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[en](#)

[Event](#) | 15.09.2023 | 15:00 - 17:00

## **The Rise of Gender-Based Violence and Decline of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights**

### **What Can We Do About It?**

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a brutal human rights violation and an expression of the unequal power relations in our societies. Over 40% of women in Europe have survived gender-based violence.

In July 2023, after years of pressure from feminist activists and by active campaigning by the Greens/EFA Group, the European Parliament adopted its position for the first-ever European directive against gender-based violence. As the negotiations move to trilogues, the role of Member States to commit to EU-wide action against GBV increases.

Malta has ratified the Istanbul Convention and has adopted a number of legal and policy measures to combat GBV. However, a number of issues remain unresolved, in particular the criminal justice system.

In addition, Malta is the only country in Europe (alongside Andorra) to have a total ban on abortion. Wider international attempts to backslide women's rights through legislation and political attacks by anti-abortion politicians halt progress.

*How can we make a difference both in national parliaments and at the international level to counter gender-based violence?*

*What can we learn from fellow advocates across Europe in promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights?*

Join Green politicians, experts and human rights advocates for a discussion on how to collectively counter violence and make meaningful change together.

**THE EVENT REQUIRES REGISTRATION.**

### **Programme**

**Moderation:** [Mina Jack Tolu](#) (he/they) - *Committee member, European Green Party, Malta*

**15:00** Opening words: [Kim van Sparrentak](#) (she/her) - *Member of European Parliament, Netherlands, Co-president of the LGBTI Intergroup of The European Parliament*

**15.10** Fireside chat: [Sandra Gauci](#) (she/her) - *Chairperson of ADPD, Maltese Greens* & [Ulrika Westerlund](#) (she/her) - *Member of Parliament, Sweden*

**15.40** Panel discussion:

- [Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield](#) (she/her) - *Member of European Parliament, France*
- [Mélanie Vogel](#) (she/her) - *Co-chair European Green Party and Senator, France*
- [Fatim Diarra](#) (she/her) - *Member of Parliament, Finland*
- Dr. Lara Dimitrijevic LL.D. (she/her) - *Women's Rights Foundation, Malta*

**16.30** Q&A

**16.50** Closing words: [Kim van Sparrentak](#) (she/her) - *Member of European Parliament, Netherlands, Co-president of the LGBTI Intergroup of The European Parliament*

**17.00** End of event

## Registration

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**Responsible MEPs**



Kim Van Sparrentak

Member

**Contact person**



Annika Ojala

Rights and Democracy Campaigner

**Venue**

European Parliament Liaison Office in Malta (254, St Paul's Street, Valletta)

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