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Paving the way for a culture of consent

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Ms Zita GURMAL and other members of the Assembly

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

Sexist gender stereotypes are still deeply rooted in European societies and have an impact on all areas of life. They feed gender-based inequalities and a culture where consent is not yet considered essential. Their negative impact is exacerbated in a context of rising extremism and backlash against women's rights.

The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CETS No. 210, "Istanbul Convention") clearly establishes that sexual violence and rape are defined by the absence of consent (article 36). It stresses that consent has to "be given voluntarily as the result of the person's free will assessed in the context of the surrounding circumstances". However, consent is not yet included in the definition of sexual violence and rape in national legislations of all States Parties to the Istanbul Convention.

The Parliamentary Assembly should contribute to raising awareness about the importance of the notion of consent, which should be clearly stated: silence should never be understood as consent. It should call on Council of Europe member States which have not yet done so to include consent in their national legislation on sexual violence and rape. Promoting a culture of consent will contribute to changing mindsets and to improving the effectiveness of prevention and protection against gender-based violence.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

GURMAI Zita, Hungary, SOC
ARSLAN Sibel, Switzerland, SOC
BANKOĞLU Aysu, Türkiye, SOC
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
BEGIC Denis, Sweden, SOC
CACHIA Naomi, Malta, SOC
CEPURĪTIS Edmunds, Latvia, SOC
ENGELHARDT Heike, Germany, SOC
FRESKO-ROLFO Béatrice, Monaco, ALDE
GIOVAGNOLI Gerardo, San Marino, SOC
GÖKÇEN Gökçe, Türkiye, SOC
HAATAINEN Tuula, Finland, SOC
IKIĆ BANIČEK Kristina, Croatia, SOC
KLUIT Saskia, Netherlands, SOC
KOSTADINOVSKA-STOJCHEVSKA Bisera, North Macedonia, SOC
KUMPULA-NATRI Miapetra, Finland, SOC
LACROIX Christophe, Belgium, SOC
LYDEKA Arminas, Lithuania, ALDE
MARIE Didier, France, SOC
MARTINEZ SEIJO Luz, Spain, SOC
MURATORI Giulia, San Marino, SOC
NOWICKA Wanda, Poland, SOC
OSBORNE Kate, United Kingdom, SOC
PERTEGHELLA Manuela, United Kingdom, ALDE
PILLER CARRARD Valérie, Switzerland, SOC
PRAMMER Agnes Sirkka, Austria, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
STRANDHÄLL Annika, Sweden, SOC
VELA Susanna, Andorra, SOC
VELDHOEN Gala, Netherlands, SOC
VONTA Tamara, Slovenia, ALDE

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group