



# LOBBY EUROPEEN DES FEMMES EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

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## EWL Newsflash May 2008

### Editorial May 2008

#### **Experts call for strengthening cooperation in assistance to victims of trafficking**

The Nordic Baltic network, gathering experts on trafficking from both governments and NGOs, met in Tallinn, Estonia on 15-16 May 2008. Some of the main achievements of the Nordic Baltic pilot project, aiming to improve assistance and support to women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, were assessed and highlighted during the network meeting. This three-year pilot project is unique in many ways: it is regional, *involving all eight Nordic and Baltic countries*; and it builds on *strengthened cooperation between NGOs, police, judiciary, and public authorities*. It is also the only regional project of this scale to *focus on assistance to women victims of trafficking*.

The Tallinn meeting highlighted some of the key results of the project, including greater awareness in the region on sex trafficking, better cooperation at national and regional levels between NGOs and different government agencies, and the concrete improvement of assistance and services to women victims of trafficking in the participating countries. Experts also shared their good practice, as guides on assistance to victims of trafficking (Lithuanian and Norwegian models) and on compensation to victims.

Later this year the pilot phase of this project is coming to an end. However, the *Nordic Baltic network planned for the future during the Tallinn meeting, stressing the need to secure funding for the continuation of the project and the network*. Among the priorities identified for the future were the continuation of network meetings and coordination, training seminars on specialised topics, and the need for continued funding for shelters and assistance work women victims of trafficking in the Baltic countries. The network members also called for intensified work against the demand for women in the sex industry.

For more information, please contact the Project Director, Malin Björk ([bjork@womenlobby.org](mailto:bjork@womenlobby.org)) or visit the web page [www.nordicbaltic-assistwomen.net](http://www.nordicbaltic-assistwomen.net)

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EWL- LEF, 18 rue Hydraulique, B-1210 Bruxelles  
Tel. +32 2 217 90 20 – Fax: +32 2 219 84 51 - e-mail: [ewl@womenlobby.org](mailto:ewl@womenlobby.org)  
Website: <http://www.womenlobby.org>

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**The European Women's Lobby produced a Resource Kit on Institutional Mechanisms for the Promotion of Equality between Women and Men (May 2008).** Institutional mechanisms for equality between women and men are state bodies or institutions, which work on the promotion of women's rights and equality between women and men. They can be placed at all levels of government (national, regional, local) or within international institutions. Their role is to design, promote the implementation of, execute, monitor, evaluate, advocate and mobilise support for policies aiming at equality between women and men. The EWL Resource Kit presents information about existing public institutions dealing with equality between women and men at international, European and national level. It aims at helping NGOs and other interested actors to evaluate and influence international and European institutions as well as their national governments and enable them to strengthen weak or inefficient institutional mechanisms dealing with women's rights and gender equality. The Resource Kit is available [here](#).

**The EWL board meeting took place in Ljubljana 24–25 May 2008.** Among the items discussed were the EWL campaign on parity democracy 2008–2009, the Migration project, and the Open Method of Coordination, and the ways the national co-ordinations and EWL members could be involved in these projects and issues. The Board also discussed EWL position paper on Women, Militarism and UN Resolution 1325, which should be adopted soon (electronic vote after the meeting).

The EWL had a meeting with 12 partners of the **migration project “Equal Rights, Equal Voices. Migrant Women in the European Union”** on 28.04.08 in Brussels. This meeting enabled the participants to discuss the structure of the future network of Migrant Women in the EU as well as the objectives, activities and resources needed. 14 partners of the project and Amandine Bach, EWL project coordinator, participated actively afterwards on 29-30 April in Brussels to the Preparatory Meeting of the European Forum on Integration. Find more information on the forum [here](#).

The **Nordic-Baltic network**, created within the framework of the Nordic-Baltic pilot project, met for their 4<sup>th</sup> regional meeting in Tallinn, Estonia on 15-16 May 2008. EWL is the regional coordinator of the Nordic-Baltic pilot project, which focuses on support and assistance to women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. For more information about the project and the network activities, at national and regional level, please visit the Nordic-Baltic [website](#).

**As a member of the Civil Society Contact Group (CSCG), the EWL participated in an action with the European Parliament on transparency and the register for interest representatives.** Ahead of the vote by the European Parliament (08.05.08) on the “Framework for the activities of lobbyists in the EU institutions” the CSCG sent a letter to the presidents of the political groups and other European Parliamentarians. In the letter the CSCG expresses its support for: 1) Defining a benchmark for financial disclosure; 2) Unethical lobbying practices to be made public; 3) Precise demands to the European Commission to improve the transparency of its advisory groups; 4) The European Parliament to improve its current rules of procedures. Find the CSCG letter [here](#). More information in the European Parliament section.

**The EWL participated in a meeting organised by the European Commission for European anti-discrimination networks** on 29.05.08. The meeting dealt with the planning for

the French Presidency Equality Summit to take place in the autumn 2008 and an exchange of information about the activities of the different units in the European Commission dealing with equality between women and men, disability and anti discrimination.

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## **EWL Representation**

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Lisa Kerker, EWL Secretariat, participated in a meeting between ILGA-Europe, Social Platform, ENAR and the Legal Service of the European Commission, regarding the forthcoming **revised strategy to mainstream fundamental rights in the EU** on 17 April.

Maria Collins, EWL policy officer, represented the EWL as a speaker in the European and Economic Social Committee's Labour Market Observatory meeting on the subject **Women's (difficult) access to the labour market - causes, consequences and solutions** on 29 April.

Cécile Gréboval, EWL Policy Director represented the EWL at the conference "Politique européenne : le temps des femmes?" on 6 May 2008 in Louvain La Neuve (Belgium).

Kirsti Kolthoff, President of the EWL; Therese Murphy, Member of the EWL Executive and Myria Vassiliadou, Secretary General of the EWL, attended a conference organised by the European Commission: "**Responding to new social realities**" on 5-6 May 2008, in Brussels.

Amandine Bach, EWL Project Coordinator, represented the EWL at the Eurostars project on equal opportunities for all final seminar on 7 May 2008 in Brussels. Learn more about the project [here](#).

Myria Vassiliadou represented the EWL as a speaker in a high level conference organised by the EWL Greek Coordination on 9<sup>th</sup> May in Athens.

Myria Vassiliadou met with the Commissioner on Health, Androulla Vassiliou, to discuss the **work of the EWL and women's needs in the area of Health** on 14th May in Brussels.

Lisa Kerker, EWL Secretariat, represented the EWL as a speaker in a training seminar on **EU, Gender and Development**, organised by Concord Sweden on 23 May in Stockholm, Sweden.

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## **EWL Civil Society Representation**

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**Platform of European Social NGOs** – the EWL is member of the Platform of European social NGOs and is represented within its Management Committee and most working groups. EWL participated to the ad hoc working group on civil dialogue on 30 April and 14 May, as well as the FRAND Working Group on 06 May and SGI Working Group on 14 May. More information on the Platform: [Social Platform](#).

**Multiple Discrimination Group** - The objective of the working group, formed in May 2006, is to promote effective responses to multiple discrimination at both European and national levels. The group includes European anti-discrimination networks of NGOs.

**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. More information: [Act 4 Europe](#).

**EESC Liaison Group with Organised Civil Society** – EWL is member of the NGO Liaison group of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). More information: [NGO Liaison](#).

EWL is member of the NGO Platform on **EU Migration and Asylum Policy** initiated by the UNHCR to discuss and exchange information on the development of immigration policies and legislations at European level. The EWL participated to the meeting of the NGO Platform on 06.05.08.

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## **European & International News in Brief**

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### [European News](#)

**Social Agenda Forum to implement the growth and jobs strategy** took place the 5 and 6 May to discuss the outline of the forthcoming Social Agenda, which is to become the roadmap for the EU's Social Policy priorities for the coming years. The forum gathered together some 300 participants from social NGOs, national governments, local and regional authorities, universities the EU institutions. In his closing speech Commission's President Barroso made it clear that there will be no significant shift in EU policy making to take into account the wish of the social NGOs to move from the narrow 'growth and jobs' perspective to a social and sustainable future. He underlined that “a healthy economy is the foundation for prosperity” and that the renewed Social Agenda is to implement the “growth and jobs strategy” by focusing on “opportunities, access and solidarity”. The final Social Agenda of the European Commission shall be adopted at the end of June 2008, together with other social policy measures in a so-called “social package”. The social package will include several pieces of legislation, including the new anti-discrimination directive.

**European Commission proposes changes on access to documents regulation.** The European Commission on 30 April proposed to amend the regulation on access to documents held by the EU institutions. Statewatch, an NGO working to defend civil liberties, criticises that the Commission did not consider many of the problems raised by civil society and the European Parliament. Statewatch says that the proposals are “highly retrogressive”, as the definition of “document” would become more restrictive referring to legislative and recorded documents only. Also the general principle that all documents in the public register should be as far as possible directly accessible in electronic form would be deleted.

**Social Platform unsatisfied with the public consultation on the Social Agenda.** In a [letter](#) addressed to the Commission's President Barroso, the Social Platform raised serious concerns as regards the consultation process on the social reality stocktaking. The Platform underlines that social NGOs have not been given the chance to contribute to the Commission's social vision set up in a communication in November and that their contributions on social realities cannot be used to justify the seven priorities the Commission had identified in the communication. As stated in the letter, “we owe to the people we represent and to the idea we have of European democracy to make sure that our contributions are treated with respect.”

**Lisbon Treaty ratified in 13 member states.** On 8 May the Latvian and Lithuanian Parliaments approved the Lisbon Treaty with large majority, leaving only their countries presidents to sign the document for ratification to be completed in 13 of the 27 member states. The date for the Irish referendum is now set: the Irish will vote on the Lisbon treaty on June 12. The Irish government has lately launched its campaign in favour of the new EU treaty.

**Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights calls for more protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.** In a video message shown at the conference organized by Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) the CoE Commissioner for human rights Thomas Hammarberg raised several issues regarding the effective respect of LGBT people's rights, in particular to be protected from hate crimes and discrimination. He stressed the importance of freedom of assembly when peaceful Gay Pride Marches are organized, and also referred to the need for comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation including sexual orientation.

**Decreased commitment for development.** Last month, OECD presented figures on the EU development aid in 2007 that indicate a significant decrease for the first time since 2000. The cuts are mostly remarkable in case of the richest European countries from the Group of eight (G8): United Kingdom (decrease by 29%), Germany and France. The president of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, expressed his concern and pointed out that this trend in Europe is 'dangerous'. Civil society organizations united in CONCORD (European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development) also raise alarm that this is a serious step backward that stays in stark contrast with the declared commitment of European governments to development assistance. CONCORD has published a report analysing the qualitative and quantitative problems of the development aid given by the EU Member States. Read more [here](#).

**Petition for the right to abortion in Europe.** The petition called "European Feminist Appeal" calls for the recognition of the fundamental right of all women in all the countries to have control over their own bodies, and the right to information, contraception and free and safe abortion. The petition, initiated by European Feminist Initiative (EFI), aims to collect a million signatories before the European Elections in 2009 in order to have a maximum impact on the policy making process. You can sign the petition [here](#).

**The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) celebrates its 50th anniversary.** The EESC is an EU-level consultative assembly representing the economic, social and civic components of organised civil society in the Member States. Its members' main task is to draw up opinions for the EU institutions. Following EESC, over 80% of its opinions have an impact on the European Commission's work, giving it a very visible role in EU participatory democracy. This year, the EESC is holding a series of events to celebrate its anniversary, including a commemorative day on 28 May. It will host an open day on 7 June, as well as literary events and exhibitions. More information is available at: [www.eesc.europa.eu](http://www.eesc.europa.eu)

### International news

**UN-INSTRAW: the media has potential to be a change agent in relation to gender equality.** According to the Director of UN-INSTRAW Carmen Morana, the media's dissemination of stereotypical and imbalanced images of women and men strengthens the gender inequality and discrimination. UN-INSTRAW called for more research on the portrayal of women and men in the media and its impact on public opinion and gender norms and roles, and for the establishment of ethical codes for the media that make discriminatory stereotypes of both

women and men in the media unacceptable. Read UN-INSTRAW review document on women and media [here](#).

**Lack of gender sensitivity in the Financing for Development: women's groups disappointed.** The special high-level meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), held on 14 April, to prepare for the International Conference on Financing for Development scheduled to take place in November 2008 in Qatar lacked gender sensitivity. Although some governments claimed the need to incorporate gender equality into development cooperation strategies, the issue was not sufficiently reflected in the general discussion and no particular action took or will take place despite the fact that over 70 percent of the population living in extreme poverty are women and children. Please, for more information click [here](#).

**New initiative focuses on business opportunities for women.** *Doing Business* has launched a two-year initiative to identify legal and regulatory barriers facing businesswomen in 178 countries, and to advocate change. Doing Business will form partnership with governments and women's groups. The primary objectives will be to identify laws and regulations that discriminate against women, investigate which reforms on business regulations have the highest impact on opportunities for women and prepare case studies of women entrepreneurs. You can find more information on the initiative [here](#).

**Religious Leaders Engaged in Fight Against Female Genital Mutilation.** The Abidjan declaration of commitment has been signed by African Moslem and Christian religious leaders in Abidjan in October 2007. In the declaration the leaders commit themselves to participating actively in the struggle for the total elimination of FGM. You can find the text of the declaration [here](#).

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## **News from the European Parliament**

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**Women and Armed Conflict** - Rape and sexual violence as a war strategy and the dramatic situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo were some of the main topics in the Hearing on Women and War organised by the Women's Rights and the Development Committees on 6 May. The role of women in the prevention of armed conflicts was underlined. MEPs demanded a more systematic implementation of the UN resolution 1325 by EU member states as at the moment only 6 member states have prepared a National Action Plan. As a conclusion, the chairwoman of the Women's Rights Committee Anna Záborská called for a targeted and concrete EU aid for the female victims of sexual violence.

The **European Parliament adopted on 20.05.08 a report from MEP Liz Lynne calling on the European Commission to adhere to its commitment to propose a "comprehensive directive" to combat all forms of discrimination outside employment.** The Commission had, until recently, been planning to extend the scope of legislation on access to goods and services to include all forms of discrimination that were not yet protected. However, last month it emerged that the Commission had watered down its proposals following pressure from Germany and had dropped religion, sexual orientation and age as factors protected against discrimination, leaving only protection against discrimination on the grounds of disability. The college of commissioners is expected to take a decision on the issue on 25 June. Find the report [here](#)

**EP “Annual Report on Human Rights in the World in 2007 and the EU’s policy on the matter”**, prepared by MEP Marco Cappato was adopted on 8 May. Women's rights is one of the key issues, which the EP says should be raised in all EU human rights dialogues, in order to combat discrimination and violence against women and girls, including gender-selected abortion and all forms of harmful traditional or customary practices, such as female genital mutilation and early or forced marriage. You can read the report [here](#).

**“Framework for the activists of the lobbyists in the EU institutions”** – EP report adopted on 8 May. Comparing with the demands of the CSCG (see above) presented earlier on the week, the vote was very disappointing. Basically all the amendments that the CSCG asked to vote for, such as making unethical lobbying practices public and improving the EP’s own rules on transparency, were turned down by MEPs. However, the report asks for a mandatory register including lobbyists’ names and their clients or funders, The European Commission has identified 23 June 2008 as the target date for the publication of a voluntary lobbyists register and accompanying code of conduct. Read the report [here](#).

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## **[Update on Violence against Women and Women’s Human Rights](#)**

**Urgent need for action in national parliaments concerning domestic violence.** In a declaration adopted on 30 April in Vienna at a conference on domestic violence against women held by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the Austrian Parliament, the participants underlined the urgent need for passing legislation in this field and monitoring its application. The declaration also recommends that a Council of Europe framework convention should be drawn up to combat domestic violence. For two years, PACE has been raising awareness among parliamentarians in many different countries and urging parliaments to adopt minimum legislative standards on violence against women at the earliest opportunity. Read the declaration [here](#).

**Expert group meeting on violence against women.** From May 26 to 28 the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDAW/DESA) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) will convene an expert group meeting on lessons learned regarding violence against women legislation. The group will analyze various legal approaches for addressing all forms of violence against women and identify best practices. The group seeks to create guidelines and a strategic framework to assist governments in enhancing and developing new legislation on violence against women. The final report is expected to contribute good practices for the Secretary-General’s database on violence against women. Read more [here](#).

**Free campaign materials available to combat violence against women.** The materials of the Croatian media campaign titled “Family Violence is Not a Sport - next time hit the ball” are free to use for all women’s organisations. The campaign, which had a strong impact on public opinion, was designed for the UEFA European football championship 2006, and the creators now believe that the campaign could be used again in the context of the 2008 football cup. Materials are in English, but translation is possible. If you want to use the materials, feel free to contact the design company Bruketa&Žinić: [bruketa-zinic@bruketa-zinic.com](mailto:bruketa-zinic@bruketa-zinic.com)

**New documentary film on abortion** - The documentary film “Abortion Democracy” by Sarah Diehl, explores and contrasts changes in Poland and South Africa regarding abortion laws and their impact on the lives of women. The director is looking for venues (conferences, theaters,

colleges, community centers, women's centers, cafe's, etc.) for screening the film worldwide. Please contact her directly [sarah.diehl@yahoo.de](mailto:sarah.diehl@yahoo.de).

**UN agencies joint statement on eliminating female genital mutilation:** a new interagency statement is written and signed by a wide group of United Nations agencies and it is a call to all States, international and national organizations, civil society and communities to uphold the rights of girls and women and to develop, strengthen, and support specific and concrete actions directed towards ending female genital mutilation. Drawing on experience from interventions in many countries, the statement describes the elements needed, for both working towards complete abandonment of female genital mutilation, and caring for those who suffer from its consequences. You can read the statement [here](#).

**Advertising to make prostitutes' customers to say 'no' in UK.** A new online advertising campaign to raise awareness on trafficking and exploitation of prostitutes is part of the UK government's campaign to tackle the demand for prostitution. Posters were piloted in May in men's toilets in pubs and clubs in Westminster and Nottingham, and are supported by the online campaign which will run until the end of June. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

**Doctors refuse to perform abortion in Italy.** The ministry of health released a report that shows that the percentage of gynaecologists who refuse to terminate pregnancies has risen by 10 points in comparison with the year 2003. According to media reports about 70 percent of Italian doctors now refuse to perform terminations of pregnancy. Thus the health care system faces a real challenge in providing medical services that by the letter of law must be guaranteed to women. Doctors claim that in medical circles pro-choice views can ruin a career and that pressure not to perform abortions is exerted on them. As a result, in some regions and Italian cities abortion is hardly accessible.

**The 1st World Conference of Women's Shelters,** Canada 8–11 September 2008. This event will present a new opportunity for family violence workers around the world to learn from international experts and each other. The aim of the conference is in particular to help participants to affect change in their organizations in order to better meet the needs of ethno-cultural, multicultural and racial communities when dealing with family violence. For more information and to register, please click [here](#).

**Broken bodies — Broken Dreams: Violence Against Women Exposed** The book offers a powerful testimony of the different types of gender-based violence experienced by women and girls worldwide throughout their lives, through the use of photographs, individual case studies and illustrative text. The publication is part of OCHA/IRIN's ongoing campaign to highlight the issues of violence against women through film, text and photography. The book can be purchased through Earthprint at [www.earthprint.com](http://www.earthprint.com)

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## Events

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**Conference “Feminists for a Secular Europe”**, Rome 31 May–1 June, organised by EFI. You can find the registration form [here](#).

**Contribute to the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence**, 2– 8 June. The action week is an opportunity for civil society organisations to engage parliamentarians and government officials in support of national, regional and international policies to regulate the proliferation of

small arms, and to generate media coverage of the small arms problem. To find out about the activities to be organized in your region or to receive materials to help you to organize your own event, please visit the IANSA website or contact Bruce Millar [bruce.millar@iansa.org](mailto:bruce.millar@iansa.org).

**“Making use of the full potential – How gender equality contributes to achieving jobs and growth in European regions”**, Brussels 12 June 2008. This seminar presents best practice examples from Central Sweden, Oslo Region and South East England that show how the three regions have helped increase the number of women-owned businesses and mainstream gender equality into businesses to help maximise existing potential. Please, click [here](#) for more information.

**“Public Budgeting Responsibility To Gender Equality”**, Bilbao 9 – 11 June 2008. The issues covered by this conference vary from gender budgeting and gender impact of public policies to gender blindness in taxation. Also European gender budgeting initiatives from different countries will be presented and analysed. Contact :Nuria Rivada [nuria@infopolis.es](mailto:nuria@infopolis.es)

**“Peace by Piece” – 3 Day International Women’s Peace Conference** 24-26 June 2008 in Belfast. For more information and registration, contact Dearbhla McGrath: [dearbhla@twnonline.com](mailto:dearbhla@twnonline.com) or click [here](#).

**“Feminist Congress 2008”**, Lisbon 26–28 June 2008. The event will feature conferences, workshops, music, cinema, exhibitions, books, fashion, etc. etc. Register till May 31. For more information, click [here](#).

**“Being Heard in the Future Europe”**, London 4–5 July 2008. The European Women Lawyers Association’s 8<sup>th</sup> congress offers plenaries with key European decision-makers and workshops with themes such as the Fundamental Rights Agency, family law, reconciliation law, and anti-discrimination and diversity law. Visit the [EWLA website](#) for more information and to register.

**The 8th FIAPAC conference “Reproductive Health and Responsibilities”**, Berlin 24–25 October 2008. The preliminary program is now available online, including a call for abstracts for free communications and posters. Please find more details at: [www.fiapac.org](http://www.fiapac.org)

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## **Publications - Web Sites**

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### Publications

**Study: EU’s understanding on women and armed conflict limited.** A study “Enhancing the EU response to women and armed conflict” was commissioned by the Slovenian Presidency of the EU in response to the agreed and shared priorities on development cooperation between the Presidencies of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia. The study found that EU’s understanding of issues related to women and armed conflict is limited, and there is a lack of a strategic plan or framework to guide the EU response. Issues related to WAC are not prioritised within the EU’s development and peace-building policies and programmes. You can read the study [here](#).

**A Guide to Policy and Planning on Women, Peace and Security.** The purpose of this guide is to help facilitate the development of realistic action plans on women, peace and security through the provision of good practices, specific recommendations and a six-step model process. The guide is designed as a resource for governments, United Nations and regional organisations as well as NGOs interested in developing plans and policies on women, peace and security issues. You can download the guide [here](#).

**A Survey of Women and Men in Parliaments.** The survey by Inter-Parliamentary Union collects insights from both women and men in parliaments into what shapes decision making. The survey finds that different factors affect the entry of women and men into politics. It is clear from the responses to the survey that women and men have different interests in and perspectives on life which in turn shape their work in the parliament. More than 90 percent of all respondents agreed that women bring different views, talents and perspectives to politics. Read the whole study [here](#).

**Integration of Female Migrant Domestic Workers: Strategies for Employment and Civic Participation.** The resource book by the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies is a result of a trans-national project funded by the European Commission. The book incorporates the results of a mapping survey conducted by all partner organizations as well as best practice examples and integration models and policy recommendations and strategies at the national and EU levels. For more details about the project please visit [here](#). To receive a copy of the resource book please contact Josie Christodoulou: [josie@medinstgenderstudies.org](mailto:josie@medinstgenderstudies.org)

**The global internal displacement crisis continued to worsen in 2007,** according to an annual survey by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre of the Norwegian Refugee Council. In 2007 the estimated number of people displaced within their countries by armed conflicts and violence was over 26 million. The impact of displacement on the security and integrity of women and girls was huge, as displaced women and children continue to endure sexual violence. Although international attention to the plight of internally displaced people continued to grow, there was no breakthrough in reducing their number or measurably improving their situation. You can read the whole report [here](#).

**Book on the history of female syndicalists in Belgium.** "Syndicalisme au féminin 1830– 1940 Volume 1" by Marie-Thérèse Coenen traces the difficult path of the female workers in the syndicalist movement in Belgium, treating the questions of rights and equality at work, level of salaries, access to employment on an époque when women worked, but when the discourse was not favourable for the work of married women and mothers. You can order the book by sending email to [info@universitedesfemmes.be](mailto:info@universitedesfemmes.be)

**Revised and updated ECAS guides to EU funding for NGOs.** The two guides run through step by step how to gain funding from the EU institutions for programmes in every policy area. They also give advice on how to get through the ridged and bureaucratic systems, practical information on the time that you will need to invest, and the advantages and disadvantages of doing so. You can order the guides [here](#).

## Websites

**New project aims to bring women closer to EU.** The project "Les Femmes Passerelles d'Europe" aims to bring women closer to Europe by creating greater awareness amongst women about Europe and by bringing their expectations to European decision makers. For more information about the project, visit their [website](#).

**A new website on gender and migration.** GeMIC is a new research project exploring the intersections between gender, migration and intercultural interactions in South Europe. The project is coordinated by the Center for Gender Studies at the Panteion University, Greece, and it involves partners from Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Macedonia, Spain, Italy and Cyprus. As part of the project, an interactive website has been launched. You can visit the website [here](#).

**Informing a greater engagement by men in the struggle for gender justice.** The Siyanda internet database for gender mainstreaming includes a collection of articles presented under the theme “Men, Gender and Power”. The articles cover a wide range of topics from the construction of masculinities to how men could be engaged in working for gender equality. You can visit the database [here](#).

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## **Funding, Training, Call for Papers**

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**Prizes to award journalist coverage of democracy, human rights, development.** Print, online, radio and TV journalists who have covered democracy, human rights and/or development are invited to submit an application for the Lorenzo Natali Prize for journalism. The deadline for entries is **30 June**. In 2007 fifteen award winners were selected by an independent jury, made up of NGO representatives, leading journalists, and news agency representatives. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

**EC call for proposals to promote quality of Social Services of General Interest (SSGI).** The objective of the call is to support bottom-up initiatives aimed at developing mechanisms for the definition, measurement, assessment and improvement of quality of SSGI. Preference will be given to initiatives having a trans-national character. The projects will be financed under the PROGRESS programme. The deadline for submitting proposals is 18 July 2008, please click [here](#) to find the relevant documents.

**EC call for tenders for a study on non-legislative initiatives for companies to promote gender equality at the workplace.** The objective of the study is to make an inventory of initiatives which, by encouraging and highlighting exemplary practices of companies, aim to promote gender equality at the workplace in EU member states. The study should also look at the origin, operation and results of these initiatives and analyse their effectiveness and impact. It will also highlight the arguments and economic and social benefits, for companies, of undertaking steps of this kind. Deadline for bids is 13 June 2008. Read more [here](#).

**EC call for tenders for a mapping study on the trade unions practices in fighting discrimination & promoting diversity.** The objective of the study is to map the most significant or innovative initiatives taken by trade unions to combat discrimination at the and to promote diversity. Building upon these results, the contractor should classify these initiatives, to assess their impact, to identify potential gaps and to provide suggestions for further action. For more information, click [here](#).

**EC grants for local and national civil society initiatives to promote public debate about European issues.** The European Commission issues grants through its representations in Member States for civil society organisations for the purpose of organising events promoting public debate. Please contact the representation of the EC in your country to inquire for further information on the availability of funding. Websites of the representations [here](#).

**Course on Applied Research Methods with Marginal and Hidden Populations**, Essex 4–8 August. The course provides an introduction to research methods in conducting research with marginal and hidden populations, such as children, migrants, homeless, victim's conflicts or trafficking, HIV/AIDS, drug addicted, refugees and displaced people. More information [here](#).

**Call for papers for the 7th European Feminist Research Conference “Gendered Cultures at the Crossroads of Imagination, Knowledge and Politics”**, Utrecht 4–7 June 2009. 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 for submitting abstracts is 19 September. For more information on the themes of the conference and to submit an abstract, please click [here](#).

**Call for Papers on climate change and gender.** The March 2009 issue of the international journal *Gender & Development*, will focus on climate change, and ideas for articles from researchers, practitioners and activists are looked for. What have we learned from gender analysis of the impact of climate change on women, men and gender power relations? How are women responding to climate change? How is the climate change affecting development, poverty alleviation and the empowerment of women? Please send a paragraph outlining your proposed idea to [gadeditor@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:gadeditor@oxfam.org.uk) before 10 June 2008.

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