement by requiring States Parties to adapt their criminal legislation on sexual violence and rape to focus on the lack of consent as a constituent element of the crime.

- **The Istanbul Convention states clearly that a non-consensual act of sexual nature is violence and should be criminalised.** (Article 36) The consent, and not the use of force, is the constituent element of the crime.

- The lack of consent has sometimes also been denounced as difficult to prove and that “may, in practice, result in the secondary victimization of the complainant/survivor by forcing the prosecution to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the complainant/survivor did not consent. In an attempt to avoid such secondary victimization, some countries have developed definitions of rape which rely on the existence of certain circumstances, rather than demonstrating a lack of consent.”<sup>7</sup>

- The Explanatory Report of the Istanbul Convention further clarifies that “Prosecution of the offence of rape will require a context-sensitive assessment of the evidence in order to establish on a case-by-case basis whether the victim has freely consented to the sexual act performed” (para 192). A minimalist view of consent may obscure the extent to which social stereotypes about ‘appropriate’ gendered behaviour, as well as material considerations and structural power differentials configure an unequal terrain of choice and communication about sexuality between women and men. There is substantial evidence that “a woman who exhibits other non-conforming behaviour, for example, by drinking alcohol, dressing in a way that may be perceived as ‘provocative’, or initiating intimacy will often be deemed – by defendants, criminal justice officials and jurors – to have sent out signals of sexual interest which cannot easily be revoked when subsequently relied upon by a male perpetrator”.<sup>8</sup> It is important to ensure that the interpretations of rape legislation and the prosecution of rape cases are not influenced by such gender stereotypes and myths about male and female sexuality.

- **The Istanbul Convention specifies that “*Consent must be given voluntarily as the result of the person’s free will assessed in the context of the surrounding circumstances*”.** (Article 36) This points the need to go beyond minimalist notions of consent towards a possible notion of ‘consent+’ that integrates societal and contextual considerations of inequality and power.

<sup>7</sup> [UN Handbook for Legislation on Violence against Women, 2010.](#)

<sup>8</sup> For a more elaborate discussion see Vanessa E. Munro, From consent to coercion: Evaluating international law and domestic frameworks for the criminalization of rape, pp. 17-29, in Clare McGlynn and Vanessa Munro (eds.) *Rethinking Rape Law*, London: Routledge, 2010.





## b. Data collection and recording

- **Available data on women victims of rape is poor:** with few exceptions, information on women victims for reported rapes is non-existent. The police and judicial systems, when recording the cases, do not publish or even collect sex-disaggregated data.

- **The Istanbul Convention requires States Parties to collect disaggregated relevant statistical data at regular intervals on all forms of violence against women, including rape; to conduct population-based surveys to assess the prevalence of and trends of forms of violence against women, including rape; and to support research in the field to identify root causes and effects, incidences and conviction (Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention).**

## c. Provision of services and support to victims

- The lack of **specific services and resources for victims/survivors of rape is still a common issue in Europe.** Following the results of the EWL Barometer on Rape in Europe 2013, in the majority of countries there are no specific services and/or special help lines for women victims of rape. And everywhere, experts denounce resources dedicated to dealing with this matter, which are insufficient at best and derisory to non-existent at worst.
- **The traumatic nature of rape requires a particularly sensitive response by trained and specialised staff.** Victims of this type of violence need immediate medical care and trauma support combined with immediate forensic examination to collect the evidence needed for prosecution. Furthermore, there is often a great need for psychological counselling and therapy – often weeks and months after the event.

- **The Istanbul Convention obliges States Parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that there are appropriate mechanisms to protect and support victims of violence,** including victims of rape. The Istanbul Convention requires :
  - Ensuring that victims have access to services facilitating their recovery from violence, including legal and psychological counselling, financial assistance, housing, education, training and assistance in finding employment (Article 20 – General support services).
  - The setting up of appropriate, easily accessible rape crisis or sexual violence referral centres for victims in sufficient numbers to provide for medical and forensic examination, trauma support and counselling for victims (Article 25 – Support for victims of sexual violence).
- Importantly, the Istanbul Convention recognises that specialist support services, such as the rape crisis centres, are best when provided by women’s organisations, which have experienced staff with in-depth knowledge of gender-based violence that are able to address the multiple and specific needs of women victims of rape.

## d. On prevention

- **Gender myths and stereotypes about male and female sexuality and sexual behaviour are still prevalent in society, as well as notions about ‘appropriate’ gender behaviour.** There is a consistent and alarmingly high range of prejudicial attitudes held by the public who blame women for their victimisation and compound an already traumatic experience by attributing the assault in whole or in part to some aspect of women’s demeanour or behaviour.



- **The Istanbul Convention has a whole chapter dedicated to prevention** in order to promote changes in the social and cultural patterns with a view to eradicating prejudices, customs, traditions and other practices based on the idea of the inferiority of women or on stereotyped roles for women and men. Among the measures that the states should implement, the Istanbul Convention promotes awareness-raising campaigns preventive programmes, the inclusion of gender equality in formal curriculum at all levels of education and training for relevant professionals (Articles 12 to 17).

#### e. On access to justice

- Gender myths and stereotypes are present not only in the larger society; they are still widespread among police, prosecutors and judges. Therefore, women often face additional risks when reporting rape to the authorities, and there is often no guarantee that they will be treated respectfully by the judicial system.
- The Istanbul Convention puts in place a number of measures designed to ensure effective investigation and prosecution of crimes of sexual violence, as well as the protection of victims of such crimes at all stages of judicial proceedings.

- **Measures to protect victims of rape at all stages of investigations and judicial proceedings**
- The Istanbul Convention requires law enforcement agencies to promptly and appropriately respond to all forms of violence, including rape, by offering adequate and immediate protection to victims (Article 50).
- The Istanbul Convention requires States Parties to make available the following support to victims of violence, including victims of rape: specialist support services for victims during investigations and judicial proceedings, such as trained counsellors (Article 55(2)); appropriate support services for victims so that their rights and interests are duly presented and taken into account at all stages of investigations and judicial proceedings (Article 56(1e)); legal assistance and legal aid (Article 57)
- Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure the possibility for governmental and non-governmental organisations and to assist and/or support victims, at their request, during investigation and judicial proceedings (Article 55(2)).

- In judicial proceedings evidence relating to the sexual history and sexual conduct of a victim is sometimes exploited in order to discredit the evidence presented by the victim. The defence sometimes uses previous sexual behaviour evidence in order to challenge the respectability, the credibility and the lack of consent of victims. As NGO and experts denounce, at court proceedings victims are still asked about their sexual preferences, sexual history, possible abortions, drug and alcohol use.

**This may lead to *de facto* inequality, since victims are more likely to be provided with this protection if they are judged to be ‘respectable’.**

- **The Istanbul Convention obliges States Parties to take the necessary measures to ensure that in any civil or criminal proceedings, evidence relating to the sexual history shall be permitted only when is relevant and necessary** (Article 54). Past sexual behaviour should not be considered as an excuse for acts of violence against women. Sexual history evidence should be only presented in a way that does not lead to secondary victimisation. Victims should have



access to legal recourse without suffering additional trauma because of their sexual history and conduct.

- Furthermore, when prosecution and investigation depends on the victim's complaint, if the victim refuses to support prosecution the case will be dropped. The main risk is that the victim may waive the complaint under pressure from the perpetrator. Taking this into consideration and taking into account the emotional complexity of criminal proceedings for the victim, including pressure from the perpetrator, the majority of rape cases stay under-reported or do not reach the court.

- **The Istanbul Convention requires Parties to ensure that investigations into or prosecution of rape offences shall not be wholly dependent upon a report or complaint filed by a victim (Article 55).** Law enforcement authorities should investigate in a proactive way in order to gather evidence in order to make sure that the proceedings may be carried out even if the victim withdraws her complaint.

#### f. Protection for migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women

- Migrant women victims of gender-based violence, including rape are extremely vulnerable as fear of expulsion or the risk of losing the residence status is acting as an impediment for them to seek assistance, report, or ask for separation or divorce. Migrant women victims of gender-based violence, including rape can be trapped in situations of abuse, if their status in the country depends on that of their abuser. Undocumented women migrant workers in domestic service victims of violence, sexual violence and rape, are especially vulnerable to being abused by their employers.

- **The Istanbul Convention introduces the possibility of granting migrant women an autonomous residence permit if they are trapped in an abusive relationship because their residence status depends on that of their abusive spouse or partner; and that their expulsion proceedings, if initiated, are suspended.** Furthermore, Parties shall issue a renewable residence permit to victims if the authority considers that this is necessary for their personal situation or/and if the investigation or criminal proceeding requires the cooperation and testimony of the victim (Article 59).

- Rape and sexual violence have been massively used as a weapon of war and as a form of persecution against women in conflict areas and war affected zones. However, generally at international level, there is an alarming lack of understanding of the different causes of persecution affecting women and men. Overall, the criteria for establishing refugee status are often gender blind. Only a small minority of countries in the world recognise the status of refugee for women fleeing from gender-based violence.

- **The Istanbul Convention requires States Parties to:**
  - ensure that gender-based violence against women may be recognised as a form of persecution within the meaning of the 1951 Refugee Convention (Article 60 paragraph 1).
  - ensure that the grounds for asylum listed in the 1951 Refugee Convention are interpreted in a gender-sensitive manner (Article 60 paragraph 2).
  - introduce gender-sensitive procedures, guidelines and support services in the asylum process (Article 60 paragraph 3).



### 3. Information and Resources

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#### A. EWL

- [EWL Barometer on rape in Europe 2013](#)

#### B. Council of Europe

- Text of the Istanbul Convention in each language in A4 format.
- CoE Factsheet “[12 steps](#)” Available in English and French only.


✓ Please indicate which of these two languages you would like to receive.

- CoE Factsheet on sexual violence: “provision of the Convention on Sexual Violence” (*still under preparation*). Available in English and French only.

✓ Please indicate which of these two languages you would like to receive.

- Leaflets on the Istanbul Convention available in 17 languages.

Resources:

- Council of Europe webpage on the Istanbul Convention:  
[http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/default_en.asp)
- CoE resources on case law on violence against women from the Court of Human Rights. 11   
[http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/caselaw\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/caselaw_en.asp)

#### C. Other resources

- Common Myths and facts about Rape. England and Wales Rape Crisis Centre:  
<http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk/commonmyths2.php>
- Facts and Information about sexual violence and rape. RCC The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre  
<http://www.drcc.ie/get-help-and-information/facts-and-info-about-sexual-violence-and-rape/>
- Video “It’s always your fault”, Created by [All India Bakchod](#), a group of comedians in India:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hCONg\\_ajpY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hCONg_ajpY)
- 8 Myths on Rape identified by a victim of rape Karen Tayag Vertido and included in the CEDAW opinion on the case Vertido against The Philippines, 2008:  
[http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/caselaw/CEDAW%20C%2046%20DR%2018%202008\\_en%20Vertido%20v%20%20Philippines.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/caselaw/CEDAW%20C%2046%20DR%2018%202008_en%20Vertido%20v%20%20Philippines.pdf)
- “10 idées reçues sur le viol”, ContreleViol.org : <http://www.contreleviol.fr/viol-en-france/10-idees-recues-sur-le-viol>
- Bulletin 2013, Collective Féministe contre le viol : <http://issuu.com/agisson/docs/bulletin-cfcv?e=4184817/4624291#search>
- Campaigns on rape. <http://www.womenlobby.org/spip.php?article3699>

✓ Please let us know about other good campaigns that we can include in this section.

- UK Feminista Action Toolkit to develop a campaign: <http://ukfeminista.org.uk/take-action/toolkit/>
- 💡 Have a look especially at the 'Use of traditional media' <http://ukfeminista.org.uk/take-action/toolkit/media/> and the toolkit to 'Harnessing the power of social media in campaigns': <http://ukfeminista.org.uk/take-action/toolkit/harnessing-the-power-of-social-media-in-campaigns/>

- ✓ **If needed, print copies of the EWL Barometer** to distribute at the public events.
- ✓ Be sure that you have received the copies of the documents under point B.
- ✓ Have a look to the resources under point C.



## 4. Public Events in all countries

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During 16 days of activism against gender-based violence (25 November -10 December), public events will be organised in each country, targeting policy-makers. They will be half-day public events in the form of a debate, seminar, lecture, talk or public hearing at the parliament, etc.

**Participants to be invited to the Public Event** as speakers should include at the minimum:

- EWL expert or member responsible of organising the event (this way, feminist perspective will be included);
- Government representatives (from the different ministries involved: women, justice, etc.);
- A Member of the European Parliament (MEP) of your country;
  - 💡 Check the website of the European Parliament [here](#). Contact information of MEPs can be found in this website.
  - 💡 Check the list of MEPs in the FEMM Committee [here](#) as they should be more committed to the cause of violence against women.
  - 💡 When choosing the date for the event, take into account that if the event is organised on a Friday, it is more likely that a MEP will attend. In this regard, be also aware that on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December, there is plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg so it would be difficult for a MEP to attend any meeting at national level.
- A member of the national parliament – preferably would also member of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Network “Women Free from Violence”.
  - 💡 Check the list [here](#).
- Lead experts/researchers in the country, with a legal background, feminist legal scholars.

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Others participants that can be invited to the event:

- Legal forensic experts and doctors.
- Police liaison officers, if exist.
- Activist journalists
  - 💡 They can be offered a panel to chair.

The Council of Europe will inform its country and liaison offices about the event.

- 💡 Be sure you are in contact with them to liaise for the events.  
<http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/offices>

The Finnish Embassy should also be invited to the event.

## How to organise the public event

- ✓ **Define the type of public event to organise:** debate, seminar, lecture, talk or public hearing at the parliament, etc.
- ✓ **Set the date** for the event during the 16 days of action against gender based violence
  - 💡 Have in mind the date of other possible events on violence and the agendas of the invited speakers.
- ✓ **Draft an agenda** taking into account the common key messages, the specific key messages for your country and the list of participants above mentioned.
- ✓ **Build up alliances** with other organisations in order to mainstream diversity of the event (see below).
  - 💡 In order to mainstream diversity: invite organisations representing specific identity groups to attend the meeting and ethnic minorities, migrants, women with disabilities, LGBT, etc.
  - 💡 You can contact the following organisations or check their list of members at national level:
    - European Network of Migrant women: <http://www.migrantwomennetwork.org/>
    - European Disability Forum: <http://www.edf-feph.org/>
    - Federation of Romani and Traveller Women:  
<http://www.womenlobby.org/spip.php?rubrique109>
    - ILGA Europe: <http://www.ilga-europe.org/>
    - Transgender Europe: <http://www.tgeu.org/>
  - 💡 Provide information about the project to your partners at regional level to call for participation or to involve them in the dissemination of the information, etc.
  - 💡 Contact Human Rights Institutes at national level.
- ✓ **Invite** the speakers and chairpersons.
- ✓ **Set the logistics and the venue**
  - 💡 When booking the venue, try to be supported by a Member of your Parliament and book a room at your national parliament or at the premises of a Ministry.
- ✓ **Translate** the key messages and the Introduction of the EWL Barometer on Rape, as agreed in the contract between the EWL and your organisation. Once that the translation of the Introduction of the EWL is available, please, send a copy to the EWL.
- ✓ **Prepare the materials** to be disseminated at the event: print the materials needed.
- ✓ **Prepare the final agenda** of the public event, taking into account the visual identity requirements as explained below.
- ✓ **Set up a registration process.**



- ✓ **Disseminate the information:** Prepare an invitation e-mail to attend the meeting, taking into account the visual identity requirements as explained below and disseminate the information through mailing your contact database and posting the event on your social media networks.



Send the all the information to [EWL](#) so we can post it on the EWL website and facebook page.

- ✓ **Design a communication and media outreach plan** (see [below](#)).
- ✓ **Define the outcomes from the public events** . These outcomes will serve to engage the participants in its action against rape and for the use of the Istanbul Convention.

→ Brainstorm on the possible points of action that can come out from the event. For example:

- Agreement by a number of parliamentarians to follow up the signature /ratification/implementation process;
- Agreement on sending letters to authorities to advocate for the signature/ratification/ implementation process;
- Commitment of a number of parliamentarians to have a follow up meeting in several months.

→ Think of media actions in which several stakeholders express their engagement. For example:

- national parliamentarians or members of the European Parliament holding a notice where the slogan of the action “Act against rape, Use the Istanbul Convention” can be read. It could also be more specific slogans depending on the situation in your country. “I sign”/ “I ask for the Istanbul Convention ratification”/ “Speed up the implementation of the Istanbul Convention”.
- videoclip of the national parliamentarians or members of the European Parliament informing why they consider that the Istanbul Convention is relevant to address the phenomenon of rape.

→ Propose one of these outcomes or media actions to the stakeholders to whom you want to involve.

→ Prepare the material needed to have it ready for the event. For example, propose a draft of the letter to authorities, etc.





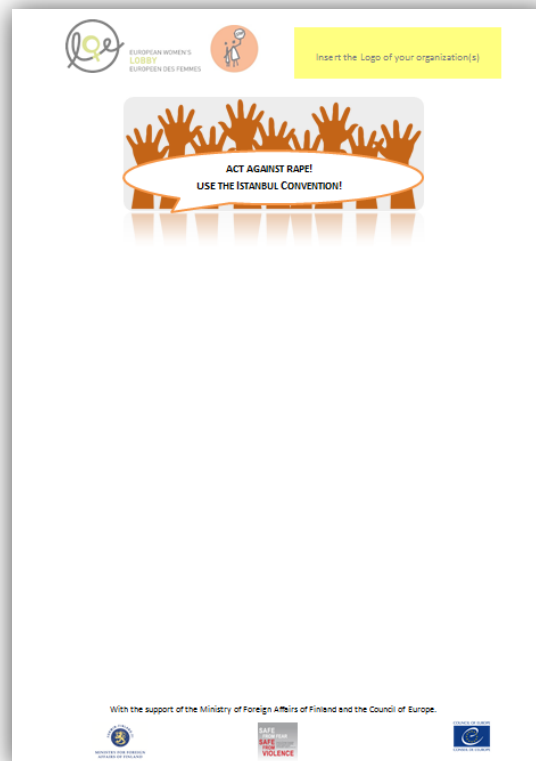
## 5. Communication

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### Visual Identity Requirements

This template will be used for the preparation of all the materials at country level: agendas, invitations, etc.

- ✓ You can modify the text in the Callout of the image of the project to add the slogan translated into your language. Please try to keep the format of the text if possible.



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The following banner can be used in your website to advertise the project.



*ACTION KIT*

## Media Outreach

The strategy of media outreach includes three channels to disseminate information:

1. EWL Website: Section for the Project.
2. Social Media.
3. Traditional media.

### 1. EWL Website: Section for the project

The [website](#) of the project “Act against rape! Use the Istanbul Convention!” has been launched to show the widespread mobilisation thorough Europe.

It explains the project and provides useful information and links to the Istanbul Convention site. By clicking in each country of the map of Europe, the user can access information on the results of the EWL Barometer on Rape 2013 in each country and all the details about the events that are going to take place all over Europe.

The website will also include all the photographs of the events at country level, as well as all the materials for the events: agendas, press releases, articles, etc.

- ✓ Provide the EWL with all the information about the events: date, venue, agenda, information on how to register so we can include it in the website.
- ✓ Send the EWL an updated logo of the organisation(s) in charge.
- ✓ Send the EWL a picture to illustrate the project in the website section of the project dedicated to your country.
- ✓ Send articles, news, resources, country campaigns, etc. for the specific section of the website in your country.
- ✓ Send us links to the pictures or videos of the event.

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### 2. Social Media

**Twitter ([www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)):**

#### **Tips and Recommendations**

- 💡 Always include the common hashtag of the project #actagainstrape2013 to connect to the project. This way you can be retweeted and gain visibility. (Keep it in English or in French).
- 💡 Hashtags help to gain public attention towards your tweets. You can include for example, #endviolenceagainstwomen, #equality; #feminism, #stoprape, etc.
- 💡 Tweet very frequently, especially during the 16 days of activism in which the public events are going to be held. You can repeat the tweets from time to time as a reminder about certain information, such as for example the date and venue of the event.
- 💡 Tweets can only be 140 characteres, so keep it short and catchy.

- 💡 Retweet the EWL tweets regarding the project (Check @europeanwomen [site](#) in Twitter).
- 💡 Retweet relevant tweets of the Council of Europe regarding the Istanbul Convention (check @CoE [site](#) in Twitter).
- 💡 Retweet as well the tweets from the different organisers of events around Europe.
- 💡 Tweet the links to your webpage, to your articles, press releases, etc.
- 💡 Tweet links to different good campaigns on rape: videos, pictures, slogans, etc.
- 💡 Images grab attention; therefore try to include in your tweets pictures of actions, campaigns, slogans, etc. Use the images under Creative Commons licenses.
- 💡 Provide information about fact and figures and call for action.
- 💡 Use the myths about rape to inform about reality and call for action.
- 💡 Tweet key journalists during your event using @username to call for their attention, including link to your press release.
- 💡 During and after the event, tweet quotes from the participants and include pictures of the event.
- 💡 After the event, tweet to inform about what happened or the conclusions of the event.

### Examples of tweets:

*Before the event, to create awareness on the topic and inform about the details of the event:*

- We are working on a project across Europe. Act against Rape! Use the #IstanbulConvention! #actagainstrape2013 @EWL
- Mark your calendar! **November 28** we will Act against Rape! and ask for the **use** of the #IstanbulConvention! #actagainstrape2013
- Where will you be on the **November 28**? Join us! Ask our politicians to Act against Rape and to **use** the #IstanbulConvention! #actagainstrape2013
- **28 November**, **place**, **time**, **name of the person** will be speaking about **theme**. **Use** the #IstanbulConvention. #actagainstrape2013
- Do you know that only 4 to 10% of women raped report the case! It is time to act against rape! #actagainstrape2013
- Victims of rape are still blamed and suffer second victimisation! Let's **use** the #IstanbulConvention to change this! #actagainstrape2013
- Rape is a violation of women's rights and human rights! Stop rape! **Use** the #IstanbulConvention! #actagainstrape2013
- One in ten women will be a victim of rape in her lifetime! It's time to act against rape! #actagainstrape2013



## Facebook ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com))

- 💡 Share the content of your tweets also in Facebook.
- 💡 Create a Facebook event, to share the information about the date, venue. You can use the image of the project as the image of the event.
- 💡 Share articles, videos of other campaigns, etc.
- 💡 Share with the EWL the link of the facebook event in your country.

## Flickr ([www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com))

- 💡 Flickr is an image and video hosting site. It is very useful to storage all the images about your events and activities.
- 💡 Share your images of the event and the project in Flickr using your Flickr account or send your pictures to the EWL and we will upload them in the EWL flickr account.

## Youtube ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)) or Vimeo ([www.vimeo.com](http://www.vimeo.com))

- 💡 Both websites (youtube and vimeo) allow you to share your videos.
- 💡 If you create a Youtube channel, it allows you to upload videos of your events, actions, campaigns, etc. and have a playlist.
- 💡 Vimeo is a more professional and creative website.
- 💡 If you make a video of the event or the interventions of the speakers, share these videos in your youtube channel or in vimeo and share the links with EWL.



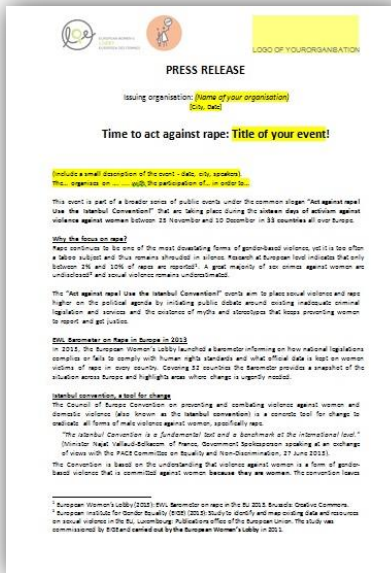
### 3. Traditional Media: Press kit

In order to facilitate media coverage, a press kit has been prepared which includes:

- Template for press release
- Country pages of the EWL Barometer on rape in Europe 2013.

## Template for press release for each of the events at national level

See below a template for press release. The text can serve you as a model. You can for example, add quotes supporting the Istanbul Convention from high level representatives in your country



💡 Print your press release and have some copies available during the event.

💡 Publish a post-event press release modifying your press release and including what information on what has happened in the event, quotes, pictures etc.

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## Country pages of the EWL Barometer

Please find the link to your country in the table below:

<a href="#">Austria</a>	<a href="#">Greece</a>	<a href="#">Poland</a>
<a href="#">Belgium</a>	<a href="#">Hungary</a>	<a href="#">Portugal</a>
<a href="#">Bulgaria</a>	<a href="#">Iceland</a>	<a href="#">Romania</a>
<a href="#">Croatia</a>	<a href="#">Ireland</a>	<a href="#">Serbia</a>
<a href="#">Cyprus</a>	<a href="#">Italy</a>	<a href="#">Slovenia</a>
<a href="#">Czech Republic</a>	<a href="#">Latvia</a>	<a href="#">Spain</a>
<a href="#">Denmark</a>	<a href="#">Lithuania</a>	<a href="#">Sweden</a>
<a href="#">Estonia</a>	<a href="#">Luxemburg</a>	<a href="#">Turkey</a>
<a href="#">Finland</a>	<a href="#">"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"</a>	<a href="#">Ukraine</a>
<a href="#">France</a>	<a href="#">Malta</a>	<a href="#">United Kingdom</a>
<a href="#">Germany</a>	<a href="#">Netherlands</a>	



Please, translate the country pages of the EWL Barometer into your languages. The Experts of the EWL Observatory will probably have the information already translated.

## 6. Reporting to the EWL about the event

- ✓ A **short report**, two pages maximum, will be prepared by the organisers at country level in order to describe the substance of the event: what was identified as the main obstacles, what can be the ways ahead.
- ✓ This report will be sent to the [EWL](#) by 20<sup>th</sup> December.

**REPORT**

Event in the framework of the CoE-EWL joint project:  
Act against rape! Use the Istanbul Convention!

In City/COUNTRY, on the 00.00.2013.

Small description of the event detailing the topics that were handled (no more than 10 lines, as the agenda is going to be also attached)

Short description of the main conclusions of the event: advantages, obstacles and possible ways forward as discussed during the event (no more than 10 lines)

Short description the outcomes from the public events (i.e.: agreements, letters, video clip, etc.) include the link if relevant (no more than 10 lines)

WWW.EWLOLLOBBY.COM



## ANNEXES

### ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

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#### **The Council of Europe**

An international organisation in Strasbourg which comprises 47 countries of Europe, 28 of which are members of the European Union. It was set up to promote democracy and protect human rights and the rule of law in Europe. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

On 7 April 2011, the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence was adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers. It was opened for signature on 11 May 2011. As of today, 31 countries have signed and, from those, 5 countries have ratified the Convention.

#### **The European Women's Lobby and the EWL Observatory on Violence Against Women.**

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) is the largest umbrella organisation of women's associations in the European Union (EU), working to promote women's rights and equality between women and men. EWL membership extends to more than 2,000 organisations in all EU Member States and Candidate Countries, as well as to European-wide associations.

The European Women's Lobby has been for years strongly advocating that male violence against women is a structural phenomenon in all European countries and should therefore be addressed at European level.

In 1997, the EWL set up its Observatory on Violence against Women, whose task is to advise the EWL on how it should develop recommendations for European institutions to follow up actions and build strategies in order to improve the general prevention of violence against women (VAW) and the protection of women victims/survivors of male violence against women. The EWL and its [Observatory members](#) monitor policy developments at national, European and international level. In this context, the experts are at the forefront of identifying critical and emerging issues.

#### **Organisers at country level**

In each of the 33 countries involved, a member of the EWL Observatory, an NGO member of the EWL or a partner NGO (in cases where there is no EWL national co-ordination) is involved in the co-ordination of the joint action.



## Austria



### Austrian Women Ring

Servitengasse, 19/5  
A - 1090 Wien  
Tel/fax: +43 19236910  
Email: marlene.parenzan(a)chello.at  
Email: office(a)frauenring.at  
Website: <http://www.frauenring.at>

## Bulgaria



**Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation,**  
National Coordinator of Women's Lobby  
c/o Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation  
5, Evlogi i Hristo Georgiev Blvd.  
BG - 1142 Sofia  
Tel/Fax: 359 2 9635357  
Email: t\_krumova(a)mail.bg  
Email2: office(a)bgrf.org <http://www.bgrf.org/en/>

## Cyprus



**Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS)**  
Cyprus Women's Lobby  
46 Makedonitissas Avenue,  
P.O.Box 24005, Nicosia 1703, Cyprus  
Tel: +35722 351274 (ext.115) Fax: +357 22 353682  
<http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org>

## Denmark

kvinderådet



### The Women's Council in Denmark

Niels Hemmingsens Gade, 10  
Postboks 1069  
DK - 1008 Copenhagen K  
Tel: +45 33 12 80 87 Fax: +45 33 12 67 40  
Email: kvr(a)kvinderaad.dk  
Website: <http://www.kvinderaadet.dk>

## Belgium

## Croatia



CENTAR ZA ZENE ZRTVE RATA-ROSA

**Centre for Women War Victims - ROSA**  
KRALJA DRŽISLAVA 2/2, 10 000 ZAGREB  
TEL/FAX: + 385 1 455 11 42  
TEL: + 385 1 455 1128  
MAIL: [cenzena@zamir.net](mailto:cenzena@zamir.net)  
[www.czzzr.hr](http://www.czzzr.hr)

## Czech Republic



Zabýváme se tématy domácího násilí, stalkingu a kyberšikany. Poskytujeme přímou pomoc a osvětu.

### profem o.p.s.

Plzeňská 66, 150 00 Praha 5  
Tel. 00420 224 910 744  
Fax: 227 077 969  
E-mail: info[at]profem.cz  
[www.profem.cz](http://www.profem.cz)

## Estonia



ESTONIAN WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATIONS  
ROUNDTABLE

### Estonian Women's Associations Roundtable

Narva mnt 25-410  
EE – 10120 Tallinn  
Tel: +372 526 5927  
Email: enu@enu.ee  
Website: <http://www.enu.ee>





## Finland

## France



La Coordination Française  
pour le Lobby Européen des Femmes

### La Coordination française pour le lobby européen des femmes- CLEF

6, rue de la Rochefoucauld

F - 75009 Paris

Tel/fax: +33 1 5550 45 64

Email: [clef.femmes\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:clef.femmes(a)gmail.com)

Website: [www.clef-femmes.fr](http://www.clef-femmes.fr)

## Germany

## Greece

### Coordination of Greek women's NGOs for the EWL

Panepistimiou 56 str.

GR - 106 73 Athens

Tel: +30 210 3628574 / 3614833

Fax: +30 210 3643696

Email: [ioanidou.e.g\(a\)dsa.gr](mailto:ioanidou.e.g(a)dsa.gr)

## Hungary



### Hungarian Women's Lobby

Dohány u. 71

HU - 1074 Budapest

Fax: +36 1 337 2865

Email: [noierdek\(a\)noierdek.hu](mailto:noierdek(a)noierdek.hu)

Website: <http://www.noierdek.hu>

## Iceland



### Stígamót

Hverfisgötu 115,

105 Reykjavík, Iceland

Simar: 562-6868/800-6868

E-mail: [stigamot@stigamot.is](mailto:stigamot@stigamot.is)

<http://www.stigamot.is/>

## Ireland



### National Women's Council of Ireland

2-3 Parnell Square East

IRL - Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 878 7248

Fax: +353 1 878 7301

## Italy



### Italian Coordination for the EWL

Via Mentana, 2b

I - 00185 Roma

Tel: +39 06 494 14 91

Email: [m.tranquillileali\(a\)virgilio.it](mailto:m.tranquillileali(a)virgilio.it)



Email: [anneg\(a\)ncwi.ie](mailto:anneg(a)ncwi.ie)

Website: <http://www.nwci.ie>

#### Latvia



#### Women's NGOs Cooperation Network of Latvia

Valnu 32,

Riga, LV-1050, Latvia

Tel: (+371) 2 9493300, (+371) 2 646 8079

#### Luxembourg

#### Malta



#### Malta Confederation of Women's Organisations

3c/o Keimar Bldgs, Level 4,

Giovanni Mamo Street,

Birkirkara BKR2961

Tel: +356 7959 2626

Email: [mail\(a\)mcwo.net](mailto:mail(a)mcwo.net)

Email2: [lorspiteri\(a\)gmail.net](mailto:lorspiteri(a)gmail.net)

Website: <http://www.mcwo.net/>

#### Poland



#### Network of East West Women/Polish Women's Lobby

80-239 Gdansk, ul. Miszewskiego 17/100, Poland

Website: [www.coordinamentoitalianolobbyeudonne](http://www.coordinamentoitalianolobbyeudonne)

#### Lithuania



#### Women's Issues Information Centre

S.Konarskio g. 49 806 kab. LT-03123 Vilnius, Lithuania

Website: <http://www.lygus.lt/>

#### Macedonia



MACEDONIAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

Macedonian Women's Lobby

11 Oktomvri 42a

House for Humanitarian Activities "Dare Dzambaz"

office 60/61

MK - 1000 Skopje

Tel: +389 23231933

Fax: +389 2 3112128

Email: [info\(a\)mzl-mk.org](mailto:info(a)mzl-mk.org)

Website: [www.mzl-mk.org](http://www.mzl-mk.org)

#### Netherlands



#### National Coordination for the European Women's Lobby- Nederlandse Vrouwenraad

Zeestraat, 100

NL – 2518 AD Den Haag

Tel: +31 70 3469304

Fax: +31 70 3459346

Email: [info\(a\)de-nvr.nl](mailto:info(a)de-nvr.nl)

Website: <http://www.nederlandsevrouwenraad.nl>

#### Portugal



Associação de Mulheres  
Contra a Violência

#### Associação de Mulheres Contra a Violência (AMCV)

R. João Villaret, 9

1000-182 Lisboa Portugal

<http://www.amcv.org.pt/pt/amcv-mulheres>



<http://www.neww.org.pl/>

### Romania



#### Romanian Women's Lobby

5, Viticultori Street,  
700490 Iași, Romania  
Tel: +40 332 211713  
Fax: +40 332 401005  
Email: office[a]dearnetwork.ro  
Site web: [www.dearnetwork.ro](http://www.dearnetwork.ro)

### Slovakia

### Spain



#### Spanish Coordination for the European Women's Lobby-CELEM

C/Génova 11 1º dcha  
28010 - Madrid  
Teléfono: 91 319 11 95  
Fax: 91 319 27 82  
E-mail: celem@celem.org  
Website: [www.celem.org](http://www.celem.org)

### Turkey



#### KAMER Vakfi

Address: Aliemiri 3.Sok. Es-şal Apt. Kat: 1 No :1  
Yenişehir / Diyarbakır  
Telephone : 0 412 228 10 53  
<http://www.kamer.org.tr/>

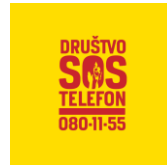
### Serbia



#### Autonomous Women's Center

Tiršova 5a  
11000 Belgrade  
mail: azc@azc.org.rs  
<http://womenngo.org.rs/>

### Slovenia



#### Association SOS Help-Line for Women and children-victims of violence

P. O. Box 2726, 1001 Ljubljana  
Office Telephone: 00386 1 544 35 13, 00386 1 544 35 14  
<http://www.drustvo-sos.si/>

### Sweden



#### Swedish Women's Lobby

Sveriges Kvinno lobby  
Norr tullsgatan 45, 1 van  
S - 113 45 Stockholm  
Tel: +46 8 335247  
Email: info(a)sverigeskvinnolobby.se  
Website: <http://www.sverigeskvinnolobby.se>

### Ukraine



#### La Strada Ukraine

P.O. Box 26  
03113 Kyiv  
tel: +38 044 205 36 95  
fax: +38 044 205 37 36  
info@la-strada.org.ua  
website : [www.la-strada.org.ua](http://www.la-strada.org.ua)



United Kingdom



**Engender**

1a Haddington Place

UK- Edinburgh EH7 4AE

Tel: +44 131 558 9596

Email: [info\(a\)engender.org.uk](mailto:info@engender.org.uk)

Website: <http://www.engender.org.uk/>





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