

# EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY FOR A FEMINIST EUROPE

## ***EUROPEAN WOMEN'S PROJECT WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE "MOBILISE AGAINST SEXISM"***

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**GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION MEETING**

**14 APRIL 2021**



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# EWL's project with the Council of Europe “Mobilise Against Sexism”

- A short background of the Project
- Sharing the stories of the impact of the campaign with examples from each of the countries
- Lessons and recommendations

## EWL's project with the Council of Europe “Mobilise Against Sexism”

The objective of the project was to fund activities at the national level aimed at promoting the implementation of the **Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2019) on preventing and Combating Sexism**

A total budget of **48.000 euro** was divided equally among **national coordinations of EWL from 9 countries** responding to the call. The program implementation team is comprised of national coordinations from: **Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Ireland, Hungary, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, and Spain** with the **Romanian Women's Lobby** acting as the project coordinator.



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# RESULTS

All of the nine participating members were able to use the campaign tools starting end of September and throughout the end of the project during webinars and meetings with various audiences and in online spaces, on national member's respective websites and on social media

Digital toolkit and social media campaign has reached well over 20,000 people in Croatia and Portugal alone not including Twitter and Facebook

Eight countries organised at least two webinars or online activities geared towards the identified target audiences. The webinars were well attended, had a very good line-up of speakers, generated interest which resulted to increased support for our members, the webinars also resulted to commitments from target sectors



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# RESULTS

Engagements have resulted in targets in each country to agree to adapt tools and measures and/or action plans to address sexism (examples follow)

All countries engaged with their national governments and presented the CoE Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)1. In some cases there has been successful impact in terms of enhanced commitments to follow up at national level

An EWL Web page space dedicated to this campaign is ready for launch and will include examples and stories from the 9 participating countries as well as the EWL statement on sexism

An EWL statement and recommendations has been finalised and will be circulated to key target decision-makers: used with #SOFAGATE



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## IMPACT STORIES : BELGIUM



Research and dissemination, especially through social media

Lobbying: Vrouwenraad wrote letters to the members of the Parliament in Flanders, Brussels, and at the Federal level, and to the three ministers responsible for gender equality in those regions. As a result sexism is now a major topic at the Interministerial Conference in 2021.

Information on the campaign was also published on social media, Vrouwenraad will continue to inform and raise awareness on sexism in 2021, including specific initiatives on hate speech.



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## IMPACT STORIES : BULGARIA



The Bulgarian Women’s Lobby promoted the CoE Recommendation and the campaign and as a result the steady campaign and awareness raising done by BWL, they were able to get **sexism included in the National Strategy for Gender Equality (2021-2030)**.

**It is planned that the Government will adopt legislation in accordance with the CoE Recommendation!** The Bulgarian Women’s Lobby will continue to engage and monitor developments here to ensure that language for the legislation are aligned with the demands of EWL and that of the CoE Recommendation.



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## IMPACT STORIES : CROATIA



In Croatia, the project was implemented in twelve cities through various activities: from workshops and round tables to public actions in cooperation with local authorities, the police, the employment office and other stakeholders.

Through the campaign, cyber-sexism and cyber-violence were also highlighted, another problem to which women are exposed, which especially affects young girls and politicians.

To reach those who have the power to make real change in this area, in November our member participated in a session to discuss the prevention and suppression of sexism with the Committee for Gender Equality of the Croatian Parliament.



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## IMPACT STORIES : HUNGARY



The Hungarian Women's Lobby (HWL) ran the Mobilise Against Sexism campaign focusing on education, media, the workplace and the public sector

On 21st October, HWL held the main event of its campaign, a webinar titled 'It Would Benefit Everyone - How to Eliminate Sexism?' discussing the Recommendation and the necessary steps for a more equal future (over 8000 people reached through FB Live)

HWL's main platform for giving out information on the campaign was Facebook through which HWL was able to share the webinar, articles and interviews in relation to sexism, as well as the quiz and the campaign pictures, and ensure they reach and influence a wide and diverse audience.



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## IMPACT STORIES : IRELAND



The National Women's Council (NWC) has been seeking to ensure that gender becomes a protected category in any new hate crime legislation.

NWC held two events specifically addressing targeted sexist and racist attacks on women in public life.

With the National Traveller Women's Forum and AkiDwa, the webinar 'Women and Racism', highlighted the need for Hate Crime Legislation that included misogyny.

In partnership with the European Parliament, the 'Women in Politics: Online Abuse' highlighted the wider implications for democracy when many women do not run for office out of fear of being abused and harassed, because they are women



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## IMPACT STORIES : THE NETHERLANDS



The Dutch Council of Women NVR launched different initiatives as part of the Mobilise Against Sexism project to prevent and combat sexism.

Among others, some representatives from [Nederlandse Vrouwenraad NVR](#) discussed everyday sexism with a group of students of the Applied University HKU Utrecht, who are working on a project on sexism as part of their degree on Social Interventions.

Futhermore, the Mobilise Against Sexism campaign was also discussed during the [Young Feminist Weekend](#), a 3-day training initiated by the Dutch Council of Women NVR to bring 30 young women together and reflect on the future of feminism.



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## IMPACT STORIES : PORTUGAL



In this endeavor, [PpDM](#) joins the national mechanism for equality between women and men - [CIG](#) (The Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality), [IPDJ](#) (The Portuguese Institute of Sports and Youth), as well as [UBI](#) (The University of Beira Interior) and [FPB](#) (The Portuguese Basketball Federation).

[PpDM](#) and [CIG](#) have met with strategic partners in the public sector and civil society, mobilizing them to raise awareness, produce policies, change practices and contribute to the prevention and elimination of sexism across the society.

The campaign was officially launched on October 11, the International Day of the Girl Child, receiving widespread media attention both in [Portugal](#) and [internationally](#). Across its social media accounts, [PpDM](#) has interacted with citizens over 8000 times.



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## IMPACT STORIES : ROMANIA



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The [Romanian Women's Lobby](#) focused their campaign against sexism on different levels and towards different target groups, involving young girls from rural areas, university students and diasporas. The topics were often discussed during webinars and ranged from violence against women, to the impact of sexism on the life of public servants, and on particularly vulnerable groups.

The different impacts of sexism in various spheres were explained through [facebook posts](#) on the organisation's page.

Romanian women from diaspora came together in November in a webinar held on the topic of the impact of sexism on migrant women working in different fields.



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## IMPACT STORIES :SPAIN



The [Lobby Europeo de Mujeres en España- LEM España](#) kicked off the project in August 2020 choosing, in parallel to the broader campaign messages, two specific sectors for further analysis: the Media and Justice.

They held two webinars through the Zoom platform, which were very well-received. More than 500 people registered to the two webinars and more than 350 attended.

The "**Sexism in the media**" seminar was held on October 29. The event was also advertised in advance by a News Agency specialised in women-related issues, *AmecoPress*.

The second webinar, "**Sexism in justice**," was held on November 5th, again on Zoom. On this occasion, we collaborated with the Alternativas Foundation and the Institute for Women and for Equal Opportunities of the Ministry of Equality.

After the seminars, two sets of Recommendations have been prepared to be handed to the Spanish Public Administration in a future meeting.



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# Council of Europe Tools used during campaign



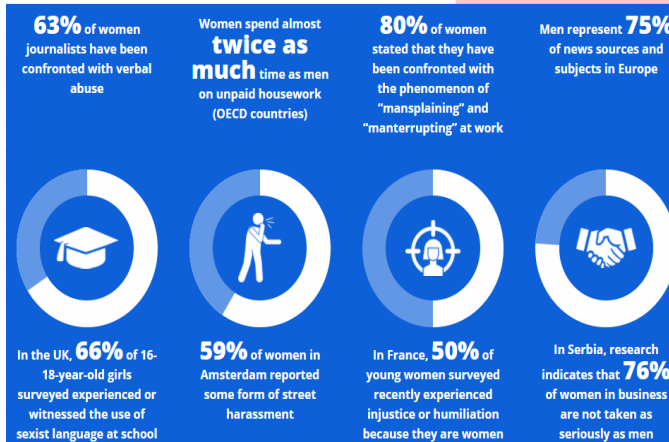
9/10 **Sexist? Take the quiz and find out!**

**When women play a football game**

- A There's no point, the bets aren't as high
- B It lasts 90' minutes and the 22 players try to score goals
- C How cute 😊

Translations in other languages

- Albanian
- Azerbaijani
- Bulgarian
- Catalan (Andorra)
- Czech
- Croatian
- Dutch
- Georgian
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Latvian
- Macedonian
- Montenegrin
- Norwegian
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Russian
- Serbian
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Ukrainian



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## Combating and preventing sexism

Sexism and discriminatory stereotypes remain widespread, and affect women's education and participation in the economy and in public life

On 27 March 2019, the Committee of Ministers adopted Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)1 on preventing and combating sexism. It comprises a comprehensive catalogue of measures both to prevent and to condemn sexism, and it calls for specific action in such areas as language and communications; internet and social media; media advertising and other communication methods; workplace; public sector; justice system; education; institutions; culture; and sport. Private citizens are encouraged to use legislation that, under the terms of it, limits religious speech. It also requests that all member states monitor the implementation of anti-sexist policies at national level and report back periodically to the Council of Europe. The Campaign Sexism - See it, Name it, Stop it!, with tools available in different languages aims at raising awareness about the phenomenon and at eliminating it.



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## RECOMMENDATIONS: CONTENT

- ✓ Include a CoE definition of hate speech which must include sexist hate speech and effectively recognize it as a structural and pervasive problem. This is currently not included in the recommendation.
- ✓ An independent process that will monitor and evaluate how member states are ensuring that the Recommendation is faring and being incorporated in member state's legislation including putting in place an action plan (similar to the CoE's GREVIO process) to implement activities;
- ✓ In line with the above, a **shadow** report is also facilitated to ensure inputs of women's rights organisations/women's civil society groups; and
- ✓ National budgets should ensure funding for activities geared towards the promotion and protection of women's and girls' rights.



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## RECOMMENDATIONS: PROJECT

- A huge amount was achieved within the small amount of time and resources made available. But more resources could have been made available for coordination or central level communications capacity in the project
- We would recommend that for important Recommendations and campaigns like this, the CoE could consider partnering not only with government representatives or representatives from the Gender Equality Commission, but also with native speakers from women's rights organisations to assist in the translation and ensure the usage of correct or appropriate terminologies and language especially for policies/recommendations
- For people with disabilities, we strongly encourage the CoE designers and project officers in charge of a campaign to learn more about the colour schemes, font sizes, inter-face of designs that are more accessible and friendly for people with disabilities



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