

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY FOR A FEMINIST EUROPE

EIGE

10th Regional Coordination Meeting

Mary Collins, European Women's Lobby

*Another world is
on her way. On
a quiet day I
can hear her
breathing.*

- Arundhati Roy



Zsofi Lang Illustration



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About the European Women's Lobby



EWL = the largest coalition for women's rights in Europe





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EWL's CEEBBS taskforce

- ❖ The **EWL Central Eastern Europe, the Balkan and Baltic States Taskforce** (called CEEBBS) was created after the 2014 General Assembly of EWL to share information, identify common challenges and strategies for action in the CEEBBS region to promote gender equality and a context sensitive women's rights agenda.
- ❖ The CEEBBS Taskforce brings together **women's rights advocates** from Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Republic of North Macedonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey as well as representatives of 2 network organisations, the European Network of Migrant Women and the European Centre of the International Council of Women (ECICW).

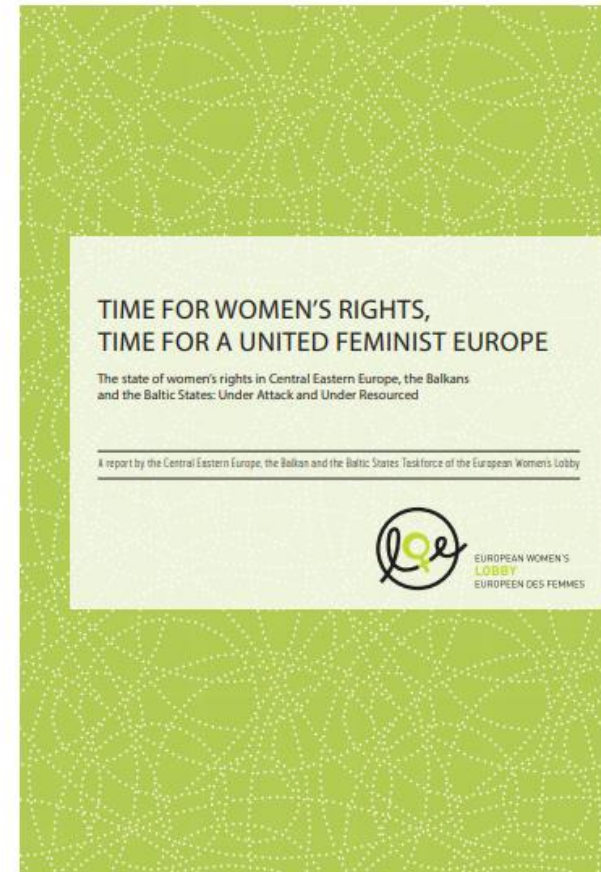




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Report from the CEEBBS taskforce

In 2018, new EWL report on the state of women's rights in the region. It brings a specific context into focus drawing on input from members of the CEEBBS taskforce.





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Women in Europe

While, overall, women in the EU face similar structural challenges in reaching full equality, **national and regional contexts** are key in determining the scope and type of action for change.





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Six key constraints

The Taskforce has identified 6 KEY CONSTRAINTS to women's rights in the region:

- 1.** Reluctance to recognise gender equality as a democratic value and a fundamental human right.

2. A strong religious, anti-women's human rights lobby and the rise of right wing populist politics, growing nationalism and conservatism.

3. Civil society, freedom of speech and assembly are under threat. Democratic spaces and financial resources are shrinking for civil society and in particular for women's movements and women's organisations.



4. Limited financial resources and institutional infrastructure to advance women's rights.
5. The dramatic increase in violence and discrimination against women including prostitution, trafficking, the murder of women (femicide) and underage and forced marriages.
6. Armed conflicts in the neighbouring countries and post-conflict transition processes.



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8 priority areas

The Taskforce has identified eight key priority areas for women's rights in the region, and proposes strategies for action.



1. Strengthening women's rights movement

The change-makers!

We need to strengthen, support and resource the women's movement

➡ Recommendations:

- Allocate funding and ensure their existence
- Recognise their knowledge and expertise and partner with WR NGOs in policy -making



2. Equality and feminism as European values

We need to reclaim feminism and equality between women and men as European values.

➔ Recommendations:

- Full political strategy for equality between women and men in the EU.
- Hold EU countries accountable for the full implementation of EU standards and laws on gender equality, through annual monitoring on the implementation of EU standards and laws on gender equality by the European Commission.



3. Economic independence



Ensuring women's economic independence, reducing economic disparities between women and men and urgently tackling poverty based on gender and other intersecting forms of discrimination

➔ Recommendations:

- Ensure gendered targets for poverty reduction in the context of Europe2020.
- Strengthen measures for tackling the pay gap and increasing women's employment.

4. Women in decision-making



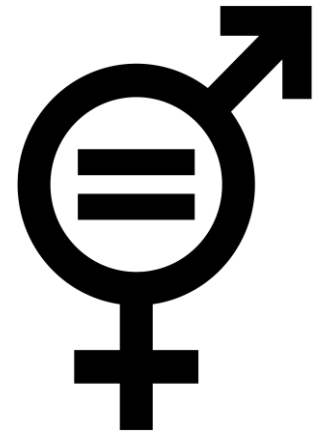
Increasing women's participation and representation in politics and increasing the number politicians from women's movements.

➔ Recommendations:

- Adopt compulsory temporary special measures such as quotas at all levels, parity laws.
- Support funding for women's causes in elected bodies.
- Where appropriate, change legislation on the establishment of political parties and political party funding so that women's parties and feminist political forces can participate.

5. Equality bodies

Strengthening accountable and well- resourced gender equality machineries whose mandates will take into account the principle of diversity and will be responsive to the needs of all women and girls.



➔ Recommendations:

- Ensure that the role of national gender equality mechanisms is emphasised in the next EU Strategy for Equality between women and men.
- Re-establish or establish national gender equality mechanisms; provide adequate funding while ensuring this funding does not impact on resources for women's organisations.

6. Ending violence against women and girls

Ending violence against women and ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

➤ Recommendations:

- Signing, ratification and full implementation of the Istanbul Convention; monitor its implementation in terms of legislation and policy.
- Systematic consultation of and sustainable funding for women's organisations, providing support for women and girl victims





7. Ending intersectional discrimination

Ending intersectional discrimination of women from minority groups, including of Roma women and migrant and refugee women.

➔ Recommendations:

- Ensure access to services and assistance to all Romani, migrant and refugee women and girls as required, in line with human rights.
- Sign the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

7. More women in peace-making



Maintaining a peaceful Europe by ensuring participation and representation of women in all stages of peace-making processes.

➔ Recommendations:

- Meaningful & ongoing participation of women in all stages of peace-making processes.
- responsible politics leading towards a de-escalation of conflict

Thank you!

You can read the CEEBBS report at

bit.ly/ewl-ceebbs

