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Empowering women for their role as key-actors for integration

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Ms Gabriela HEINRICH and other members of the Assembly

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

According to UNHCR there were nearly 60 million forcibly displaced persons worldwide by the end of 2014. The member States of the Council of Europe have experienced exceptionally large numbers of refugees and migrants arriving from neighbouring countries and via the Mediterranean Sea, a majority of whom are from Syria and other conflict-affected countries and regions, since then. According to the UNHCR the number of refugees in Europe rose from 3,095,000 at the beginning of 2015 to 3,475,300 by mid-year, when another increase started.

Refugee and migrant women are key actors for integration, for themselves, and also for their whole families. The member States of the Council of Europe must do more than tackling sexual violence and giving women full access to health service, employment and education. Refugee women are the main actors for the integration of migrant families – if host States and host societies give them the opportunity to fulfill this role. It is the women who can pass cultural values of democracy, equality and tolerance to the next generation. Women are a bridge between their countries of origin and their host country.

The Parliamentary Assembly should study the best practices in member States concerning a gender-based role of integration and encourage them to provide conditions to empower women for a fast and thorough integration and not only rely on the capability and the ability of women to fulfill this role. Enabling both women and men to promote and advance integration by providing special integration courses and by increasing social and political participation could be a possible outcome of the experienced best practices.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC
ANDERSON Donald, United Kingdom, SOC
BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC
BRASSEUR Anne, Luxembourg, ALDE
CENTEMERO Elena, Italy, EPP/CD
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC
CORSINI Paolo, Italy, SOC
FEIST Thomas, Germany, EPP/CD
FINCKH-KRÄMER Ute, Germany, SOC
FOULKES George, United Kingdom, SOC
GROTH Annette, Germany, UEL
HÜBINGER Anette, Germany, EPP/CD
MAHOUX Philippe, Belgium, SOC
MAIJ Marit, Netherlands, SOC
MASSEY Doreen, United Kingdom, SOC
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC
MUTTONEN Christine, Austria, SOC
NICOLETTI Michele, Italy, SOC
RAWERT Mechthild, Germany, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SCHRIJVER Nico, Netherlands, SOC
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC
TORNARE Manuel, Switzerland, SOC
WURM Gisela, Austria, SOC

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