

**TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN**

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly
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The Sub-Committee on violence against women of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, meeting in Antwerp (Belgium) on Monday 18 October 2004 with Mrs Zapfl-Helbling (Switzerland, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

as regards:

- *Forced marriages and child marriages* (Rapporteur: Mrs Zapfl-Helbling, Switzerland, EPP/CD): held a hearing on the subject with the participation of :
 - ✓ Ms Riet Van Gool, representative of the "instappen.be" association (Association for the victims of forced marriages and marriages of convenience)
 - ✓ Ms Latifa Drif, family planning association, Montpellier, France
 - ✓ Ms Hafida B., victim, France
 - ✓ Ms Patsy Sörensen, former member of the European Parliament, former Deputy Mayor of the city of Antwerp and Chairperson of Payoke (Centre for victims of human trafficking)
 - ✓ Ms Purna Sen, Professor at the London School of Economics
 - ✓ Ms Miriam Bouzid, victim of a marriage of convenience
 - ✓ Mr Frank Beyens and Mr Eddy Meulders, Heads of the "marriages of convenience" unit of the Town of Antwerp
 - ✓ Ms Galina Vassileva, Head of International Cooperation and Programs Department, State Agency for Child Protection (Bulgaria) on the problematic issues concerning the early marriages of Roma Children in Bulgaria
- *Its next meetings* :
 - Strasbourg, during the January 2005 part-session of the Assembly (24-28 January).

Tanja Kleinsorge / Jannick Devaux

cc Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General and Director of the Assembly
All staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly

Director Generals
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General
Director of Communication and Research
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
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