



**Committee on Women's Rights and Gender  
Equality in the European Parliament**

## **Equality between women and men**

**A pillar of the EPP Group Policies**



Dear citizens of Europe,

Equality between men and women is one of the principles of the European Union since it was first registered in the Treaty of Rome in 1957.

Today, however, we cannot affirm that this principle is a reality in our Union. Within the Parliamentary Group of the European People's Party (EPP), we defend the idea that the best way of promoting women's rights and of ensuring gender equality is to highlight the potential of women. The central role of women (in society) is crucial for an increasing, inclusive and sustainable economy and a more democratic, secure and prosperous European Union.

The activities of the EPP Group Members of the Committee for Women's Rights and Gender Equality in the European Parliament enter within this framework. We promote women's rights and their merits and qualities. This is why our actions are aimed at supporting women in the positions of political and economic decision making, fighting violence directed at women, and promoting conciliation between professional life and family life.

Thus, the objective of the EPP Group Members is to promote a European Union where the respect of human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms are the pillars of European society.

Moreover, conscious of the added-value of the European Union as a promoter of these values and principles in the world, we aim to systematically include gender equality and women's rights in all the negotiations with third countries.

We invite you to read through the pages of this information booklet to assure you of our commitment and to highlight our priorities on the promotion of women's rights, supported by pragmatic concrete actions and proposals, and endorsed by the EPP Group Members of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality.

Mariya Gabriel

EPP Group Coordinator of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality in the European Parliament

# EPP Group Priorities

- Women as a motor of an intelligent, sustainable and inclusive European economy.
- Equal representation of women and men.
- To end all violence against women and to promote their dignity.
- Defending gender equality in the world.



**1st row:** Elisabeth Morin-Chartier MEP, Vice-Chair of FEMM Committee - Joseph Daul MEP, Chairman of the EPP Group - Mariya Gabriel MEP, EPP Group Coordinator of FEMM Committee - Doris Pack MEP, Chair CULT Committee, President EPP Women **2nd row:** Corien Wortmann-Kool MEP, Vice-Chair of the EPP Group - Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou MEP - Christa Klass MEP - Constance Le Grip MEP - Roberta Angelilli MEP, Vice-President of the European Parliament - Astrid Lulling MEP **3rd row:** Manfred Weber MEP, Vice-Chair of the EPP Group - Sirpa Pietikainen MEP - Angelika Niebler MEP - Edit Bauer MEP - Livia Járóka MEP, Vice-chair of FEMM Committee

# Women as a motor of an intelligent, sustainable and inclusive European economy

- We support the principle of equal pay for work of equal value: the income gap between women and men (salary as well as pension) amounts to an average discrepancy of 18% in the EU.
- We are committed to entrepreneurship, small and medium sized enterprises and women as a motor of economic growth, prosperity and job creation. Although women account for 45.4% of the workforce, they make up less than a third (32.8%) of business leaders.
- We defend measures to improve the conciliation of family and professional life. Today the arrival of each child alters the career path of a mother and de facto leads to a 12% drop in her salary.
- We promote the diversification of careers to encourage full participation of women in the job market.



*"I engage in the fight against the flat careers of women with only small or no progress at all, putting women at the margins of the labour market. Women's salaries are not only a complement to men's salaries."*

**Elisabeth Morin-Chartier MEP, Vice-Chair FEMM Committee**



*"There is still a long way to go to get from gender equality de jure to gender equality de facto. All stakeholders have their role to play to diminish the gender pay gap."*

**Edit Bauer MEP**



*"Europe shapes the future. And the future is only viable with the participation of women. The EU has to lead the way to have an equal participation of women at the level of the family, the society and the labour market."*

**Christa Klass MEP**



*"Thanks to several European directives that have been adopted since 1975, gender equality has made important progress. Women owe a lot to European integration, but they have to make use of it."*

**Astrid Lulling MEP**



*"The integration of 75% of women into the labour market is one aim of the European 2020 strategy. This would allow the integration of more talented female workforce and would contribute to economic efficiency in the EU. We need to ensure a better conciliation of work and family life, especially for single mothers."*

**Barbara Matera MEP**

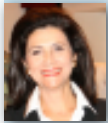
# Equal representation of women and men

- We promote the equal representation of women and men in political and economic decision making. In the EU national parliaments an average of 26% of members are women. Women account for 51.2% of the EU population.
- We defend the need to shape strong and voluntary policies for gender equality. In the EU top-listed companies a typical board of 10 has one female member. In 97% of cases the chair is a man.
- We stand for the inclusion of women entrepreneurs in places of economic decision making and for initiatives to boost the growth of sectors which contribute to the economic independence of women.
- We vindicate information campaigns which sensitise the public and help to fight against gender stereotypes and discrimination.



*"Equal representation of women and men is crucial for the future of Europe. We need to make better use of the quality of women, both in politics and economy."*

**Corien Wortmann-Kool MEP, Vice-Chair EPP Group**



*"Only equal opportunities for men and women will lead to a better society and a more productive economy."*

**Rodi Kratsa-Tsaragopoulou MEP**



*"The right framework conditions will help women to combine work and family life, but we also have to encourage and empower women to take up responsibilities, be it in science, in politics or in the economy."*

**Angelika Niebler MEP**



*"Proper emphasis shall be put on combating multiple discriminations also based on ethnic background as this creates multiple barriers to women's empowerment and social advancement."*

**Livia Járóka MEP, Vice-Chair FEMM Committee**



*"Fiscal policies should support families and solidarity between generations. While honouring the importance of the family for raising children, family policies should focus on instruments with a proven positive impact on the demographic trends such as child care to be chosen by parents, and support for the family in the first years after birth."*

**Anna Záborská MEP**



*"Parity representation at all levels of society contributes to more equality and quality."*

**Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP**

# The end of all forms of violence against women and the promotion of their dignity

The EPP Group stands for the eradication of all forms of violence against women and considers this a central issue in the debate on women's rights and gender equality. Equality between women and men will never exist without the elimination of violence.

For this purpose, all the members of the EPP Group in the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality work to:

- Ensure that European legislation is implemented in the Member States and that the data for each Member State are recent. One in five women in Europe has suffered physical violence at least once in her life, and one out of 10 has suffered forced sexual violence;
- Reinforce national legislation concerning aid, protection and assistance of victims;
- Strengthen the cooperation between the judicial and police institutions of all Member States;
- Introduce questions on the promotion and defence of women's rights in view of different forms of violence in the European Agenda in a regular manner.



*"Just like we accomplished in the European Protection Order, the EPP Group is the driving force for a more united EU judicial system and for a better cooperation between police institutions, so that all victims of crime, including those of violence against women, have better access to justice."*

**Teresa Jimenez-Becerrill MEP, EPP Group Vice-Coordinator FEMM Committee**



*"All policy makers should promote healthy ageing for all. In spite of women's greater longevity, they suffer more from debilitating diseases and progressive disabilities than men of the same age."*

**Roberta Angelilli MEP, Vice-President European Parliament**



*"Violence against children, young people and women remains a cruel reality. We have to ensure that the success of the Daphne Programme in fighting this will continue in the future."*

**Regina Bastos MEP**



*"We should act collectively at an early stage to raise awareness in schools in order to break the violence and discrimination cycle."*

**Joanna Skrzydlewska MEP**



*"Promoting women means promoting change and fight against stereotypes. My dream is that our daughters won't need to fight to confirm their talents, but that society will recognise it as added value."*

**Licia Ronzulli MEP**

# Defending gender equality in the world.

For the members of the EPP Group, the promotion of women's rights does not stop at the borders of the European Union. We have always worked to introduce these rights in shaping EU relations with third countries.

The EPP Group Members base their work on five priorities:

- The introduction of the principle of gender equality in all partnership agreements between the EU and third countries;
- In the post “Arab Spring” context, the inclusion of women in the process of democratic transition;
- The protection of women in conflict or post conflict zones and countries. Their inclusion in negotiations allows the political participation of a hitherto marginalised voice.
- The assistance to NGO's which work for the autonomy of women in the poorest countries so that they can actively contribute to the development of their country.



*“In the Arab Spring countries, we need to continue the dialogue with women: The commitment and engagement of women in these countries is not only a question of gender equality. To build up a democracy there is in the EU's best interest.”*

**Doris Pack MEP, Chair CULT Committee, President the EPP WOMEN**



*“The inclusion and participation of women in the negotiation processes as well as in the decision making bodies in development countries offer more opportunities for the consolidation of democracy in the world.”*

**Mariya Gabriel MEP, EPP Group Coordinator FEMM Committee**



*“Widespread violence, high maternal mortality, trafficking in women and girls: there is much to do to fight discrimination. We need more and concerted effort of politicians, civil society and international organisations.”*

**Edit Bauer MEP**



*“Sexual violence against women and girls happens on a daily basis throughout the world. Therefore we fight against the general impunity for the perpetrators of these atrocious crimes.”*

**Michèle Striffler MEP**



*“As European citizens, we do not want to simply “export” democracy on the basis of statistics. We want to show our solidarity by transmitting our know-how and good practices to women to enforce the existing structures of democracy and equality”.*

**Eleni Theocharous MEP**



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