

Nicosia, 22 November 2016

## ***Panel on Elimination of Violence Against Women***

The European Commission, as part of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, will highlight the importance of ending gender-based violence with a panel organised by the EU Infopoint in cooperation with the Gender Equality Platform, KAYAD, SOROV and SOS Children's Village. The panel will take place at EU Programme Support Office, Nicosia on Friday, 25 November 2016, from 10:30 to 13:00.

The panel will host local and international speakers who will present topics such as EU's policy on ending violence against women, best practices from EU countries on ending gender based violence, implementations in the Turkish Cypriot community and recommendations, local experiences in women's support initiatives, and the presentation of research results on violence against women in the Turkish Cypriot community. The speakers include international and local experts, Violeta Neubauer, Hatice Düzgün, and Mine Atlı.

On the same day the European Commission will launch the new EU-wide campaign to end violence against women. This campaign, supported by European Commissioner for Justice Vera Jourová, is part of the Commissions' efforts to combat gender-based violence. The aim is to raise awareness on the issue of violence against women in all of its forms (domestic violence, violence in public spaces, at work) in the EU.

Violence against women does not only affect women's health and well-being, but it can hamper women's access to employment, thereby negatively affecting their financial independence and the economy in general.

One in three women in the EU has experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15; 75 % of women in a professional job or in top management have experienced sexual harassment. One in ten women has experienced sexual harassment or stalking through new technologies. Gender-based violence is a brutal form of discrimination and a violation of the victim's fundamental rights. It is both a cause and a consequence of inequalities between women and men.

### **Background:**

Violence against women is a brutal manifestation of gender inequality and a violation of human rights. One in three women (33 %) in the EU has experienced physical or sexual violence, or both



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since she was 15 years old. It is estimated that 500,000 women and girls in the EU have suffered female genital mutilation.

Women and girls who are victims of violence need appropriate support and protection, which is reinforced by effective and deterrent laws. The Commission has put such laws in place.

The rules establishing minimum rights for all victims, including women as victims of gender-based violence, ensure that:

- they are treated with respect by well-trained police, prosecutors and judges and get understandable information on their rights;
- they can get specialised support in all European Union countries;
- they can participate in proceedings and have certain rights (such as right to be heard, right to legal aid, right to interpretation and translation, right to review a decision not to prosecute etc.); and
- they are protected from secondary and repeat victimisation, from intimidation and from retaliation during police investigations and court proceedings (e.g. by limiting the number of interviews and medical examinations to a minimum, by ensuring special measures to avoid visual contact with the offender during court proceedings etc.)

Interested individuals can get more information on this event on the EU Infopoint Facebook page [f/abbilgi](#) or by contacting the EU Infopoint: [info@abbilgi.eu](mailto:info@abbilgi.eu), 228 2577 and 11A Hasene Ilgaz Street, Köşklüçiftlik Nicosia.

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