Key demands for a European directive against gender-based violence

March 2022

1. GBV to be understood as violence against women and girls in all their diversity, and LGBTIQ+ people on the grounds of gender, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.

2. Protecting and strengthening victims’ rights with a human rights, victim-centred and intersectional approach, with special attention to women with disabilities, migrant women, racialized women and women from minority groups.

3. Covering all forms of GBV, including femicide, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, cyber violence, stalking, rape, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, intersex genital mutilation, crimes committed in the name of so-called ‘honour’, forced abortion, forced sterilisation, forced gender reassignment, sexual exploitation and human trafficking, institutional violence, second order violence, vicarious violence and secondary victimisation. Denial of safe and legal abortion as a form of GBV.

4. Istanbul Convention as the minimum standard to be achieved.

5. Prevention measures, including through education and awareness raising campaigns.

6. Criminalisation of all forms of GBV.

7. Ensuring adequate support services, protection measures and reparation for victims/survivors, as well as access to information, including through translation/interpretation in all relevant languages.

8. Measures to prevent secondary victimisation and institutional violence, including training for law enforcement officers, judges and professionals dealing with GBV, such as in health and social services.

9. Requirements for comprehensive and disaggregated data collection.

10. Cross border coordination.