



**Federation of Young European
Greens**

fyeg

Fight against Patriarchal violence

Policy paper as adopted during the General Assembly 2011, Luxembourg.

Gender based violence remains a big problem all over Europe. Living in patriarchal societies, this surrounds us daily. In families as domestic violence, in our schools and universities as sexual harassment and molesting, in the media as commercials degrading women to sexual objects and in the streets as forced prostitution and homophobic and transphobic attacks. Mostly women suffer from these forms of violence, but also men who do not satisfy the stereotypes of hegemonial patriarchal masculinity can be victims of such forms of violence.

We understand patriarchy as a system of oppression that creates violence. In the system men are mostly the perpetrators and women generally the victims. It can appear in many different forms such as sexual harassment, homophobia and transphobia (including discrimination and hate crimes), domestic violence, forced prostitution, female genital mutilation, sexualised violence in war and peace, etc.

FYEG supports the 3 P's strategy - prevention, protection and prosecution -and supports a European-wide action plan against violence against women.

Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment is present in many places in the public sphere - at the workplace, at home, in public. It has been widely accepted for a long time, only now there is resistance through the women's movement, although sexual harassment continues to intimidate women and restrict their freedom in the public sphere.

We demand that sexual harassment and stalking are finally understood as the huge problem that they are. That is why we support their legal prosecution. Additionally, we want to tackle the deeper rooted problem of the objectification of women and female bodies in our society and thus support campaigns and legal action against the sexualisation of women in the media and advertisements.

Domestic violence

Domestic violence is a big problem in all European societies. One in four women experience violence in her close social environment at least once



in her lifetime¹. Conjugal sexual violence is still a topic which is not adequately addressed. Rape or non-consensual sex in marriages and partnerships were and are still largely accepted in society.

FYEG demands a zero tolerance policy towards any kind of domestic violence!

Forced prostitution

Forced prostitution is common practice all over Europe. It is mostly interlinked with human trafficking and sexual slavery where specifically racist stereotypes and exoticisation of women from the Global South come into play.

The dethematisation of forced prostitution and human trafficking in Europe is scandalous. In order to fight human trafficking and forced prostitution we demand preventative work in the countries of origins of women who have been victims of human trafficking and social, educational and cultural campaigns should be launched to discourage "demand" in countries of destination. For former forced sex workers we ask governments to guarantee not to deport them and guarantee safe accommodation.

Sexualised violence in conflict

Sexualised violence has always been a phenomenon during war. It was and still is used as a weapon of war to intimidate, threaten and dehumanise "the enemy". Female bodies are used as vehicles for an imagined homogeneous culture of "the other" and thus to be destroyed through sexualised violence. Consequently, it is very often interlinked with the intent of ethnic cleansing and genocide.

In order to fight sexualised violence and promote long-term peace, we welcome the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820 as a start to ending sexualised violence in war.

Discrimination and glass ceiling

Despite the fact that violence against women is first of all associated with sexual violence, we cannot forget the other expressions, not necessary obvious, that the patriarchal system adopts. Discrimination against women is present in all our life spheres, in politics, in the labor market, in education and in the private life. Identify those expression and work against them is crucial to set eliminate the patriarchal system and go beyond the gender categorization of persons.



The symbolic language perpetuates, in an almost invisible way, the predominance power of men over women. The Glass Ceiling phenomenon is a clear way of repression against women. Destroy all these forms is crucial to achieve an egalitarian society, free of violence.

Conclusion

Take CEDAW and the Beijing declaration seriously! Take action to stop violence against women!

FYEG endeavours to fight against all kinds of violence against women and against patriarchy as a system of oppression causing these forms of violence and thus violations of Human Rights and Human Dignity!