

**Follow up to the European Parliament Written declaration on Establishing a European Year on Combating Violence against Women, adopted by the Commission on 22 July 2015**

1. **Written declaration submitted under Rule 136 of the European Parliament's Rules of procedure, by Marc Tarabella (S&D/BE), Iratxe García Pérez (S&D/ES), Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D/LT), Biljana Borzan (S&D/HR), Barbara Matera (EPP/IT), Constance Le Grip (EPP/FR), Mariya Gabriel (EPP/BG), Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio (EPP/ES), Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (ALDE/ES), Catherine Bearder (ALDE/UK), Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL/PT), Kostadinka Kuneva (GUE/NGL/EL), Terry Reintke (Greens/EFA/DE), Ernest Urtasun (Greens/EFA/ES) and Jana Žitňanská (ECR/SK)**
2. **EP reference number:** DCL-0004/2015
3. **Date of adoption of the declaration:** 18 May 2015
4. **Subject:** Establishing a European Year on Combating Violence against Women
5. **Brief analysis/assessment of the declaration and requests made in it:**

The declaration requests the Commission to establish in 2016 a European Year on Combating Violence against Women. Similar requests have been put to the Commission in the past (e.g. Oral Question O-000080/2014).

6. **Response to requests and overview of action taken, or intended to be taken, by the Commission:**

No decision has yet been taken on the themes of future European Years. The yearly theme is proposed by the Commission and adopted by the European Parliament and EU member governments. Any decision whether to dedicate 2016 European Year on combating violence against women would be taken in accordance with the established practice.

The aim of the European years' initiative is to raise awareness of certain topics, encourage debate and change attitudes. During many European years, extra funding is provided for local, national and cross-border projects that address the Year's special topic. The European Year can also send a strong commitment and political signal from the EU institutions and member governments that the subject will be taken into consideration in future policy-making. In some cases, the European Commission may propose new legislation on the theme.

Therefore, it is important that discussions on an European Year on combating violence against women should be additional and complementary to the considerable number of activities to end gender-based violence that are already being carried out by the Commission and Member States, who have primary competence to address violence against women, in this area.

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