

Against all forms of gender-based violence: 16 days of activism

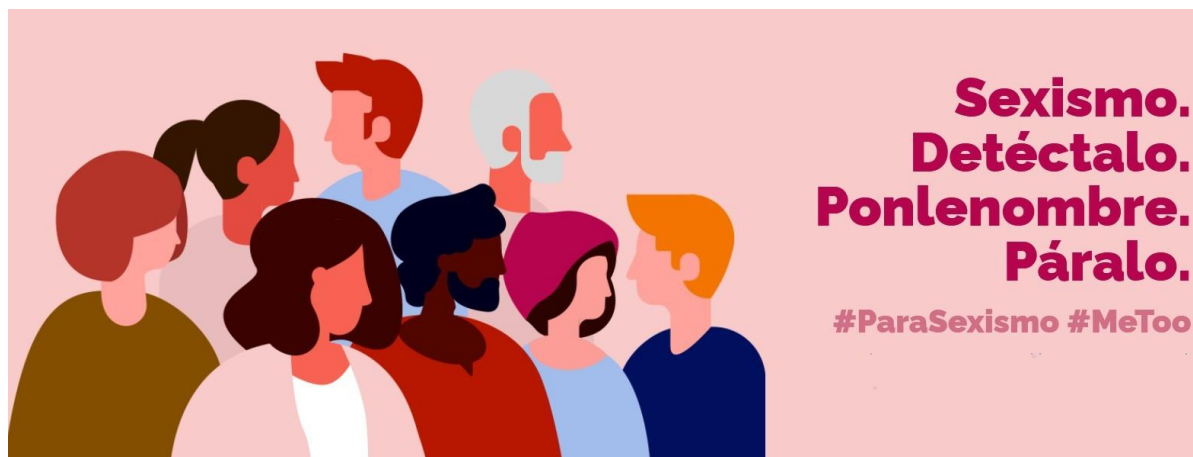
- *The #16DaysOfActivism initiative starts from November 25 until December 10. 16 days during which feminists will demand an end to sexist violence and a society of equality.*
- *The elimination of all forms of male violence is fundamental to achieve an equal society. Spain needs a law to abolish prostitution that puts the recovery of women victims at the centre and punishes those who demand prostitution.*

One more year we are forced to flood the streets of our country to demand the most basic things: not to be killed, not to be raped, not to be discriminated against, not to be exploited. One more year we feminists are forced to demand a feminist public policy that defends our rights, so hard won, and that does not endanger them with laws that erase us.

Male violence and misogyny take many forms, we cannot forget that. **Prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation are an extreme form of violence against women.** We need an **Abolitionist Law of the Prostitution System**, specific, that persecutes pimping, third party renting and also the buyers of sex. We need to support survivors in their recovery process and offer them alternatives for a dignified life.

Women and girls affected by prostitution are one of the groups of women considered by the Istanbul Convention to be at a higher risk of violence due to intersecting forms of discrimination. The prostitution system is based on a business model that relies on violence, harassment and trafficking for its very existence. The reality is that 9 out of 10 women would leave prostitution if they could, and more than two-thirds of women in prostitution reported traumas similar to those suffered by soldiers. Furthermore, the clear gender-based discrimination behind this system is undeniable. Ninety-six per cent of the victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation are women and girls, and **75 per cent of women and girls in prostitution are between the ages of 13 and 25**, half of whom were first exploited before the age of 18.

The sexism still present in all areas of public and private life requires greater awareness on the part of society as a whole. In the judicial system, in the media, in the workplace, in education... **women continue to face situations of discrimination based on sexist stereotypes.** Through the campaign *Mobilize against sexism*, promoted by the Council of Europe for the dissemination of the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to Member States to prevent and combat sexism, seven European countries, including Spain, **raise awareness about the persistence of sexist stereotypes in various sectors.** Following the recommendations on sexism in justice and the media that we drew up in 2020, this year we are focusing on education and sport.



European Women's Lobby in Spain (EWL Spain) is a platform of non-profit women's associations, established in July 2016. Our aim is to promote the empowerment of women in all their diversity, to advance gender equality, to fight against all forms of discrimination and violence against women and to guarantee their full access to all their rights, not only legal but also real in society, employment, business, in the choice of their sexuality and in the free choice of motherhood through active participation in society and in the development and implementation of public policies.

We believe in a United Europe, democratic, respectful of human rights and solidarity. We consider it essential to work together in a network of women's associations to achieve real equality and not just legal equality. Because this work has to be done in our country, Spain, but in coordination with women's associations all over Europe.

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