

## **EWA alumnae call for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by all EU member states**

*The alumnae of the European Women's Academy (EWA) have launched a call for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by all EU member states. Currently, out of 27 EU member states, six countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia) [have not yet ratified the Convention](#). Based on four pillars, [the Istanbul Convention focuses on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence](#).*

One in three women in the EU have experienced physical and/or sexual violence and, according to an upcoming ALDE survey, 50% of women in elected office reported that online harassment makes them less likely to remain in politics. This is not right. Violence against women and girls is a clear violation of human rights.

**We, the European Women's Academy alumnae** call for the ratification and adherence to the Istanbul Convention by the European Union and all EU member states. As a role model for democracy, the European Union must lead by example and demonstrate with clear actions and commitments that gender-based violence in any shape or form is not acceptable in any of its member states.

Unfortunately, six countries have not yet ratified the Istanbul Convention, setting a dangerous precedent for other countries around the world and putting women in a vulnerable position.

We call on Europe's leaders to affirm that violence against women and girls has no place in Europe and that true gender equality will not be achieved until it is eradicated.

Women's rights are human rights, and as Liberals, we will continue the fight for gender equality beyond these 16 Days of Activism and every day of the year.

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*The EWA aims to promote gender equality in politics and decision-making across Europe by empowering and supporting women that want to be active in liberal politics. EWA is the leading network of its kind in Europe, and is a partnership between the ALDE party, The European Liberal Forum (ELF) and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF).*