



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPÉEN DES FEMMES

PRESS BRIEFING

29.02.2012

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

PRESS BRIEFING

WOMEN IN THE EU FACTS, FIGURES & QUOTES

Women in decision-making

- At the moment, less than 35% of Members of the **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT** are women, up from 30% in 2004 and only 16% in 1979, but slightly less than after the elections of 2009.¹
- European Parliament has been chaired by a woman only twice. After the mid-term elections 2012, only three of the 14 Vice-Presidents of the Parliament are women.
- In 2011, 24% of Members of **NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS** were women, one percentage point higher than in 2005. The percentage is above 40 % in the Netherlands and Sweden and below 10 % in Malta and Hungary.²
- 26% of members of national **GOVERNEMENTS** are women. The figure has increased from 22% in 2005.³
- One third of the members of the **EUROPEAN COMMISSION** are women.⁴
- Only 3.2% of the Presidents of the 100 largest publicly quoted European **COMPANIES** are women.
- The proportion of women in the boards of the largest publicly listed companies in the EU was 13.7% in January 2012. In Sweden, Finland and Latvia, more than 25 % of board members of large companies are female, while in Luxembourg, Cyprus, Hungary and Malta, this share is under 6%.⁵
- Women represent on average almost one-third of **LEADERS OF BUSINESSES**⁶ (32.5% of women versus 67.5% of men) in the EU, but in most countries the share is lower.⁷ For example, in Cyprus, only 8.2% of leaders of businesses are women, in Malta 16%, in Ireland 19% and in Finland 21.6%.⁸
- 9.3% of those in top management positions in the **TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY** are women.⁹
- 5-15% of **HIGH-TECH BUSINESS** is owned by women.¹⁰
- In 16 European countries, men occupy more than 90% of **UNIVERSITY** headships.¹¹

EWL QUOTES:

¹ European Parliament website data extracted 2012.

² European Commission, [European database on women in decision-making](#), 2011:

³ European Commission, [European database on women in decision-making](#), 2011:

⁴ European Commission, [European database on women in decision-making](#), 2011:

⁵ European Commission, [Women in economic decision-making in the EU: Progress report](#), 2012

⁶ "Leaders of businesses" is the term following the ISCO categories 121 and 13, i.e managers and chief executives and leaders of small enterprises.

⁷ European Commission Staff Working Paper, [Report on the progress on equality between women and men](#), 2010:

⁸ European Commission, [Report on Equality between Women and Men](#), 2010:

⁹ Media Awareness Network, International Federation of Journalists, *Getting the balance right: gender equality in journalism*, 2009.

¹⁰ European Commission, *Evaluation on Policy: Promotion of Women Innovators and Entrepreneurship*, 2008.

¹¹ European Commission, *She Figures*, 2009.



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPÉEN DES FEMMES

PRESS BRIEFING

- 'This is a question of democratic representation. Women represent more than 50% of the population. If they are still under-represented in such a way in decision-making, it means that traditional barriers are still strong enough to defeat competent women candidates. European democracies should be prepared to tackle these barriers through adequate measures, including quotas.' (EWL Secretary General Cécile Gréboval)
- 'Gender equality is one of the fundamental values and aims of the EU but it is clear that the current system of nominations to the European Commission is undemocratic, un-transparent and fails to respect this basic principle.' (EWL President Brigitte Triems)
- 'Appeals to a sense of democratic duty are evidently not enough. It is time we had binding measures to ensure the equal representation of women and men within European governments and parliaments.' (EWL President Brigitte Triems)
- 'The Norwegian example shows that legal quotas for gender-balanced representation on the boards of private companies are feasible and can have positive results. We are glad to see the European Commission considering a similar initiative at EU-level.' (EWL Fundraiser and Policy Officer Serap Altinisik)

Women's economic independence

- The average hourly **PAY GAP** between women and men in the EU is 16.4%¹². Women earn more than 25% less than men in Estonia, Austria and in Czech Republic.¹³
- The EU average **EMPLOYMENT** rate is around 75% for men but 62.5% for women (between 20 and 64 yrs).¹⁴
- Women's employment rates across the EU vary from 37.7% (Malta) to 73.1% (Denmark). The employment gap between women and men ranges from less than 5 percentage points in Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Lithuania to more than 25 in Malta and Greece.¹⁵
- The employment rate of women (between 25 and 49 yrs) with children under the age of 12 drops by 11.4 percentage points whereas it increases by 8.5 percentage points for men in the same situation.¹⁶
- The negative **IMPACT OF PARENTHOOD** on female employment is higher than 25 percentage points in Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, whereas in Slovenia this impact is positive.¹⁷
- The **UNEMPLOYMENT** rate for women in the EU is 10.0% (9.7% for men).¹⁸
- European women are four times more likely to work **PART-TIME**: 31.5% of the women work part-time in the EU-27 versus 8.3% of men.¹⁹
- The share of employed women who work part-time is 37.9% in Denmark, between 41% and 43% in Belgium, Sweden, Austria and the United Kingdom, 45.3% in Germany and 75.8% in the Netherlands.²⁰
- Women count for two-thirds of the 'inactive' population (63 million persons between 25-64 years) due mainly to unpaid **CARE RESPONSIBILITIES**.²¹
- In 2005 12.8 million women had care responsibilities for *adult* dependent persons (against 7.6 million men).²²

¹² European Commission, [DG Justice](#)

¹³ European Commission 2011 *Report on the progress on equality between women and men in 2010*:

¹⁴ European Commission 2011 *Report on the progress on equality between women and men in 2010*:

¹⁵ European Commission 2011 *Report on the progress on equality between women and men in 2010*:

¹⁶ European Commission 2011 *Report on the progress on equality between women and men in 2010*:

¹⁷ European Commission 2011 *Report on the progress on equality between women and men in 2010*

¹⁸ Eurostat News Release [euroindicators](#) 6 January 2012

¹⁹ European Commission 2011 *Report on the progress on equality between women and men in 2010*

²⁰ European Commission 2011 *Report on the progress on equality between women and men in 2010*

²¹ Eurostat, [a Statistical Perspective on Women and Men in the EU 27](#), 2010:

²² Eurostat, [a Statistical Perspective on Women and Men in the EU 27](#), 2010:



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPÉEN DES FEMMES

PRESS BRIEFING

- On average in the EU-27, almost one third of women with care responsibilities declare themselves either employed in part-time jobs or inactive due to the lack of care services for children and other dependent persons²³.
- Women's role as **SECONDARY EARNERS** (earning less than their partner) is the norm in European households. Women are primary earners in just between 10 and 30 % of households.²⁴
- In the EU-27 in 2006, 23.1% of all female full-time workers were **LOW-WAGE EARNERS** (20.1% in the euro area), whereas only 13.5% of all male full-time employees were low-wage earners.²⁵
- Women, more than men, tend to be concentrated in a limited number of **SECTORS** of the economy: women represent up to 70% of those working in health care, social work, retailing and education.²⁶
- Women still bear the double burden of paid and unpaid work. When **UNPAID WORK** is counted in, women working part time work almost as many hours per week (55) as do men working full time (56)²⁷
- **GDP** would rise an estimated 30% in the EU if the gender gaps in employment were eliminated (working patterns (full/part-time) and pay).²⁸
- One third (34%) of **SINGLE-PARENT** families in Europe, 80-90% of which are headed by women, are living in poverty.²⁹
- Estimates in Belgium reveal that the individualised risk of poverty would be 36% for women against 11% for men, if risk of poverty would be calculated based on individualised income instead of accumulated household income.³⁰
- Women face a much higher risk of poverty in situations of **SEPARATION**, divorce or death of their partner. In Czech Republic, in the first year after a **DIVORCE** the standard of living of women fell by 73% on average. After a divorce approximately 50% of women found themselves threatened by poverty.³¹
- Budget cuts due to the **CRISIS** harm women disproportionately as public sector employees and the main users of public services and beneficiaries of public transfers.³²

EWL QUOTES:

- 'Equal pay for equal work was supposedly guaranteed by the 1957 founding Treaty of the EU. It is about time this provision was effectively implemented; for example, we expect EU Member States to set quantitative objectives to close the gender pay gap before 2020.' (EWL Vice-President Alexandra Jachanova)
- 'The economic inequalities between women and men in the EU are pervasive. Just concentrating on meeting targets for women's employment rate is not enough; we need to address the root causes of these inequalities, starting with the gendered division of paid and unpaid work.' (EWL Policy Officer Mary Collins)

²³ European Commission 2011 *Report on the progress on equality between women and men in 2010*

²⁴ Bettio-Veraschagina, ongoing research - [BRIEFING PAPER: Economic Independence](#):

²⁵ Eurostat 2012

²⁶ Eurostat, [The life of women and men in Europe: a statistical portrait](#), 2008:

²⁷ Eurofound 2012. Working time in the EU

²⁸ European Parliament: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/047-112868-031-01-06-908-20110131STO12856-2011-31-01-2011/default_en.htm

²⁹ European Commission, *Report on Equality between Women and Men*, 2010:

http://www.ilo.org/public/libdoc/jobcrisis/download/KEAU10001ENC_002.pdf

³⁰ European Commission, *Commission staff accompanying document – Equality between women and men 2010*, 2009

³¹ Shadow Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Czech Republic:

<http://www.proequality.cz/res/data/007/000857.pdf>

³² European Parliament, Directorate General for Internal Policies, Policy Department C, Citizen's rights and Constitutional Affairs, Gender Aspects of the Economic Downturn and Financial Crisis, 2011



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPÉEN DES FEMMES

PRESS BRIEFING

- 'The individualisation of rights in the area of social protection is essential. Women's economic dependence is tied in many countries to their lack of individual taxation and social protection entitlements, especially as concerns pensions.' (EWL Policy Officer Mary Collins)
- 'Unequal positions in the labour market, in political systems and in legal codes including divorce, dependency status in social protection systems, limited pensions, lack of quality affordable child care and a European average gender pay gap of 17.5% put European women at a greater risk of poverty than men.' (EWL Vice-President Alexandra Jachanova)

Situation of older women in the EU (EY2012)

- The employment rate for **WOMEN AGED 55-64** is 37.8%, 17 percentage points lower than men in the same age group.³³
- On average in the EU-27, women's **LIFE EXPECTANCY** is 6 years longer than men's.³⁴
- Women live longer on pension and have **LOWER PENSIONS**. In Western Germany, women's individual pension income is 63.8% lower than that of men's.³⁵
- The at-risk-of-**POVERTY**-rate is significantly higher for women over 65 than for men at the same age (20.1 % vs. 14.9% in 2009).³⁶ In the EU-15, the gender gap in old-age income (including also other sources of income than individual pension income) ranges from 46.4 % in Greece to 16 in Denmark.³⁷
- **HEALTH GENDER BIAS**. Studies show that, in all EU countries, in the age group 50 + women are significantly more susceptible to chronic diseases and are more prone to depression than men.³⁸

EWL QUOTES:

- 'Pensions mirror the accumulation of gender inequalities throughout the life-cycle of women. They are the other side of the gender pay gap coin. Time spent out of the labour-market to care for children and family members, coupled with part-time patterns of work and the concentration of women in low paid sectors of the economy have life lasting consequences on women.' (EWL Policy Officer Mary Collins)
- "The 40 to 45 uninterrupted carrier model which gives access to full pensions on retirement rarely if ever reflect the reality of women's working lives and mirror the male bread-winner model despite the increase in the numbers of women in the labour-market in recent years." (Brigitte Triems, EWL President)

Violence against women

- 45% of women in Europe have suffered from men's violence.³⁹
- Out of the 31 countries analysed by the experts to the EWL Observatory on VAW, only Sweden has a **NATIONAL ACTION PLAN** including all forms of VAW. 10 others (France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Serbia, Spain and Turkey) have National Action Plans on specific forms of VAW with a gender perspective.⁴⁰

³³ European Commission 2011 *Report on the progress on equality between women and men in 2010*:

³⁴ European Commission 2011 *Report on the progress on equality between women and men in 2010*:

³⁵ Federal ministry of Federal German Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth - The Gender Pension Gap (2012)

³⁶ European Commission 2011 *Report on the progress on equality between women and men in 2010*:

³⁷ Federal ministry of Federal German Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth - The Gender Pension Gap (2012)

³⁸ [Survey of Health Ageing and Retirement in Europe](#) 2012:

³⁹ 'Everyday Violence – How Women and Men Experience Sexual and Physical Danger', Elizabeth Stanko; Pandora; 1990; cited in Women's Aid

⁴⁰ EWL Barometer 2011



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPÉEN DES FEMMES

PRESS BRIEFING

- The **COST** of domestic violence in the EU is estimated at 16 billion Euros per year, amounting to 1 million Euros every half hour. The annual EU member states' budgets for prevention programmes of male violence are 1000 times less.⁴¹
- In Europe, 7 women die every day from **MALE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**.⁴²
- In Lithuania, **MARITAL RAPE** is still not considered as a criminal offence (exemption in the law).⁴³
- 68% of women in prostitution meet the criteria for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in the same range as victims of torture undergoing treatment.⁴⁴
- 95% of female victims said they experienced physical and sexual violence during **TRAFFICKING**.⁴⁵
- Women employees are still significantly more exposed to **WORKPLACE BULLYING** than their male colleagues and that the difference is even greater in the case of sexual harassment: more than three times as many female as male employees report having experienced sexual harassment in the previous 12 months.⁴⁶
- One in four female students on UK campuses says she had been subjected to an unwanted sexual experience at **UNIVERSITY** or college.⁴⁷
- In an online study, 99% of women said they experienced some form of **STREET HARASSMENT**, including: leering, honking and whistling, sexist comment, making vulgar gestures, saying sexually explicit comments, kissing noises, following, blocking path, sexual touching or grabbing, masturbating, assaulting.⁴⁸
- In France, 205 women are **RAPED** every day, only 2% of perpetrators are condemned, only 1 victim out of 10 will report to the police, 74% of rapes are committed by someone the victim knows.⁴⁹
- The right to **ABORT** is still denied or restricted in four EU Member States (Malta, Cyprus, Ireland and Poland)

EWL QUOTES:

- 'Violence against women is the fundamental and extensive violation of women's human rights in the EU. It is unacceptable that, as yet, no EU legislation exists to tackle it. We expect to see this change soon with the Commission proposal for an EU Strategy to combat Violence against Women.' (EWL Executive member, Rada Boric)
- 'Violence against women is a structural phenomenon intrinsically linked to gender inequalities.' (Director of the EWL Observatory on Violence Against Women, Colette De Troy)
- 'Prostitution is male violence against women. Refusing to tolerate a system of prostitution is about setting a standard of human dignity for all women and girls around the world.' (EWL Policy Officer and Project Coordinator, Pierrette Pape)
- 'Ending violence against women is not a luxury for times of growth; it is even more crucial in times of crisis as women are hit very hard.' (EWL Secretary General Cécile Gréboval)

Education and training of women

⁴¹ Psytel, Ingénierie de l'Information, Projet Daphné 'IPV EU_Cost', *Estimation du coût des violences conjugales en Europe*, Maïté Albagly-Sandrine Baffert-Claude Mugnier-Marc Nectoux-Bertand Thellot, 2006

⁴² Psytel, *Estimation de la mortalité liée aux violences conjugales en Europe*, Programme Daphne III.

⁴³ European Commission, DG for Justice, DAPHNE (2010), [Feasibility study to assess the possibilities, opportunities and needs to standardise national legislation on violence against women, violence against children and sexual orientation violence](#), Luxembourg.

⁴⁴ Melissa Farley et al., "Prostitution in five countries: violence and post traumatic stress disorder", *Feminism and Psychology*, 8, 1998

⁴⁵ *Stolen Smiles: A summary report on the physical and psychological health consequences of women and adolescents trafficked in Europe*, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 2006

⁴⁶ European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, 2007, 'Women and violence at work'

⁴⁷ National Union of Students, 2010

⁴⁸ stopstreetharassment.com, 2008

⁴⁹ www.contreleviol.fr



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPÉEN DES FEMMES

PRESS BRIEFING

- 60% of new **UNIVERSITY GRADUATES** are women in the EU.⁵⁰ The share is higher than 50% in all Member States and above 65% in Hungary, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia.⁵¹
- 60% of young women aged 15-24 are enrolled in education and training compared to 57% of young men of the same age.⁵²
- In 2009, 35.7 % of women and 28.9 % men aged 30-34 had successfully completed tertiary-level education.⁵³
- EDUCATIONAL CHOICES** remain heavily gendered. Girls and young women dominate in health and care services, education, humanities and arts while more than 64 % of graduates in computing and engineering areas, which generally lead to better remunerated employment, are men.⁵⁴
- Women represent only 18% of the **PROFESSORS** in public universities. Women are more generally under-represented among researchers and academic staff and men also outnumber women among PhD students.⁵⁵
- Women with low **LEVELS OF EDUCATION** are particularly unlikely to be in work, compared to both males with low levels of education and females with higher levels. This is true especially in Greece, Ireland, Italy and Spain where fewer than 47% of females aged 25 to 64 without upper secondary degrees are employed, compared to over 70% of similarly educated males and of women with tertiary education.⁵⁶

EWL QUOTES:

- 'European women are highly educated, more so on average than men. In today's "knowledge economy", why then is this not reflected in their employment status, pay and decision-making position?' (EWL President Brigitte Triems)
- 'Education has been specifically excluded from European legislation on equality between women and men. This is a serious gap.' (EWL Secretary General r Cécile Gréboval)

Media & women

- Only 26% of subjects in European **NEWS** are female.⁵⁷
- Women are central to a news story 12% of the time.⁵⁸
- Women make up 22% of **EXPERTS** and 21% of spokespersons in the news.⁵⁹
- 10% of **POLITICIANS** in the news in Europe are female.⁶⁰
- Women are nearly twice as likely to appear as news subjects in stories on social issues than in stories on politics or governments.⁶¹
- In European news, women are three times as likely as men to be identified in terms of their **FAMILY STATUS**.⁶²
- Women athletes secure between 2-9% of TV airtime devoted to **SPORTS**.⁶³

⁵⁰ European Commission Staff Working Paper, *Report on the progress on equality between women and men*, 2010:

⁵¹ European Commission, *Report on Equality between Women and Men*, 2010:

⁵² European Commission, Eurydice, *Key Data on Education in Europe*, 2009, p.95.

⁵³ European Commission Staff Working Paper, *Report on the progress on equality between women and men*, 2010:

⁵⁴ European Commission Staff Working Paper, *Report on the progress on equality between women and men*, 2010:

⁵⁵ European Commission, *Report on Equality between Women and Men*, 2010:

⁵⁶ OECD, Education at a Glance 2005, *Executive Summary*, p.3: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/20/25/35345692.pdf>

⁵⁷ Global Media Monitoring Project, 2010: <http://www.whomakesthenews.org/images/stories/restricted/regional/Europe.pdf>

⁵⁸ Global Media Monitoring Project, 2010: <http://www.whomakesthenews.org/images/stories/restricted/regional/Europe.pdf>

⁵⁹ Global Media Monitoring Project, 2010: <http://www.whomakesthenews.org/images/stories/restricted/regional/Europe.pdf>

⁶⁰ European Institute for Gender Equality, *Numerous inequalities exist today for the women in the European Union*, 2011:

⁶¹ Global Media Monitoring Project, 2010: <http://www.whomakesthenews.org/images/stories/restricted/regional/Europe.pdf>

⁶² Global Media Monitoring Project, 2010: <http://www.whomakesthenews.org/images/stories/restricted/regional/Europe.pdf>



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPÉEN DES FEMMES

PRESS BRIEFING

- Women represent 27% of employees or professionals shown in **ADVERTS**, but 60% of those portrayed doing housework or looking after children.⁶⁴
- Adverts showing boys place them outside of the house 85% of the time; those featuring girls place them more than half of the time inside the home.⁶⁵
- In adverts, women are more than twice as likely as men to be portrayed in (semi-)nudity.⁶⁶
- Women represent one third of main **TV** and **FILM** characters.⁶⁷ In **CHILDREN'S TELEVISION** worldwide, only 32% of the main characters are girls or women.⁶⁸
- In major Hollywood **FILMS**, female characters are over five times as likely as males to be shown in sexually revealing clothing (21.3% vs 3.95%) and nearly three times as likely as males (10.6% vs 3.4%) to be shown with an unreal body type.⁶⁹
- Twenty years ago the average **FASHION MODEL** weighed 8% less than the average woman. Today she weighs 23% less.⁷⁰
- Up to 34 years old, women represent 79% of TV **PRESENTERS**; over 50, they are only 7%.⁷¹

EWL QUOTES:

- 'Combating sexism and the stereotyping of women and men in the media is crucial if gender equality is to become a reality in Europe.' (EWL Communications and Media Officer Leanda Barrington-Leach)
- 'Freedom of the press cannot justify the violation of the fundamental values of respect for human dignity and equality between women and men in the media and in advertisement. Given the impact of media on mentalities, specific measures are needed to address this issue in order for media to contribute to more gender equality.' (EWL Secretary General Cécile Gréboval)

Multiple discrimination & women

- Highly-educated **MIGRANT** women born outside the EU are twice as likely to be employed in low-skill jobs as EU-born and native-born women with the same level of education.⁷²
- 'Visible' **MINORITIES** feel discriminated against more often and across a range of grounds than other minorities. Ex. Roma and people of African origin have experienced more discriminations than Central and East Europeans in Europe.⁷³
- 14% of people with immigrant and/or ethnic minority background surveyed in the 27 members States have felt discriminated against on multiple grounds in the past 12 months, whereas only 3% of the majority population declared the same.⁷⁴

⁶³ Media Awareness Network, *Media Portrayals of Girls and Women*: www.media-awareness.ca

⁶⁴ Media Awareness Network, *Media Portrayals of Girls and Women*: www.media-awareness.ca

⁶⁵ Media Awareness Network, *Media Portrayals of Girls and Women*: www.media-awareness.ca

⁶⁶ Van Hellemont and van Den Bulk, *L'Image des Femmes et des Hommes dans la Publicité en Belgique*, 2009, p.16.

⁶⁷ Gotz, M., *Girls and Boys and Television*, 2008

⁶⁸ International Central institute for Youth and Educational Television (IZI), *Gender in children's TV worldwide*, Results from a media analysis in 24 countries, 2007

⁶⁹ The Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, *An analysis of popular films and TV*, 2008

⁷⁰ Rader Programs <http://www.raderprograms.com/causes-statistics/media-eating-disorders.html>

⁷¹ Global Media Monitoring Project, 2005

⁷² RAND Report, *Migrant women in the EU Labour force*, prepared for the European Commission, 2008.

⁷³ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), *Data in Focus Report Multiple Discrimination*, 2010, p.4:

⁷⁴ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), *Data in Focus Report Multiple Discrimination*, 2010, p.10:



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPÉEN DES FEMMES

PRESS BRIEFING

- Twice as many **ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN** compared with ethnic minority men experienced discrimination on the basis of gender. So, minority women are vulnerable to 'multiple discrimination' on the basis of their ethnicity background and their gender.⁷⁵
- In the EU, women who are third country nationals are denied access to shelters; undocumented women can face deportation when reporting facts of male violence.⁷⁶
- Over half of all women with **DISABILITIES** have experienced physical abuse, compared to one third of women without disabilities.⁷⁷
- Employment rates for persons with disabilities are below those of people without disabilities in every country. Rates for women are below those of men in every category of restriction, with just a few exceptions. Employment rates for women with disabilities are highest in the Nordic countries and the UK, with 60% of women with disabilities in Sweden in employment. The southern and south-eastern countries have rates below 10%.⁷⁸
- In the UK, one in five **HOMELESS** women has resorted to prostitution to escape a night on the streets.⁷⁹
- Disabled women, Roma women and transgender persons continue to often face forced sterilisation.⁸⁰
- **LESBIAN** and bisexual women face targeted sexual harassment and abuse.⁸¹
- In France, 57% of lesbians surveyed say they have experienced homophobia. For instance, 35% of them declare they have been assaulted or insulted on the streets.⁸²
- In the UK, **ROMANI** and Travellers face the most serious disadvantages of all ethnic minority groups with a much shorter life expectancy, low income and poor access to finance; their children have high mortality rates and the lowest educational attainment.⁸³
- **ROMA WOMEN** are four times more often unemployed than the general female population.⁸⁴
- **INFANT MORTALITY** among Romani and Traveller communities is three times higher than the national average.⁸⁵ A Romani or Traveller mother is nearly 20 times more likely to lose her child before their 18th, than the rest of the population.⁸⁶
- One Romani women with low education in two is married by the age of 16.⁸⁷

⁷⁵ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), [Data in Focus Report Multiple Discrimination](#), 2010, p.4:

⁷⁶ Amnesty International Spain Report: *More than Words -- Spain : Making Protection And Justice a Reality for Women Victims of gender based Violence in the home* (in Spanish), 2005.

⁷⁷ European Disability Forum, [Response to the Consultation on an EU Strategy to Combat Violence against Women](#), 2010:

⁷⁸ European Commission, A Final Report for the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission, *Study on the situation of women with disabilities in light of the UN Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (VC/2007/317)*, 2009

⁷⁹ Newspaper's article, in dash.com: <http://www.24dash.com/news/housing/2010-12-23-One-fifth-of-homeless-women-turn-to-prostitution-study>

⁸⁰ On disabled women, see EDF: http://www.edf-feph.org/page_generale.asp?docid=14007&sub=1&search=forced+sterilization; on Roma women: <http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=3757>; on Transgender persons: <http://www.tgeu.org/missionstatement>

⁸¹ ILGA Europe : http://www.ilga-europe.org/home/issues/hate_crime/resources

⁸² *SOS Homophobie, Enquête sur la lesbophobie*, 2006 : http://www.sos-homophobie.org/sites/default/files/plaquettealerte_2006.pdf

⁸³ Communities and Local Governments, United Kingdom 2011, in Presentation of Romany and Travellers by Federation of Cale/Kale, Manouches, Romany & Sinti Women, February 2011.

⁸⁴ Synthesis report by the expert group on gender equality, social inclusion, health and long-term care, *Ethnic minority and Roma women in Europe: A case for gender equality?*, 2010.

⁸⁵ Health Status of Gypsies and Travellers in England, 2004, in Presentation of Romany and Travellers by Federation of Cale/Kale, Manouches, Romany & Sinti Women, February 2011.

⁸⁶ Health Status of Gypsies and Travellers in England, 2004, in Presentation of Romany and Travellers by Federation of Cale/Kale, Manouches, Romany & Sinti Women, February 2011.

⁸⁷ Survey realised by Center AMALIPE, Bulgaria, in 2011 on 2746 people and presented by Teodora Krumova, Bulgarian Women's Lobby.



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPÉEN DES FEMMES

PRESS BRIEFING

For more information, interviews, background or visual materials, please contact Anna Elomäki, EWL Communications and Media Officer, T: (+32) 2 210 04 27, elomaki@womenlobby.org, and see www.womenlobby.org.

Note to editors:

The **European Women's Lobby** (EWL) is the largest umbrella organisation of women's associations in the European Union (EU), working to promote women's rights and equality between women and men. EWL membership extends to organisations in all 27 EU Member States and the three candidate countries, as well as to 21 European-wide organisations, representing a total of more than 2000 associations.