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VIIIth Conference on Femicide/Femicide

the duty of due diligence in eradicating femicide/femicide

This conference is organised by **the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament** and **the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, EU Office** in cooperation with **AIETI, Alianza por la Solidaridad, APRODEV, Cooperació, CIFCA, European Women's Lobby, Femicidio.net, Flora Tristán, Grupo Sur, Otro Tiempo, Oxfam Intermón** **Two years of EU-CELAC Bi-Regional Dialogue on Gender Issues: What are the improvements?**

- **Conference - 1st of June 2015 15:00-18:30**
in the European Parliament
- **Conference Follow-up Strategy Meeting - 2nd of June, 9:00-13:00**
at the European Social Platform

INTRODUCTION

Femicide/femicide is *“the violent death of women based on gender, whether it occurs within the family, a domestic partnership, or any other interpersonal relationship; in the community, by any person, or when it is perpetrated or tolerated by the state or its agents, by act or omission”* (MESECVI, 2008). It is the most extreme form of violence against women. It is not a matter of “...isolated incidents that arise suddenly and unexpectedly, but rather the ultimate act of violence which is experienced in a continuum of violence” (1) against women. To fight against it, more than a dozen Latin American countries have adopted laws that specifically penalize femicide or femicide. European countries also rely on increasingly specific legal instruments to combat violence against women. Twenty years of the Belém do Pará Convention (2) in Latin America and the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention (3) Europe demonstrate an increasingly stronger **international commitment** against this kind of violence, a commitment which has also been recently expressed in the **establishment of EU-CELAC's Bi-Regional Dialogue on Gender Issues**. However, legal norms, agreements, and international dialogues alone are not sufficient for the eradication of violence against women, nor its most extreme manifestation, femicide/ femicide. It is necessary that the whole of the state structure commit itself to act with **due diligence** to prevent, investigate, sanction all acts of violence against women, as indicated in Belém do Pará and Istanbul, as well as to compensate the victims. The protection of the **life of women** is fundamental when evaluating the diligence of States before acts of violence (4). Femicide/femicide is often a consequence of **lack of due diligence** in the actions taken by States; such is the case when, for example, public policy, carried out by bodies charged with the implementation of the law, such as the police force or the judicial system, are ineffective or passive in cases of violence against women. The **VIII Conference on Femicide** will examine some

aspects related to the duty of due diligence in the actions of States in the face of violence against women and feminicides/femicides. Due diligence will be addressed from an international perspective, including strategies, initiatives, and tools that are being developed in the European and Latin American spheres, as well as, bi-regionally, to contribute to the eradication of the violence against women and feminicide/femicide: In what way do the regional conventions (Belém do Pará and Istanbul) help States act with due diligence in the face of violence against women? As the end of the EU-CELAC 2013-2015 Action Plan term approaches, how has the Bi-Regional Dialogue on Gender Issues contributed to the eradication of feminicide/femicide? The conference will also include a national perspective on due diligence, and in this sense, it will center on means of protection, attention to health, social services, and preventive campaigns, problems related to investigations and judicial processes as well as sanctions in the face of violence against women and, in particular, feminicide/femicide . (1) Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo, http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/A.HRC.20.16_En.pdf
(2) Belém do Pará Convention: <http://oas.org/en/mesecvi/docs/BelemDoPara-ENGLISH.pdf>
(3) Istanbul Convention: <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/convention/Convention%20210%20English.pdf>
(4) Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. IACHR. “Report 170/11. Case 12.578: María Isabel Véliz Franco Et Al. Merits Guatemala.” Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Organization of American States, 2011b, paragraph 75, <http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/court/12.578FondoENG.doc> -12/19/2012

PROGRAMME - VIIIth Conference on Feminicide/Femicide

1st of June 2015 from 15:00 to 18:30 in the European Parliament

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| 14:30 | Access to European Parliament |
| 15:00 | Welcome and Opening Ernest Urtasun, Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA Patricia Jiménez, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, EU Office |
| 15:15 | Panel I: Towards the eradication of feminicide in Latin America and Europe: An international perspective Chair: Ernest Urtasun, Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA |
| | <i>The CELAC and the EU Perspective on the Bi-Regional Dialogue on Gender and the eradication of violence against women</i> Embassy of Argentina (10’) Nicola Murray/ EEAS / Regional Affairs Division, EEAS Americas Department (10’) |
| | <i>The European Strategy for Equality Between Women and Men after 2015</i> Maria Noichl / Member of the European Parliament (15’) |
| | <i>Indicators of implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention: Outcomes in the Latin American continent</i> Luz Patricia Mejía / OEA / MESECVI Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat (15’) |
| | Debate (30’) |
| 16:40 | Panel II: Promising practices for the eradication of feminicide at a national level Chair: Ulrike Lunacek, Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA |
| | <i>EEAS Strategy about violence against women in Latin America</i> Jivka Petkova* EEAS / Special Adviser on Gender (15’) |
| | <i>Guatemala’s response to feminicide: Progress and challenges in the area of due diligence</i> |

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| | Maya Alvarado* / Director of Unión Nacional de Mujeres de Guatemala (UNAMG) (15') |
| | <i>The Comprehensive Law against gender-based violence in Spain: Progress and challenges in the area of due diligence</i> Encarna Bodelón González / Director of the research group Antígona, Barcelona Autonomous University (15') |
| | <i>Media: Strategies for awareness of the media in the face of femicide and violence against women</i> Mónica Maureira / Professor at the Diego Portales University and feminist activist (15') |
| 17:45 | <i>Debate</i> (30') |
| 18:15 | <i>Closing</i> Ernest Urtasun and Ulrike Lunacek / Members of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA |

CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP AND STRATEGY MEETING

2nd of June 2015 - 9:00-13:00 at the European Social Platform, Square de Meeûs 18, 1050 Brussels

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| 9:00 | |
| 9:15 – 11:00 | |
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| 11:00 – 11:20 | |
| 11:20 – 12:45 | |
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*TBC

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Ulrike Lunacek

EP Vice-President, Member



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