



## Resolution

# Combating Violence against Women in Politics and Public Life



## Adopted resolution on

### “Combating Violence against Women in Politics and Public Life”

tabled by EPP Women to the EPP Political Assembly of 8 & 9 December 2025

#### The European People’s Party (EPP):

1 • **Observes with grave concern** the alarming rise of politically motivated violence against  
2 women in European countries, fueled by polarization, disinformation, misogyny, and  
3 authoritarian practices, which undermine both stability and democracy<sup>1</sup>;

4  
5 • **Notes** that women in politics, journalism, and public life are disproportionately targeted by  
6 violence, including physical aggression, threats against their families, psychological  
7 harassment, and economic coercion. Attacks frequently take the form of sexual humiliation,  
8 misogynistic slurs, sexualized abuse, cyber harassment, online and offline bullying, and threats  
9 of rape or death<sup>2</sup>;

10  
11 • **Underlines** that women in politics are more exposed to all forms of violence than men, as  
12 confirmed by the Council of Europe/IPU study (2018) and PACE Resolution 2480 (2023) on  
13 *Men and Boys in Preventing Violence Against Women*<sup>3</sup>;

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15 • **Raises concern** that these practices create a chilling effect: women often refrain from  
16 expressing opinions or withdraw from public life due to fear of reprisals or online hate  
17 campaigns<sup>4</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> European Parliament, *Violence against women active in politics in the EU, 2024*; PACE Doc. 16211, 2025

<sup>2</sup> Council of Europe/IPU Study on sexism and violence in parliaments, 2018

<sup>3</sup> PACE Res. 2480, 2023

<sup>4</sup> OSCE Toolkit on Addressing Violence Against Women in Parliaments, 2022

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>

<sup>6</sup> European Parliament Briefing, 2024

19 • **Emphasizes** that the continuation of such attacks risks driving away women from  
20 participating in the democratic process;

21

22 • **Recalls** SDG Goal 5, which states that achieving gender equality and empowering all women  
23 and girls is essential for sustainable development<sup>5</sup>;

24

25 • **Highlights with alarm** that, according to the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, one in three  
women in Europe has experienced gender-based violence<sup>6</sup>;

27

28 • **Expresses deep concern** over the rise of authoritarian practices, physical threats,  
29 misogynistic and graphic violence in several European countries, among them Albania<sup>7</sup> and  
30 Georgia<sup>8</sup>, where women politicians, journalists, and activists face systemic physical attacks,  
31 intimidation, harassment, and persecution, in violation of the European Convention on  
32 Human Rights (ECHR, Articles 3, 5, 6, and 8)<sup>9</sup> and the Council of Europe Convention on  
33 Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul  
34 Convention, CETS No. 210).

35

36 *Note: detailed cases in Annex 1 of the attached report on Violence Against Women in Politics*  
37 *and Public Life in Europe.*

### 38 **Call for Action**

39 The **EPP** calls upon the EPP Member Parties and the European institutions to:

- 40 1. **Endorse this resolution** and reaffirm that violence against women in politics is a direct  
41 attack on democracy;
- 42 2. **Condemn** all forms of violence and intimidation against women in politics;
- 43 3. **Adopt** zero-tolerance policies on political violence against women; establish internal  
44 reporting and monitoring mechanisms; and create support structures for women  
45 within political parties; investigate and prosecute perpetrators;

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<sup>7</sup> ["May 11 election massacre/ Vokshi denounces: Criminals threatened me along with my daughter! - Ditari i Opozitës](#)

<sup>8</sup> [JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION on media freedom in Georgia, particularly the case of Mzia Amaglobeli | RC-B10-0282/2025/REV1 | European Parliament](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Council of Europe, Istanbul Convention](#)

<sup>10</sup> [European Commission, 2025](#)

<sup>11</sup> [EP Legislative Train, 2025](#)

- 46 4. **Secure** women’s safety in politics within the EU as well as in the EU enlargement  
47 countries and international cooperation frameworks, supporting the European  
48 Commission’s Roadmap for Women’s Rights (2025)<sup>10</sup> and the European Democracy  
49 Shield<sup>11</sup>;
- 50 5. **Implement** the four pillars—prevention, protection, prosecution, and policy  
51 coordination—as set out by the OSCE Toolkit (2022)<sup>10</sup> and as in line with the Istanbul  
52 Convention;
- 53 6. **Ensure** equal representation of women and men in political lists, leadership positions,  
54 and delegations, with oversight mechanisms to monitor violence against women in  
55 politics;
- 56 7. **Advocate** for ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention across all  
57 European Member states <sup>11</sup>, as well as for the implementation of EU Directive 1385 of  
58 14 May 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence<sup>12</sup>;  
59 recognize femicide as the most extreme form of gender-based violence and urge  
60 European institutions and national governments to adopt comprehensive strategies  
61 for its prevention, investigation, and prosecution, ensuring that no case of femicide  
62 remains unpunished;
- 63 8. **Organize awareness campaigns**, such as the United Nations “16 Days of Activism  
64 against Violence” campaign between 25 November (International Day for the  
65 Elimination of Violence against Women) and 10 December (Human Rights Day);  
66 Promote awareness, education, and responsible media practices to counter misogyny,  
67 hate speech, and gender-based disinformation, as outlined in the Council of Europe  
68 Recommendation on Hate Speech (2022) <sup>13</sup>
- 69 9. **Protect women’s rights defenders and female political leaders**, in line with PACE  
70 Resolution 2554 (2024) <sup>14</sup> and UN CEDAW General Recommendation 35 (2017<sup>15</sup>);
- 71 10. **Address digital violence and disinformation** targeting women in politics by integrating  
72 specific measures into EU and national cybersecurity, digital governance, and media  
73 literacy strategies, including at regional and local political levels; ensure legal  
74 accountability for online violence including hate speech, for failing to prevent hate  
75 speech, coordinated harassment, and gender-based threats;

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<sup>12</sup> [OSCE, 2022](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Council of Europe, Istanbul Convention](#)

<sup>14</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/oj/eng>

<sup>15</sup> [PACE Res. 2554](#)

<sup>16</sup> [UN CEDAW](#)

<sup>17</sup> [CoE Recommendation, 2022](#)

76 11. **Provide adequate funding and protection measures**—including legal aid, psychological support, and security measures—for women in politics, journalism, and civil society who face threats.

77 **Conclusion**

78 Violence against women in politics and public life is not an individual tragedy but an **assault**  
79 **on democracy**.

80 From Finland to Greece and from Albania to Georgia, women  
leaders—alongside women  
81 journalists and activists—face threats, harassment, and intimidation. These cases confirm a  
82 dangerous regional trend, where misogyny, political repression, and criminal collusion  
83 converge to erode democracy.

84 The **EPP** calls on all European institutions and political actors to act decisively—through  
85 prevention, protection, prosecution, and policy reform—to ensure that women in politics and  
public life can speak, decide, and lead, **free from fear, harassment, and violence**.

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