

[en](#)

Policy Paper | 17.03.2022

## **Greens/EFA and Ministers welcome Historic EU Directive proposal to stop gender-based violence**

### **Joint Statement**

Last week (8 March 2022), the European Commission published their proposal for the long-awaited Gender Based Violence Directive.

After reiterated calls by the [European Parliament](#) and [Greens/EFA](#) Group, the European Commission finally moves to concrete actions in ending gender-based violence across the EU.

We welcome the proposal as a unique opportunity to pave the way to a feminist Europe by committing the Member States to take ambitious and binding actions towards ending gender-based violence in Europe.

The proposal criminalises some forms of sexual violence, such as rape, female genital mutilation (FGM) or cyber violence. We especially applaud the Commission of the ambition **to criminalise rape on the basis of lack of consent**, which the Greens/EFA Group has long advocated for.

We celebrate the **intersectional approach** included in some of the provisions, which considers the diversity and specific needs of different groups. We also deem that the proposed measures on **protection, prevention and support of victims** are comprehensive and aligned with the Istanbul Convention.

However, we underline the following areas as priorities for action:

- We regret the lack of **a coherent approach in terms of gender, including recognition of the gender-based violence against LGBTIQ+ people** on the grounds of gender, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.
- For other types of gender-based violence, the proposal relies on the definitions under national criminal law, which may result in lack of coherence in the approach.
- We are equally concerned about **the lack of gender perspective in most of the forms of cyberviolence** criminalised in this proposal.
- With the text on the table, it is clear that the next step should be **adding gender-based violence on the list of European crimes**, in order to cover all forms of gender-based violence, [something the Greens/EFA have been repeatedly calling for](#).

For years, side by side with feminist civil society across the Member States, we have campaigned for a Directive to prevent and combat gender-based violence.

With this proposal comes a historic opportunity to make European history.

We need to seize this moment, and make sure the adopted Directive is ambitious, inclusive and fit for the digital age.

Signed by:

**Sarah Schlitz**

*Secretary of State for Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities and Diversity,  
Belgium*

**Roderic O' Gorman**

*Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth  
Ireland*

**Ska Keller**

*MEP, co-President of the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament*

**Philippe Lamberts**

*MEP, co-President of the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament*

## Recommended

News

© jonathan-marchal/unsplash



## [Debriefing of the April 2025 Plenary Session](#)

04.04.2025

Press release

[https://unsplash.com/photos/a-flag-on-a-building-\\_VE9mUHVd2s](https://unsplash.com/photos/a-flag-on-a-building-_VE9mUHVd2s)

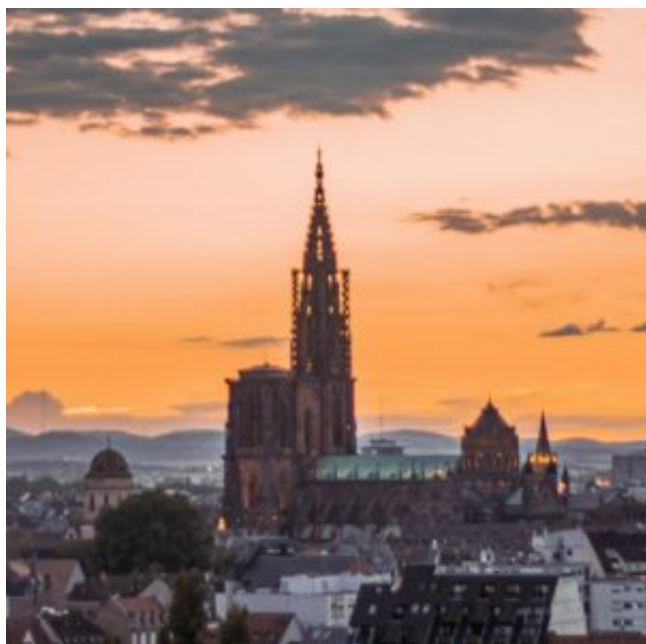


[Commission's blank check to autocratic Egypt undermine...](#)

01.04.2025

News

©Vincent NICOLAS



## [PLENARY FLASH: 31 March - 3 April](#)

28.03.2025

News

© European Union 2015 - EP Louise WEISS building: © Architecture Studio



## [Debriefing of the February 2025 Plenary Session](#)

14.02.2025

## Responsible MEPs



Ska Keller

Member



Philippe Lamberts

Member

**Please share**

[.E-Mail](#)