Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
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Europe's refugee crisis - urgent need to protect women and children

Written declaration No. 600

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

According to UNHCR by 16 September over half a million refugees and migrants arrived to Europe.

An increasing number of them are families with small children and pregnant women. They represent the most vulnerable group: at risk of sexual violence, including rape and exposed to trauma, malnutrition and disease. The lack of access by women, especially pregnant women, to reproductive health services represents a major health disaster.

We call on Council of Europe member States especially the countries with most arrivals: Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, France (Calais), Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Serbia, Spain, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey as well as UN agencies and the civil society to:

– Respond to the disproportionate impact of the refugee crisis on women and children and to prioritise funding for their health needs,

– At the receiving points and refugee camps to urgently provide better hygiene, medical assistance and offer women and girls protection from gender based violence and rape.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC
BAKRADZE David, Georgia, EPP/CD
BİLGEHAN Gülsün, Turkey, SOC
BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC
BONET PEROT Sílvia Eloïsa, Andorra, SOC
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC
CROZON Pascale, France, SOC
GAFAROVA Sahiba, Azerbaijan, EC
JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC
KANDELAKI Giorgi, Georgia, EPP/CD
KROSS Eerik-Niiles, Estonia, ALDE
KUODYTĖ Dalia, Lithuania, ALDE
MAGRADZE Guguli, Georgia, SOC
MAURY PASQUIER Liliane, Switzerland, SOC
MITCHELL Olivia, Ireland, EPP/CD
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC
TAKTAKISHVILI Chiora, Georgia, ALDE
VERCAMER Stefaan, Belgium, EPP/CD
VĖSAITĖ Birutė, Lithuania, SOC
WURM Gisela, Austria, SOC

Total = 22

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EC: European Conservatives Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group