

***Green/EFA MEPS Ulrike Lunacek, Terry Reintke and Ernest Urtasun invite you to the  
VIII Conference on Femicide / Femicide***

***The Duty of Due Diligence in Eradicating Femicide / Femicide***

**Two years of EU-CELAC Bi-Regional Dialogue on Gender Issues: What are the improvements?**

1<sup>st</sup> of June 2015, 15:00 – 18:30 in the European Parliament

***Conference Follow-up and Strategy Meeting***

2<sup>nd</sup> of June, 9:00 – 13:00 at the European Social Platform, Square de Meeûs 18, 1050 Brussels

**in cooperation with AIETI, Alianza por la Solidaridad, APRODEV, Cooperacció, CIFCA, European Women's Lobby, Feminicidio.net, Flora Tristán, Grupo Sur, Otro Tiempo, Oxfam Intermón**

**Femicide/femicide** is *"the violent death of women based on gender, whether it occurs within the family, a domestic partnership, or any other interpersonal relationship; in the community, by any person, or when it is perpetrated or tolerated by the state or its agents, by act or omission"* (MESECVI, 2008). It is the most extreme form of violence against women. It is not a matter of "...isolated incidents that arise suddenly and unexpectedly, but rather the ultimate act of violence which is experienced in a continuum of violence"<sup>1</sup> against women.

To fight against it, more than a dozen Latin American countries have adopted laws that specifically penalize femicide or femicide. European countries also rely on increasingly specific legal instruments to combat violence against women. Twenty years of the Belém do Pará Convention<sup>2</sup> in Latin America and the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention<sup>3</sup> in Europe demonstrate an increasingly stronger **international commitment** against this kind of violence, a commitment which has also been recently expressed in **the establishment of EU-CELAC's Bi-Regional Dialogue on Gender Issues**.

However, legal norms, agreements, and international dialogues alone are not sufficient for the eradication of violence against women, nor its most extreme manifestation, femicide/ femicide. It is necessary that the whole of the state structure commit itself to act with **due diligence** to prevent, investigate, sanction all acts of violence against women, as indicated in Belém do Pará and Istanbul, as well as to compensate the victims.

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo, [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/A.HRC.20.16\\_En.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/A.HRC.20.16_En.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Belém do Pará Convention: <http://oas.org/en/mesecv/docs/BelemDoPara-ENGLISH.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Istanbul Convention: <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/convention/Convention%202010%20English.pdf>

The protection of the **life of women** is fundamental when evaluating the diligence of States before acts of violence<sup>4</sup>. Femicide/femicide is often a consequence of **lack of due diligence** in the actions taken by States; such is the case when, for example, public policy, carried out by bodies charged with the implementation of the law, such as the police force or the judicial system, are ineffective or passive in cases of violence against women.

The **VIII Conference on Femicide** will examine some aspects related to the duty of due diligence in the actions of States in the face of violence against women and femicides/femicides. Due diligence will be addressed from an international perspective, including strategies, initiatives, and tools that are being developed in the European and Latin American spheres, as well as, bi-regionally, to contribute to the eradication of the violence against women and femicide/femicide: In what way do the regional conventions (Belém do Pará and Istanbul) help States act with due diligence in the face of violence against women? As the end of the EU-CELAC 2013-2015 Action Plan term approaches, how has the Bi-Regional Dialogue on Gender Issues contributed to the eradication of femicide/femicide?

The conference will also include a national perspective on due diligence, and in this sense, it will center on means of protection, attention to health, social services, and preventive campaigns, problems related to investigations and judicial processes as well as sanctions in the face of violence against women and, in particular, femicide/femicide.



<sup>4</sup>Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. IACHR. "Report 170/11. Case 12.578: María Isabel Véliz Franco Et Al. Merits Guatemala." Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Organization of American States, 2011b, paragraph 75, <http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/court/12.578FondoENG.doc> - 12/19/2012

## Program: VIII Conference on Femicide / Feminicide

**1st of June 2015 from 15:00 – 18:30 in the European Parliament**

<b>14:30</b>	<b>Access to European Parliament</b>
<b>15:00 – 15:15</b>	<b>Welcome and Opening</b> <i><b>Ernest Urtasun</b>, Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA</i> <i><b>Patricia Jiménez</b>, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, EU Office</i>
<b>15:15 -16:40</b>	<b>Panel I:</b> Towards the eradication of feminicide in Latin America and Europe: An international perspective <b>Chair: Ernest Urtasun</b> , Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CELAC and the EU perspective on the Bi-Regional Dialogue on Gender and the eradication of violence against women  <i>Embassy of Argentina (10')</i>  <b>Nicola Murray</b> / EEAS / Regional Affairs Division, EEAS Americas Department (10')</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The European Strategy for Equality Between Women and Men after 2015  <b>Maria Noichl</b> /Member of the European Parliament (15')</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indicators of implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention: Outcomes in the Latin American continent  <b>Luz Patricia Mejía</b>/ OEA /MESECVI Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat (15')</li> </ul>
	Debate (30')
<b>16:40 – 18:15</b>	<b>Panel II:</b> Promising practices for the eradication of feminicide at a national level <b>Chair: Ulrike Lunacek</b> , Member of the European Parliament, Greens / EFA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EEAS Strategy about violence against women in Latin America  <b>Jivka Petkova*</b> / EEAS / Special Adviser on Gender (15')</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guatemala's response to femicide: Progress and challenges in the area of due diligence <b>Maya Alvarado*</b> / <i>Director of Unión Nacional de Mujeres de Guatemala (UNAMG) (15')</i></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Comprehensive Law against gender-based violence in Spain: Progress and challenges in the area of due diligence <b>Encarna Bodelón González</b> / <i>Director of the research group Antígona, Barcelona Autonomous University (15 ')</i></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media: Strategies for awareness of the media in the face of femicide and violence against women <b>Mónica Maureira</b>/ <i>Professor at the Diego Portales University and feminist activist (15')</i></li> </ul>
<b>17:45 – 18:15</b>	Debate (30')
<b>18:15</b>	<b>Closing</b> <b>Ernest Urtasu and Ulrike Lunacek</b> / <i>Members of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA</i>

## Program: Follow-up of the VIII Conference on Femicide and Strategy Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> of June from 9h00 to 13h00 in the Social European Platform

<b>9:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>9:15 – 11:00</b>	<b>Welcome and Opening</b> <b>Ernest Urtasun</b> , <i>Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA</i> <b>Panel I:</b> Follow-up Mechanism of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI) and the Istanbul Convention (GREVIO) <b>Chair: Klaus Linsenmeier</b> / <i>Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, EU Office director</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening the methods of civil society participation in MESECVI <b>Luz Patricia Mejía</b> / <i>OEA /MESECVI Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat (15')</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operation of GREVIO and opportunities for civil society participation <b>Johan Friestedt</b>/ GREVIO / <i>Monitoring mechanism of the Istanbul Convention</i> (15')</li> </ul>
	<p>Commentators</p> <p><b>Pierrette Pape</b>, <i>European Women's Lobby / Policy and Campaigns Director</i> (5')</p> <p><b>Liz Meléndez</b> / <i>Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán</i> (5')</p>
	Debate (45')
<b>11:00 – 11:20</b>	Break
<b>11:20 – 12:45</b>	<p><b>Panel II:</b></p> <p>Advocacy strategies for the guarantee of the reproductive rights of women: Legal abortion as a requirement for the reduction of deaths among women</p> <p><b>Chair: Ernest Urtasun</b>, <i>Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The right to abortion in Europe and Latin America: Progress, setbacks, and opportunities <b>Irene Donadio</b> / <i>International Planned Parenthood Federation, European Network</i> (15')</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The Right to Choose=Free people" Campaign in Chile <b>Mónica Maureira</b> / <i>Professor at the Diego Portales University and feminist activist</i> (10')</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Let her Choose" Campaign in Peru <b>Liz Meléndez</b> / <i>Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán</i> (10')</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Feminist mobilization in Spain against the reform of abortion law" <b>Cristina Bigordà</b> / <i>Dones amb Iniciativa</i> (10')</li> </ul>
	Debate (40')
<b>12h45</b>	<p><b>Closing</b></p> <p><b>Ernest Urtasun</b>, <i>Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA</i></p>

