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Focusing on the perpetrators to prevent violence against women

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Ms Nursuna MEMECAN and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

All too often, the way in which the plight of violence against women is portrayed in the media puts an emphasis on the victims themselves but we learn nothing about the men who commit these crimes. Who are these men? What are their motivations for killing the women they love? What are they thinking when they raise their hands to hit women?

Social problems are understood in terms of how they are presented. Gender-neutral language, such as domestic violence, and the media exposure of women as victims disguise the everyday reality that the majority of perpetrators of violence are men. Unfortunately this is also the case in the context of awareness-raising and prevention campaigns.

The Istanbul Convention requires all Parties to take measures to eradicate prejudices, customs, traditions based on the idea of the inferiority of women or on stereotyped roles for women and men. Parties are required to support programmes aimed at teaching perpetrators to adopt non-violent behaviour in interpersonal relationships with a view to preventing further violence and changing violent behavioural patterns. The Istanbul Convention also calls on the media to refrain from contributing to the process of revictimisation especially in the context of judicial proceedings.

With the view to complementing such provisions of the Istanbul Convention, the Parliamentary Assembly should focus on the perpetrator and address the root causes of why men perpetrate violence and understand the complex nature of power, status and inequality between women and men in society that result in violence. Through this understanding, it should focus on ways to develop new methods of deterrence and prevention, elaborate guidelines for the media and formulate recommendations to member states on setting up rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators.

Signed (see overleaf)

*Signed*¹:

MEMECAN Nursuna, Turkey, ALDE
AL-ASTAL Najat, Palestine
BIEDROŃ Robert, Poland, SOC
BİLGEHAN Gülsün, Turkey, SOC
BOURZAI Bernadette, France, SOC
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC
DJUROVIĆ Aleksandra, Serbia, NR
DRĂGHICI Damian, Romania, ALDE
ERKAL KARA Tülin, Turkey, EPP/CD
FABER-VAN DE KLASHORST Marjolein, Netherlands, NR
GIANNAKAKI Maria, Greece, NR
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
GUTIÉRREZ Antonio, Spain, SOC
HAUGLI Håkon, Norway, SOC
ILIĆ Vladimir, Serbia, EPP/CD
KALMÁR Ferenc, Hungary, EPP/CD
MATTILA Pirkko, Finland, NR
MELNYCHUK Larysa, Ukraine, NR
MENDES BOTA José, Portugal, EPP/CD
QUINTANILLA Carmen, Spain, EPP/CD
ROTNICKA Jadwiga, Poland, EPP/CD
TÜRKEŞ Ahmet Kutalmış, Turkey, EDG
TZAKRI Theodora, Greece, SOC

1. EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group