Another world is on her way. On a quiet day I can hear her breathing.

—Arundhati Roy

Zsofi Lang Illustration
EWL = the largest coalition for women’s rights in Europe
Our vision

EWL envisions a society in which women’s contribution to all aspects of life is recognised, rewarded and celebrated - in leadership, in care and in production; all women have self-confidence, freedom of choice, and freedom from violence and exploitation; and no woman or girl is left behind.
Women and girls in Europe are now present in all spheres of society: in education and employment, in political and business decision-making, expressing their views as artists, journalists, researchers, or community leaders.

A new generation of young feminists is mobilising widely.

Some men are engaging in the feminist movement, to support women’s organisations’ demands.

Feminist economists are challenging the current system we live in, by proposing new ways of measuring wellbeing and protecting our planet and the next generations.
Challenges and threats

• The **myth of “equality being already there”** in Europe prevents gender equality from becoming a standalone goal for the EU. Weakening of institutional mechanisms for women’s rights, dilution into “diversity/equality”.

• **EU policies don’t transform into change**, because of a lack of political will, of a lack of systematic gender mainstreaming in all areas, and a lack of strong architecture for gender equality.

• The **recent climate of austerity** reinforces the idea that women’s rights are “the icing on the cake”.

• **Financial cuts** are threatening the very existence of women’s organisations and other anti-discrimination organisations.
Challenges and threats

• **Attacks of ultra-conservative, anti-feminist and religious groups**, who systematically call gender equality into question and use religion, tradition or culture to legitimate violations of women’s rights.

• The **2014 European elections and recent national elections** brought more populist and misogynist decision-makers, directly threatening policies for women’s rights & minorities.

• **Some governments increase controls on NGOs and citizens**, withdraw political space, or ‘re-register’ NGOs, as an excuse to control or reduce funding and creating competition amongst NGOs. Attacks on female human rights defenders / activists.
Challenges and threats

• The neoliberal system and the consumer society are impacting detrimentally on women’s and girls’ empowerment, by commodifying their body and sexuality and perpetuating gender stereotypes throughout all spheres of society.

• Stereotypes are still prevalent in all spheres of society: toys, education, labour market, media… They impact on women’s and girls’ health, legitimise violence and everyday sexism, convey restrictive messages about women’s role in society.

• We are worried to see that the cult of individualism has become so widespread that structural violations of women’s rights are not taken seriously. “The personal is political”!
EWL demands for a feminist Europe

✓ Commit, Accelerate, Invest!
✓ We call on all member states and all intergovernmental institutions to walk the talk!
✓ It is 21ˢᵗ century: all women and girls in Europe should enjoy their full human rights.
EWL demands: Commit!

• COMMIT to the realisation of women’s human rights!
• Reaffirm your commitment to all interconnected and universal human rights, including CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action, and systematically ensure a women’s rights perspective in all policies.
• Reaffirm your commitment to existing United Nations & CoE agreed language and instruments on women’s rights and equality between women and men, including the Cairo Programme of Action (on sexual and reproductive rights) and the 1949 UN Convention (on prostitution and trafficking).
EWL demands: Accelerate!

- ACCELERATE the implementation of all women’s rights instruments (the Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW, regional and national laws and programmes).
- Keep women’s rights on the highest level of the political agenda, at all times, including by strengthening institutional mechanisms for women’s rights.
- Elaborate comprehensive and ambitious strategies to realise women’s and girls’ rights which should not only develop and implement legislation, but also make a concrete change in mentalities and values.
- Make sure that all policies are designed to not leave a single girl or woman behind.
EWL demands: Invest!

- INVEST in women’s and girls’ rights, and in women’s organisations.
- Ensure that national & regional (CoE) budgets include increased dedicated investment to secure women’s rights.
- Equally include women’s organisations and experts in all regional & global discussion on all issues, and in your national delegations to the intergovernmental meetings.
- Abide by your duty to develop democratic societies and civil dialogue, and protect all human rights activists.
- Deliver a new model for development and peace, with women’s and girls’ rights, and feminist economics and values at its core.
EWL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2016-2020

EWL’s VISION

We believe in a Feminist Europe.

We want a holistic, transformational socio-economic vision, based on well-being, equality, social justice, and a powerful voice against women’s poverty. We envision a culture in which women enjoy equal rights and participation in reimagined power and decision-making structures, in which all forms of violence against women has been eliminated, and women have been liberated from all forms of oppression. We envision a society in which women’s contribution to all aspects of life is recognised, rewarded and celebrated - in leadership, in care and in production; all women have freedom of choice, self-confidence, and freedom from exploitation; and no woman has been left behind.

EWL’s MISSION

We are a credible source of expertise and experience on equality between women and men, women’s rights and equality between women and men, representing the diversity of the women’s movement across the European Union. We represent an inclusive, confident, loud, independent feminist voice and bring real women’s voices into the EU political arena. We build consensus and mobilise our members’ collective experience to work on major issues affecting women, to realise women’s rights, equality between women and men and social justice. We act as a catalyst connecting different actors and organisations to bring change at EU level.

EWL’s 5 KEY PRINCIPLES

Women’s rights are Human Rights (non-negotiable and indivisible)
Solidarity
Autonomy
Inclusion
Participation

EWL’s 6 CORE VALUES

Equality between women and men
Dignity
Diversity
Justice
Peace
Respect
8 strategic aims to achieve our vision!
To ensure sustainable and strong institutional mechanisms for equality between women and men at EU level
To put an end to all forms of violence against women and girls and promote a society of peace, human security and dignity

Asylum is not gender neutral: the refugee crisis in Europe from a feminist perspective

[Brussels, 21 September 2015] Today is International Day of Peace. However, the persistence of war and conflicts globally urges us to redefine (…)
To challenge and change the culture of sexism and stereotypes and promote positive roles for women and men.
To promote the feminist transformation of a sustainable economy based on new economic models based on equality, well-being, care and social justice
To position women at the heart of political, social and economic participation and decision-making
To work together effectively at different levels and in different contexts
To promote and debate diversity, advancing consensus, and strengthen our collective voice

European Call of Women’s Organisations for COP21:
For a just, transformative and gender-responsive climate agreement!
To raise more, better and sustainable funding for women

FINANCING FOR WOMEN’S RIGHTS
competition or cooperation?

IMPLICATIONS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AGENDA FOR GLOBAL WOMEN’S MOVEMENT SOLIDARITY

JOIN US FOR A SESSION AT THE 13TH AWID INTERNATIONAL FORUM
SATURDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2016
11:30-13:00 // ALA TERRA, BAHIA 3
Another world is on her way. On a quiet day I can hear her breathing.  
— Arundhati Roy

Zsofi Lang Illustration

www.womenlobby.org
@Europeanwomen
The European Women’s Lobby

Organisation Chart 2011

EWL Member organisations in Europe
30 National Co-ordinations of women’s NGOs
21 European Member organisations
- over 2500 organisations

EWL General Assembly
Over 100 delegates

EWL Board of Administration
40 elected members

EWL Executive Committee
1 President, 3 Vice Presidents, 1 Treasurer, 2 members

EWL Member Organisations
More than 2500 member organisations organised into 30 National Coordinations + 21 European-wide NGOs