



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Commissioner Věra Jourová
Head of Cabinet

Brussels, 310715

Your Excellency,

Enclosed please find a letter from Commissioner Věra Jourová to Mr Uldis Augulis, Minister of Welfare. I would appreciate if you could kindly convey the letter at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

Renate NIKOLAY

H.E.
Mr Juris STALMEISTARS
Ambassador
Permanent Representation of Latvia
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VĚRA JOUROVÁ
Členka Evropské komise

Brussels **310715**
Ares (2015)3070654

Dear Minister Augulis,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 27 May 2015. As you rightfully state, violence against women is a grave violation of human rights and a severe form of discrimination, deeply rooted in gender inequalities and perpetuating them. It knows no borders, affecting all EU countries and society as a whole.

The European Commission is strongly committed to ending violence against women, through the Women's Charter and the Strategy for equality between women and men. The Commission has taken a consistent approach to tackling this issue, introducing legal measures that prevent gender-based violence and provide support to victims, organising exchanges of good practice between Member States to learn about successful policies, and funding activities by national governments and grassroots civil society organisations, under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme. Until the end of 2015 the Commission is in particular supporting 13 national awareness-raising campaigns by Member States on violence against women that are tailored to the specific national situations.

In your letter, you call on the Commission to designate 2016 as the European Year to End Violence Against Women. To this, I would like to inform you that no decision has yet been taken on the themes of future European Years. However, I would like to assure you I am committed to campaigning on this issue at the European level.

I thank you for your support of the Commission's work on gender equality and violence against women, and look forward to further discussion and exchanges on this topic.

Yours sincerely,

Věra Jourová

Mr Uldis Augulis
Minister of Welfare
Latvia