

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

**Warsaw, 2-13 October 2006**

**Working session 4: Tolerance and non-discrimination I**

**Prevention of violence against women**

**Contribution of the Council of Europe**

**Parliamentary Assembly**

**Domestic violence**

Following the Action Plan adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the member states at their 3rd Summit (Warsaw, 16-17 May 2005), the Council of Europe has decided to conduct in 2006-2008 a pan-European campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence under the slogan “**Stop domestic violence against women**”. The campaign will be launched in Madrid on 24 November 2006

**The Parliamentary Assembly will organise the parliamentary dimension of this Council of Europe pan-European campaign**, which will be focused on the issue of domestic violence against women and run under the slogan “Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women”.

National parliaments can play a key role in promoting prevention, assistance to victims and/or survivors and providing information to the general public. Political will is a pre-condition for outlawing domestic violence and changing prevailing mentalities. The Assembly is therefore promoting an active role of national parliaments in denouncing domestic violence and adopting appropriate measures to combat this human rights violation.

The Assembly action seeks to:

- denounce domestic violence as a **human rights violation** which is not acceptable in democracies committed to the fundamental values of the Council of Europe;

- **elicit public debate** to encourage the fight against domestic violence against women in the 46 members states of the Council of Europe;
- encourage national parliaments to become actively involved in combating domestic violence through the implementation of the pan-European campaign in 2007.

**The Assembly action will involve the national parliaments of the 46 member states, observer parliaments** (Canada, Israel, Mexico), **the European Parliament and regional parliamentary networks** (Nordic Council, Gender Task force of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, Forum of Parliaments of European Small States). The **main European NGOs** active in combating domestic violence (Amnesty international, the European Women's Lobby, Women against violence in Europe, the White Ribbon Network, etc) will contribute to the action.

Each national parliament has been invited to appoint a **contact parliamentarian** to co-ordinate the implementation of the Assembly action at national level.

Further information on the parliamentary dimension of the Council of Europe Campaign is available on the website: <http://assembly.coe.int>.

***Reference documents :***

Recommendation 1759 (2006) and **Resolution 1512 (2006)** on Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women and Ms Cliveti's explanatory memorandum (doc 10 934)