

**Doc. 14810**  
22 January 2019

## Promoting parliaments free of sexism and sexual harassment

### Motion for a resolution

tabled by Ms Thorhildur Sunna ÆVARSDÓTTIR and other members of the Assembly

---

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

---

#MeToo has become a global movement which has encouraged millions of women to speak up about the verbal and physical violence they are subjected to. Politics is no exception.

A 2018 study by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Parliamentary Assembly has revealed that alarming levels of sexism, harassment and violence against women are widespread in the parliaments of Council of Europe member States:

- more than 85 per cent of female MPs who took part in the study have faced psychological violence during their terms in office;
- nearly 68 per cent have received remarks about their physical appearance;
- 24.7 per cent of female MPs and 40.5 per cent of female parliamentary staff have suffered sexual harassment.

Furthermore, the study has identified under-reporting and the limited availability of internal mechanisms to deal with sexual harassment as major problems.

The study has been brought to the attention of the Presidents of parliament of Council of Europe member States, in a joint letter by the Presidents of the two institutions, together with the request to take the necessary measures to address its recommendations. Being aware of the importance of bringing about a cultural shift, the President of the Assembly has also launched the #NotInMyParliament Initiative.

The Assembly should prepare a report to ensure a concrete follow-up to the joint study, identifying effective practices which national parliaments should introduce in order to prevent and tackle sexism and sexual harassment. The Assembly should also discuss how to guarantee a safe working environment for parliamentarians and staff by leading the way in reforming its own code of conduct to explicitly tackle sexism and harassment.

Addressing this matter is of great importance for the effectiveness of any parliamentary institution, its image and its ability to set a model in promoting gender equality.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



Signed<sup>1</sup>:

ÆVARSDÓTTIR Thorhildur Sunna, Iceland, SOC  
ÅBERG Borianana, Sweden, EPP/CD  
AČIENĖ Vida, Lithuania, EC  
ANDERSON Donald, United Kingdom, SOC  
BALÁŽ Radovan, Slovak Republic, EC  
BALFE Richard, United Kingdom, EC  
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC  
BENKŐ Erika, Romania, EPP/CD  
BEUS RICHEMBERGH Goran, Croatia, ALDE  
BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC  
BOSCHI Maria Elena, Italy, SOC  
BRGLEZ Milan, Slovenia, SOC  
BRYNJÓLFSDÓTTIR Rósa Björk, Iceland, UEL  
BURES Doris, Austria, SOC  
ÇEVİKÖZ Ahmet Ünal, Turkey, SOC  
CHUGOSHVILI Tamar, Georgia, SOC  
CORLĂȚEAN Titus, Romania, SOC  
CUC Alexandru Răzvan, Romania, NR  
DIBRANI Adnan, Sweden, SOC  
EMRE Yunus, Turkey, SOC  
ESTRELA Edite, Portugal, SOC  
FRESKO-ROLFO Béatrice, Monaco, ALDE  
FRIDEZ Pierre-Alain, Switzerland, SOC  
GAVAN Paul, Ireland, UEL  
GORROTXATEGUI Miren Edurne, Spain, UEL  
GOUTTEFARDE Fabien, France, NR  
GRAF Martin, Austria, NR  
GUTIÉRREZ Antonio, Spain, SOC  
HAJIYEV Sabir, Azerbaijan, SOC  
HAMMARBERG Thomas, Sweden, SOC  
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC  
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL  
IBRAHIMOVIĆ Ervin, Montenegro, EPP/CD  
JALLOW Momodou Malcolm, Sweden, UEL  
JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC  
JENSEN Gyde, Germany, ALDE  
KIRILOV Danail, Bulgaria, EPP/CD  
KOVÁCS Elvira, Serbia, EPP/CD  
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL  
LAMBERT Jérôme, France, SOC  
LOUCAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL  
MAELEN Dirk, Van der, Belgium, SOC  
MIKKO Marianne, Estonia, SOC  
MÖLLER Ola, Sweden, SOC  
MOORLAG William, Netherlands, SOC  
MURRAY Ian, United Kingdom, SOC  
NAUDI ZAMORA Víctor, Andorra, SOC  
NICOLINI Marco, San Marino, UEL  
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC  
OOMEN-RUIJTEN Ria, Netherlands, EPP/CD  
ORTLEB Josephine, Germany, SOC

---

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
EC: European Conservatives Group  
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
FDG: Free Democrats Group  
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group  
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left  
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group

OVERBEEK Henk, Netherlands, UEL  
ÖZSOY Hişyar, Turkey, UEL  
PANTIĆ PILJA Biljana, Serbia, EPP/CD  
PISCO Paulo, Portugal, SOC  
POCIEJ Aleksander, Poland, EPP/CD  
ROJHAN GUSTAFSSON Azadeh, Sweden, SOC  
SANDBÆK Ulla, Denmark, UEL  
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC  
SCHMIDT Frithjof, Germany, SOC  
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC  
SEYIDOV Samad, Azerbaijan, EC  
SHEPPARD Tommy, United Kingdom, NR  
SMITH Angela, United Kingdom, SOC  
SOTNYK Olena, Ukraine, ALDE  
STIENEN Petra, Netherlands, ALDE  
THIÉRY Damien, Belgium, ALDE  
TOMIĆ Violeta, Slovenia, UEL  
TORNARE Manuel, Switzerland, SOC  
TOUHIG Don, United Kingdom, SOC  
UCA Feleknas, Turkey, UEL  
WHITFIELD Martin, United Kingdom, SOC  
YEMETS Leonid, Ukraine, EPP/CD  
YENEROĞLU Mustafa, Turkey, FDG