



## **OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

# **RESOLUTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**ADOPTED AT THE SEVENTEENTH OSCE PA  
ANNUAL SESSION IN ASTANA**

**ASTANA, 29 JUNE to 3 JULY 2008**



## **RESOLUTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

1. Recognizing that equal opportunities for women and men and the protection of their human rights are essential to peace, sustainable democracy, economic development and therefore to security and stability in the OSCE region,
2. Noting that, in its Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993), the United Nations General Assembly stated that it was convinced of the need for a commitment by States in respect of their responsibilities and a commitment of the international community at large to the elimination of violence against women,
3. Recalling the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for Gender Issues and the 2005 Ministerial Council Decision 15/05 on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women which called on participating States to fight violence against women and increase protection of victims,
4. Further recalling the Beijing Platform for Action and the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which calls for full and equal participation of women in decision making with regard to conflict prevention as well as in post-conflict reconstruction, and stressing the importance of women's full and equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security,
5. Alarmed by the increase in the number of women subjected to violence in OSCE participating States and the fact that globally, one woman in five is a victim of violence, and raising concern that the issue of domestic violence remains largely invisible in spite of this,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

6. Condemns violence against women as a general violation of women's rights as human beings – the right to life, dignity, safety, and physical and psychological well-being;
7. Realizes that all kinds of violence, including domestic violence against women are linked with the overall disrespect for women's role in society, and regrets that gender issues are still not visible on the political agenda of the OSCE;
8. Urges the OSCE Secretary General, Heads of Institutions and Heads of Missions as day-to-day managers within the Organization to increase efforts in promoting a more gender equal working environment within the OSCE in order to set an example for all levels of society in participating States;

9. Repeats its call for participating States to second more women to management level positions and to nominate more female candidates to leadership positions within the OSCE, and strongly urges national Parliaments to ensure gender-balance in the composition of the Delegations to the OSCE PA;
10. Encourages participating States to recruit more female police officers, to set up centres for victims of gender violence, trafficking in human beings and victims of rape, and to ensure flexibility as regards access to justice and calls on the OSCE to provide support and assistance to States in this regard;
11. Urges national Parliaments to ensure adequate legislation to protect women who are victims of domestic violence, including through emancipating victims from vulnerable situations, instituting appropriate restraints on movements by perpetrators, enforcing penalties and sentences, and providing legal assistance, loans and access to property to victims of domestic violence;
12. Calls on the national parliaments in the OSCE region to ensure that legislation outlaws all forms of violence against women, including rape, prostitution and trafficking, and institutes appropriate penalties and sentences;
13. Urges increased international co-operation between state institutions and NGOs in order to improve protection for the female victims of violence or trafficking, including awareness-raising and training for those in primary contact with potential victims;
14. Notes that women's economic dependency on men makes women easy targets for oppression and abuse, as well as potential victims of prostitution and human trafficking, and affirms the importance of reducing poverty and of actively promoting possibilities for women in the labour market;
15. Repeats its call on parliaments to ratify, if they have not yet done so, and implement the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and their protocols.