

**Joint Declaration**  
**on the occasion of the Conference *Safe from fear, safe from violence*,**  
**celebrating the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention**  
**by its contracting States**

**Rome, 19 September 2014**

We, the contracting States to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention),

- *Welcome* the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention, the first legally binding treaty in Europe to offer a comprehensive framework to end violence against women and domestic violence;
- *Recognise* that achieving equality between women and men in law and in practice is key to preventing violence against women;
- *Commit* to the full implementation of the Istanbul Convention in order to effectively protect women against all forms of violence and ensure zero tolerance for such violence;
- *Express* our hope that the implementation and monitoring of the Istanbul Convention will effectively fill existing gaps in the protection of women's human rights and will help to protect children, men and elderly victims of domestic violence;
- *Urge* other Council of Europe member states, non-member states, as well as the European Union, to become Parties to the Convention.