



EU DIRECTIVE ON COMBATTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: EUROMED FEMINIST INITIATIVE STANDS FOR A ROBUST DIRECTIVE

4th December 2023

Considering the current European Union (EU) trilogue negotiations regarding the proposal on the directive on combatting violence against women and domestic violence, EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI) defends a strong directive ensuring protection of women and urges for rape to be included in this directive.

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is the most widespread violations of women's rights worldwide. Despite this reality there is still no EU legislation to address it in all its forms. This is the reason why, EuroMed Feminist Initiative welcomed the European Commission's directive proposal on combatting violence against women and domestic violence.

EuroMed Feminist Initiative advocates for the adoption of comprehensive laws on combatting VAWG that explicitly mention all forms of VAWG and criminalise them; provides for protection and support services for victims and for preventive measures and policies; penalises the perpetrators and ensures coordination among all concerned stakeholders and first responders.

EFI is concerned with EU Council position reached last June, to block the offence of rape in Article 5 of the Commission's proposal, which said that a non-consensual sex act is a criminal offence. Said Boriana Jönsson, EFI Executive Director: *'Rape and its criminalisation should find their place in this directive'*.

In order to make a change in the lives of women and girls, EuroMed Feminist Initiative urges Member States to increase their efforts, during the negotiations, and adopt a directive, in line with the European Parliament's proposal: rape must be included in the directive.

« EU has to take violence against women seriously, and rape is one of the worst forms of violence. EFI urges the Council to consider rape as a criminal offence, and ensure that the directive is fully aligned with international women's rights instruments and legal standards», added Boriana Jönsson.

EuroMed Feminist Initiative is a policy platform that provides expertise in the field of equality and women's rights as inseparable from democracy building and citizenship, and advocates for political solutions to all conflicts and for the right of peoples to self-determination.