



LOBBY EUROPEEN DES FEMMES EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

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EWL Newsflash
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Editorial

European Spring Summit: Challenging the male-dominant life-cycle approach to Growth and Jobs

The EU Heads of States and governments met on 13-14 March to review progress towards achievements of the ambitious Lisbon Strategy on Growth and Jobs, launched in 2000 with the aim of making the EU the most competitive economy in the world. Two years before D-Year (2010), the European Women's Lobby takes stock of the ambition to reach a 60% employment rate of 60% for women by the year 2010 and to fulfil the Barcelona targets on childcare provision. In its **submission** to the Spring Council, the EWL states that the Lisbon Strategy falls short of the EU objective of ensuring equality between women in men in all areas of the macro, micro and employment guidelines which accompany the Lisbon Strategy. While the rate of women's employment is on its way to reaching the 60% target (57.3%¹), the Barcelona targets on the other hand are far from being achieved. Moreover, closer inspection of the type of jobs created for women reveal that these follow the traditional gender division of paid/unpaid work and therefore the Lisbon Strategy does not challenge the male dominant model of working life based on full employment over a 40-45 year uninterrupted career which leads to full social security entitlements and pension rights and therefore, do not reflect the majority of women's working life patterns.

Since the launch of the Lisbon Strategy in 2000, new concepts have emerged, namely, *flexicurity*, which Member States are invited to implement in the development of their socio-economic policies, particularly in the field of employment. This carries the risk of exacerbating women's unequal positioning on the labour market and in relation to paid/unpaid work unless crucial issues are urgently addressed such as the gender pay gap, periods of time spent out of the formal labour-market are counted as productive time leading to full social protection -particularly State pension schemes - and care policies and services as well as provisions to reconcile professional, family and private life. Not only will such measures encourage men to take their share in unpaid work, they will also set the pace of reversing the male life-cycle approach to change the terms of reference for more qualitative social well-being and economic growth, which will undoubtedly benefit both women *and* men. For more information contact Mary Collins at marycollins@womenlobby.org.

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EWL News

EWL participated in the 2008 UN Commission on the Status of Women (25.02-07.03) on the priority theme '**Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women**' and review theme '**Women's Equal Participation in Conflict Prevention, Management and Conflict-Resolution and in Post-Conflict Peace-building**'. 5,000 participants attended the CSW from civil society, international organisations and governments across the world, at which 240 events were organised. UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon opened the session by launching a [system-wide programme on violence against women](#).

A whole host of expert panels and NGO Parallel events took place on a wide range of issues in support of the main theme. EWL organised a side event on "Gender Budgeting: A European perspective".

Another pressing issue was the **Campaign for Stronger Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) at the UN**, in which EWL is actively participating since CSW 2007. The aim of this campaign is to urge UN Member States to create an effective mechanism by which it can deliver upon the commitments made in the CEDAW Convention, the Beijing Platform for Action and the agreements from many UN world conferences such as human rights, population and development, sustainable development, HIV/AIDS, the Millennium Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the 2005 World Summit. See also article about the CSW Agreed Conclusion in the International section of this Newsflash.

Reconciliation of work, private and family life. The European Women's Lobby submitted a contribution to the European Commission Consultation on measures relating to reconciliation of work, private and family life in light of the current consultation process between the Commission and the Social Partners with regards to future legislative proposals. The paper highlights the position of EWL on ways to improve current legislation on maternity, paternity and parental leave. Click [here](#) to download.

EWL submitted a contribution to the Commission's consultation on Active Inclusion, a strategy that aims to reach those furthest from the labour-market. A set of principles will be subsequently developed around three pillars of the strategy, namely, decent income, labour-market strategies and quality services. In its contribution, EWL stresses the urgency of ensuring that socio-economic policies are developed in a holistic way to avoid the development of a two-tier society in which key policies will be developed alongside 'marginal' systems which would maintain and tolerate that some people, primarily women, remain on the margins and excluded from their contribution to and share in the distribution of wealth. Active inclusion must be part of the broader socio-economic political framework of the EU – notably the Lisbon Strategy.

EWL meeting with OSCE Special representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. EWL representatives met on 13.03.07 with OSCE Special representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Anelise Gomes de Araujo, adviser in Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Brussels. In the meeting experiences was exchanged and further

cooperation on the issue of trafficking in women for sexual exploitation, with a special focus on the demand, discussed.

New EWL Policy Officer Amandine Bach was appointed on 1 March, to work on the second phase of the project “Equal Rights, Equal voices: Migrant Women in the European Union”. Amandine will also be in charge of migration and intercultural dialogue issues. To contact her: Bach@womenlobby.org

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EWL Representation

Kirsti Kolthoff, Iluta Lace, Martine Levy, Mojca Kleva and Cécile Gréboval were part of the EWL delegation at the **2008 UN Commission on the Status of Women** on 25.02-07.03. Other Executive and Board members supported the work of EWL during the CSW meeting.

Martine Levy, EWL Vice President, represented the EWL in the “**Conférence débat**” on **Gender Equality organized by** Université Populaire Européenne de Grenoble on 4 March 2008 in Grenoble.

Gunta Anca, Board Member and Mary Collins, Policy Officer, attended the **High Level Group on Disabilities** on 6 March in Brussels.

Myria Vassiliadou, General Secretary and Cécile Gréboval, Policy Director participated in the **meeting organised by the European Parliament Committee on Women’s Rights for International Women’s Day** on 6 of March.

Colette De Troy, Rada Boric and Lisa Kerker were speakers at the **Seminar on trafficking in women** 7 March 2008, organised by the Oslo European office in Brussels to speak about trafficking at EU political level, the [Nordic-Baltic pilot project](#) and trafficking in women for sexual exploitation in the Balkans.

Mary Collins, Policy Officer attended the joint meeting of the French Presidency/European Commission Social Inclusion Unit, on **preparations for the Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion**, 13 March.

Martine Levy, represented the EWL in **the summit on New European Feminism** at the Hampstead town Hall with the support of Camden Council on 15 March.

Myria Vassiliadou represented the EWL in **People and Politics Day** at Central Hall Westminster organised by Unlock Democracy incorporating Charter 88, on 18 March.

Myria Vassiliadou represented the EWL in the **Seminar “A la veille de la Présidence Française de l’Union Européenne – Oú sont les politiques d’égalité dans l’Union?”** organised by la Fondation Jean Jaures on 29th March.

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EWL Civil Society Representation

Platform of European Social NGO’s - EWL is an active member of the Platform of European social NGO’s. The Platform currently has three internal working groups: Social Policy, Fundamental Rights and Services of General Interest. The Social Platform, together with the

European Trade Union Confederation and the European Environmental Bureau issued an open letter to heads of state and governments in the context of the Spring Summit 2008, which focuses on social and sustainable development of the energy/climate package. Please, click [here](#).

Multiple Discrimination Group - The objective of the working group is to promote effective responses to multiple discrimination at European and national level.

EU Civil Society Contact Group - EWL is member of the EU Civil Society Contact Group that brings together seven large rights and value based NGO sectors - environment, social, development, women, culture, human rights and public health. Two working groups have been set up: one on the **EU budget** (in response to the Commission's budget consultation – deadline 15 April) and the second on the **European elections**. While all of the sectors will carry out their own work in relation to these two issues, they will develop common principles shared by the different sectors on the two issues to send strong messages from Civil Society organisations.

EESC Liaison Group with Organized Civil Society - EWL is member of the NGO Liaison group of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). EWL participated in the meeting that took place on 07.03.08.

EWL is member of the **NGO Platform on EU Asylum and Migration Policy** initiated by the UNHCR to discuss and exchange information on the development of immigration policies and legislation at European level. Mary Collins and Amandine Bach attended a meeting on 4 March.

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European & International News in Brief

The **High Level Group on Disability** met on 6-7 March in Brussels. Civil society organisations, including EWL and the European Disability Forum (EDF) attended the first day, at which the work plan for 2008-2009 was discussed along with issues relating to the Regulation on State Aid Exemptions, Services of General Interest, Supported Employment Measures and the results of a study on the costs of community care services (in comparison with institutional care services), demonstrating that these are not only fully beneficial to people with disabilities but are also more cost effective. The work plan includes a **study on women with disabilities** which is expected to be ready by the summer 2009.

Dismissal from work in an advanced stage of in vitro fertilisation (IVF) may constitute sex discrimination. In the case *Sabine Mayr v Bäckerei und Konditorei Gerhard Flöckner OHG*, ECJ finds that the dismissal of a woman in an advanced stage of *in vitro fertilisation* treatment is not a question for the 92/85 directive, but may constitute discrimination on the ground of sex. The woman in the case was undergoing IVF treatment where her ova had been fertilised on the day of the dismissal, thus *in vitro* ova existed, but not yet transferred into her uterus. The protection against dismissal in Directive 92/85/EEC on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding, is not extended to a woman in the advanced stage of IVF treatment described above. However, under Directive 76/207/EEC on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards employment it is found that the dismissal of a female worker because of pregnancy, or for a reason essentially based on that state, constitutes direct discrimination on the grounds of sex, because it solely affects women. Provisions of this directive preclude the dismissal of a female worker who, in circumstances as

the present case, is at an advanced stage of IVF treatment, when it is established that the dismissal is essentially based on the fact that the woman is undergoing *in vitro* fertilisation treatment.

The Commission's Social Inclusion Unit of DG Employment together with the French Presidency presented the draft programme for the **Round Table on Poverty/Social Exclusion**, which will take place in Marseilles on 15-16 October. The Round Table will focus on the three strands of the Active Inclusion strategy, namely: decent income for all, labour-market strategies and quality services. While the approach will not focus on target groups per se, it is expected that a gender mainstreaming approach will be adopted and that particular issues relating to vulnerable groups will be integrated in the different strands. The French Presidency also proposes to organise ad-hoc meetings during the two-day event on pressing/particular issues (proposals can be made) and to organise on-site visits of different projects in the Marseilles area. For more information, see [presentation](#) of the Presidency proposals. The next meeting of the Commission/French Presidency is scheduled for 7 May in Brussels.

European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) preparatory meeting for 2010 – **European Year to combat Poverty and Social Exclusion**: well ahead of time to ensure that 2010 becomes a meaningful year in which the issue of poverty and social exclusion can effectively be addressed, representatives from the two countries that will hold the Presidencies (Spain and Belgium), the European Commission (Social Inclusion Unit) and the Rapporteur from the European Parliament discussed with EAPN and NGOs (including EWL) on the actions and ambitions for 2010. A total budget of 25 million€ (European and national co-funding) will be allocated for activities at both national and European level. The first step is to ensure that the European Parliament's report is adopted before the summer of 2008, so that 2009 can concentrate on preparations to maximise the impact of 2010.

Morten Kjærum from **Denmark designated new Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)**. On 6-7 March meeting the Agency's Management Board following the opinion of the Council and the European Parliament appointed Morten Kjærum who has extensive experience in the field of fundamental rights. For further information contact: media@fra.europa.eu.

Commission launches children's art competition in 61 countries to promote gender equality. To mark International Women's Day 2008, the European Commission launched a drawing competition for children (up to the age of 10) illustrating equality between women and men. The competition was launched in 61 countries in five regions of the world (Africa-Caribbean-Pacific; Latin America; the Mediterranean; and neighbouring European countries). Please, click [here](#) for more information.

The European Commission presented its **Annual Policy Strategy for 2009**. Words such women or gender hardly appear in the whole document and the **Gender Roadmap 2006-2010** is not mentioned.

The Spanish government: measuring the bodies of more than 10,000 women to help create new guidelines for the clothing industry. The study concluded that Spanish women come in three basic shapes which consumer advocates say should serve as a more accurate base for sizing. Current sizes are based on pre-1975 models, when women's bodies were significantly different, and clothes often vary by two to three sizes from store to store. The aim is to promote healthier body images: receiving honest and reliable information about their clothing size can help women to more readily accept their bodies as they are. Click [here](#) for more information.

International

The **Agreed Conclusions from the 2008 UN Commission on the Status of Women** were finalised on March 8th, inviting governments to - “*incorporate gender perspectives into all economic policy-making and increase participation of women in economic governance structures and processes*”, - carry out gender-sensitive analysis of “*revenues and expenditures in all policy arenas*” and of “*policy and programmes related to macroeconomic stability, structural adjustment, external debt problems, taxation, and all relevant sectors of the economy*”, - “*undertake gender-sensitive assessments of national labour laws*” and, -redirect excessive military expenditures to “*social and economic development, including, inter alia, for gender equality and the advancement of women*”.

The text also incorporates several of the key demands of the **GEAR Campaign** (campaign led by NGOs to strengthen the UN Gender Equality Architecture). The Conclusions note “under-resourcing in the area of gender equality in the UN system” and stresses “the need for more effective tracking of resources (..) spent on enhancing gender equality”. In addition, the Agreed Conclusions call for strengthening the UN system both through more effective gender mainstreaming, and for “enhancing its capacity to effectively assist States upon request (...) on gender equality and women’s empowerment (...) and to make adequate and reliable human and financial resources available”.

However, it is regretful that the Agreed Conclusions **contain few meaningful commitments related to financing for gender equality**, with no concrete targets or timetables and no strong mechanisms for effective tracking or monitoring of financial resources spent on gender equality. They also fail to address the need for adequate resources and funding mechanisms to support the indispensable role of women’s organisations as the driving force for gender equality.

The Office of the **High Commissioner for Human Rights** - Women’s Rights and Gender Unit project on **Mechanism to address laws that discriminates against women**. The aim of the project was to examine the advisability of creating a new mechanism to address laws that discriminate against women.

UNESCO’s global action to promote gender equality in the media is a new campaign that was launched on the occasion of 8March 2008 with the aim of encouraging news media to give editorial responsibility to women editors and journalists, to improve their career opportunities in the newsroom and establish gender equality. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

Amnesty International has called on Iran to stop persecuting people who campaign for women's rights. In a new report, Amnesty says women activists involved in a large campaign to improve women's rights have suffered an "acute" backlash since the campaign was launched in August 2006. The ‘Campaign for Equality’ aims to collect a million signatures for a petition to push for an end to discrimination against women. But Amnesty says those involved in it have suffered harassment, intimidation and imprisonment. For more information click [here](#).

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News from the European Parliament

Conference “Women in Parliament - how does the European Parliament compare?”
During this conference coinciding with the International Women’s Day, the European Parliament presented a brief overview of the situation of parity in the European Parliament and in other Parliaments around Europe. At present 31% of the 785 MEPs are female - up from 19% in 1979 when the first direct elections were held. Top of the list in terms of parity in the EP are the Netherlands and Estonia who both have 50%, while Malta and Cyprus have only male representatives. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

Women as key players in dialogue and peace - the role of women in promoting dialogue and peace was the main topic discussed on the eve of International Women's Day, at a meeting of the European Parliament's (EP) that was held on 5 March **Women's Rights Committee** with members of national parliaments. EP President Hans-Gert Pöttering called for the creation of a European representative for the protection of women's rights in international relations. To celebrate International Women's Day, the Committee also organised a **Seminar on 'Gender mainstreaming in the parliamentary work'**. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

On 12 March the **plenary of the European Parliament** in Strasbourg discussed the **situation of women in prison** on the basis of the [report](#) presented by Ms Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou (EPP-ED). The report states that placing women in prison has serious impact on children and calls for this to be taken into account when mothers are imprisoned as well as in the rehabilitation of offenders.

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Update on Violence against Women and Women's Human Rights

New ratifications to the CoE Trafficking Convention - protection of victims of trafficking
Portugal and Latvia have ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. The Convention focuses on prevention of trafficking, protection of victims of trafficking and prosecution of the traffickers. For Portugal the Convention will enter into force on 1 June 2008, and for Latvia on 1 July 2008. Click [here](#) to read the Convention and to read more about the CoE campaign.

To read more about measures to protect and support victims of trafficking, please go to the [website](#) of the **Nordic-Baltic pilot project**, which is coordinated by the EWL. This project focuses on assistance and support to women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. On the website you can find standards for victim support, developed by the Nordic-Baltic Network. These standards are based on international legal documents, including the CoE Convention.

110 Members of the European Parliament sent a letter to the Lithuanian Parliament expressing their concerns regarding the potential adoption of an **antiabortion law**. Please, click [here](#) to read the letter.

U.N. Tackles Female Genital Mutilation. The United Nations has launched a \$44 million program to reduce female genital mutilation by 40 % by 2015. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

The UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon launched a **multi-year global campaign** bringing together the United Nations, governments and civil society to **end violence against women** stating that it an issue that **'can not wait'**. The Secretary General stressed that even though significant progress in establishing international standards and norms to combat VAW has been made, States are still failing to meet the requirements of the international legal and policy framework. Violence against women must be prioritised at all levels and political will must be stronger. Please, click [here](#) for more information. Following this, the UN has significantly increased funds to work on VAW: from 3.5 millions dollars in 2006 to over 15 millions dollars in 2007. Joanne Sandler, UNIFEM's ad interim executive director, says that in line with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's campaign, UNIFEM is expanding its advocacy and fund raising efforts.

Danes call for signatures prohibit the purchase of sex which will be handed over to the Minister of Justice on 18 October, the EU anti-trafficking day. The signatures are part of a **web campaign called “Man, take a stand”**, backed by men who support the fight against prostitution and trafficking in women. For more information click [here](#), and to support the prohibition of buying sex, sign up [here](#).

The European Commission, EU Research on Social Sciences and Humanities published a final report of the 6th Framework Research Programme (FP6) Research Project - **Coordination Action on Human Rights Violations: Gendering Human Rights Violations: The case of interpersonal violence**. The publication shows that violence against women is a major problem in the EU, in four thematic areas: identifying and profiling victimisation; the roots of interpersonal violence; addressing gender-based human rights violations and protective environmental factors securing human rights. Please, click [here](#) to download the report.

Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: An interagency statement, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNECA, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, World Health Organisation (WHO) 2008 calling on all States, international and national organisations, civil society and communities to uphold the rights of girls and women. Click [here](#) to download it.

Conference: 2-3 June: under the II International Conference on Community Psychology a workshop on **Violence Against Women - Prevention, intervention and systems change**. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

Council of Europe publication: **Gender Matters - A manual on addressing gender-based violence affecting young people**. The manual aims to assist educators and youth leaders work on issues of gender and gender-based violence with young people. This publication presents theoretical information, methods and resources for education and training activities and concrete exercises that users can put into practice in their work. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

International Standards on Domestic Violence and their Implementation in the Western Balkans, Vesna Nikolic and Mirjana Dokmanovic (2006) Belgrade: Humanist Committee on Human Rights (HOM). It is the result of the project ‘Support for women’s human rights in the Western Balkans’. The report summarises the implementation of international standards in the region and makes a comparison of the situation in Western Balkans countries.

NAWO Report from the UNSRVAV Consultation with Yakin Erturk: the report entitles ‘What practical steps need to be implemented in order to achieve an equitable world for women and girls?’ outcome of the consultation meeting that with was held in Jan 07 is now available [here](#). For more information contact: info@nawo.org.uk.

The Research Programme Consortium on Women's Empowerment in Muslim Contexts (WEMC) launched on 8 March a new section on '**Culture, Women and Violence**'. This new site includes the webcast, presentations and papers from the forums they organised in Turkey to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (November 2007) including the launch of the Global Campaign to stop killing and stoning of women at the same venue in Istanbul. Please, click [here](#) to visit it.

“Non, C’est non”, by Irene Zeilinger, is a practical guide that gives simple and easy ways to solve efficiently difficult and violent (verbal, physical or sexual aggression) situations that women face everyday. Please, click [here](#) for more information (only in French).

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Events

European Alternatives organised a **summit on New European Feminism** at the Hampstead town Hall with the support of Camden Council on the 15th of March. The event discussed the status of contemporary feminism, the role of arts and media and the participation of women in business and politics. The summit also marked the launch of the European Alternative Future of Feminism. The EWL officially supported the event and the Vice-president attended. For more information, click [here](#).

ILGA-Europe in partnership with Legebitra organised a conference on the topic of LGBT families in Europe. The conference, held in Ljubljana on the 4-6 March, brought together decision makers, experts and activists in the field of LGBT families and was an occasion to start and to contribute to a dialogue between institutions and civil society on the topic of recognition and inclusion of LGBT families. Two reports presented, one on an overview of LGBT families in international law (author Loveday Hodson) and the other on freedom and Justice in the EU: how LGBVT families are effected the Hague Programme (author Matteo Bonini).

9 April: Open Hearing of the GUE/NGL Group in the European Parliament on **Women's Rights in Latin America - Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights**. The purpose of the hearing is to evaluate the situation in Latin America as far as possible and to contribute to a joint discussion of the organisations involved in the struggle for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for Women. For more information, contact Fatima Garcia at fatima.garcia@europarl.europa.eu.

Upcoming

15 to 18 May: COPEAM will hold a conference in Bucharest presenting the results of the survey on **Women in the Media**, research that is being carried out by COPEAM and International Relations of RAI . Please, click [here](#) for more information.

1 to 7 June: Summer Feminist University on ‘**Women and Money**’ at Université Laval, Québec. This will be look at a multi-disciplinary approach to the topic concerning women, economy and gender relations. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

12-13 June: the **II Citizen's Agora on Climate Change** will be held in the European Parliament. Please, click [here](#) for information.

26-27 June: in cooperation between the EU-projects “Encouragement to Advance -Training Seminars for Women Scientists”, coordinated by the Center of Excellence Women and Science CEWS, and “Advanced Training for Women in Scientific Research”, coordinated by Danube University Krems, the dissemination **conference “Supporting Women in scientific careers”** will be held in Brussels. Please, click [here](#) for more.

30 June to 3 July: the **3rd World Forum on Human Rights** will be held in Nantes, France. Please, click [here](#) for registration and calls for contributions.

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Publications - Web Sites

[European Commission publications](#)

The Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities published a report on **Women and men in decision-making in 2007: analysis of the situation and trends**. The report shows that even if the European Union's efforts to increase women's participation in decision-making have been consistent and certain progress has been achieved, women are still under-represented in all spheres of power in most Member States and in the EU Institutions.

During the Spring Council the European Commission presented to the EU leaders its report on **Equality between women and men - 2008**. The Commission report highlights that the quantitative progress of women on the labour market has not yet been matched in qualitative terms and that several aspects of the quality of women's work remain problematic. On the other hand, women still face greater difficulties in reaching decision-making positions. The report also underlines the need to remove gender stereotypes in order to reach gender equality. The EC also presented its report on **Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2008**. The report examines the Member States' integrated national strategies on social inclusion, pensions, healthcare and long-term care. It reviews the main trends across the EU and at national level. The 2008 report focuses on child poverty, older workers, private pension provision, health inequalities and long-term care.

The European Commission published an expert report on **Gender mainstreaming of employment policies - A comparative review of thirty European countries** analysing gender mainstreaming in practice in the field of employment policies. The report also presents concrete examples of gender mainstreaming implemented over the past years in 30 European countries. The report has been used by the Commission to prepare a Manual for gender mainstreaming of employment policies.

The Directorate- General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities prepared a manual for **Gender mainstreaming social inclusion and social protection policies**. It describes the gender mainstreaming method in general and provides some practical guidance for each policy strand.

Eurostat published a statistical report on **The life of women and men in Europe - A statistical report**. The publication provides updated statistics on gender equality situation across Europe. The first part offers a portrait of young people today, including demographic trends, the types of households in which girls and boys live, and their levels of education. The second part provides an overview of the situation of women and men within the most active age-group.

Eurostat published an issue of Statistics in Focus on **Women employed in science and technology** which takes a detailed look at certain aspects of employment for women in science and technology. Please, click [here](#) to read it.

Other resources

The Committee of the Regions, ECOS Commission and the Fundamental Rights Agency launched jointly on 3rd March the report **Community Cohesion at local level: addressing the needs of Muslim Communities**. This publication aiming at policy makers and practitioners provides a number of examples of good practice or initiatives at the local level from across European cities.

Sexuality and poverty: Please, click [here](#) to look at some resources which have been summarised and included in the Siyanda database on sexuality and poverty.

Report on Women, gender equality and sport by the United Nations, Division for advancement of women - Department of economic and social affairs. Women's participation in sport has a long history marked by division and discrimination but also filled with major accomplishments by female athletes and important advances for gender equality and the empowerment of women. Please, click [here](#) to download the report.

EUROMED first thematic Newsletter Edition on **Gender, Trade and Marketing: Role of women in Economic Life Programme**, provides key insights to the limited role of women in the trade sector and gives some key action to enable businesswomen - as well as business associations - to use the opportunities afforded by international trade. The policy level perspective highlights the importance of gender mainstreaming in trade. click [here](#).

The **Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS)** published its **fourth newsletter**, which describes MIGS's activities and projects undertaken in the second half of 2007 and early 2008. Please, click [here](#).

A new book explores women's side of the Balkan wars. A new anthology of letters and notes by Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian and Albanian women brings together for the first time a female point of view from all sides of the brutal wars fought in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

Websites

Marriage Equality is a new initiative working for civil marriage for gay and lesbian people in Ireland. Sign up now to help make this happen.

Wikigender - online platform to find and exchange information related to gender equality. The website is work in progress and users are invited to comment on or improve existing articles, and to create or upload new documents. By providing a platform to share experiences and to learn from each other's knowledge, Wikigender will contribute to a better understanding on the situation of women and men around the world.

The **World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples** was launched last month by the minority rights group international and it covers 220 of the world's countries and dependent territories, and features profiles of about 700 minorities/indigenous peoples. It is a unique resource for policy-makers, governments, journalists, academics and all those with an interest in the growing field of minority rights.

Center for Women's Studies Zagreb - member of EWL Croatian coordination - issued the first **Glossary on gender equality in Croatian language**, edited by Rada Boric and published by the Governmental Office for Gender Equality. The Croatian Glossary is based on 100 words for equality, issued by the European Commission adding 50 new terms. The Glossary is aimed at governmental officials dealing with gender equality, media and civil society. It has been presented in public events and in the media. Please, click [here](#) for more information (only in Croatian).

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Call for Papers, Training, Jobs, Funding

Daphne programme to Prevent and combat violence against children, young people and women and to protect victims and groups at risk: **Call for proposals for Specific Transnational projects.** The **deadline** for submission of applications is **22 April 2008**. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

DG Enlargement intends to support a series of projects aimed at enabling and promoting a better informed debate about the EU and its policies with particular emphasis on subjects related to the EU's enlargement policy. IPA information and Communication Programme on **Support for action promoting a better informed public debate about EU enlargement in the candidate and potential candidate countries.** The **deadline for the submission of applications is 17 April.** Please, click [here](#) for more information.

A call for Tenders for the creation of a European Network of Associations of Victims of Terrorism that has been issued by the Commission. The **deadline** is **29 April.** Please, click [here](#) for more information.

European Parliament Prize for Journalism will be awarded to journalists whose work dealt with aspects of European integration and have helped citizens better understand the institutions and policies of the European Union. For the first edition of the European Parliament Prize for Journalism, **proposals can be submitted between 15 March and 15 May 2008.** Please, click [here](#) for more information.

The European Commission **grant programme on Investing in People, Gender equality, Strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations and of economic and social partners active in the field of promoting women's rights and gender equality in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian territories, Syria and Tunisia.** The **deadline** to submit the proposals is **7 May.** Please, click [here](#) for more information.

Women for Women International seeks submissions for the **autumn 2008** issue of its bi-annual academic journal, *Critical Half*. This issue will focus on **global women's movements and women's movements globally** in various contexts, including politics, women's rights, social change, religion, and economic endeavours. Papers which address issues of women's movements in conflict and post-conflict societies, developing countries, and trans-national contexts are particularly encouraged. **Deadline for Submissions: June 16, 2008** Please, click [here](#) for further information.

The future of Asian Feminisms - Confronting fundamentalisms, conflict and neo-liberalism: the second Conference organised by the Kartini Network (Bali Indonesia, 2-5 November 2008) invites papers on the following five themes/panels: 1. Women's and Gender Studies in Asia: Historical Perspective and Future Challenges, 2. Fundamentalisms and Feminisms, 3. Conflicts And Violence, 4. Sexuality and 5. Poverty, Vulnerability and Livelihoods. **The deadline for submission: 1 July 2008.** For more information contact kartiniasia@gmail.com / kartiniasia@yahoo.com.

7th European **Feminist Research Conference on June 4-7 2009** in Utrecht, the Netherlands **Gendered Cultures at the Crossroads of Imagination, Knowledge and Politics.** The conference will reflect a diversity of feminist and gender studies research incorporating

perspectives from across the broad spectrum of the humanities and social sciences. The focus is on the way in which knowledge, politics, and the imagination inform gendered cultures in contemporary Europe. **The deadline to submit a panel is 15 July 2008 and paper abstracts have to be submitted before September 19, 2008.** Please, click [here](#) for more information.

Training

From **21 to 26 July** a training course on **Transformative learning in non-formal education settings in Europe** will be held in Austria aimed at educators (trainers, teachers, youth workers, etc.) Apart from the theory of learning methodologies, their application in such topics as citizenship, GENDER, sustainability, intercultural learning will be also part of the training course. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

Job vacancies

Vacancy for the post of Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality. The closing date for applications is **22 April** 2008. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

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