

Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union
Directorate for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs
Secretariat of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

To the Chairperson(s) of the Committee(s) concerned

Dear Colleague,

For many years now, the European Parliament (EP) has been celebrating International Women's Day with a special event bringing together Members of the European Parliament and parliamentarians from across the European Union.

Hence, on the occasion of the 2018 International Women's Day, the EP's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) would like to invite Members of the National Parliaments of the EU Member States to attend an interparliamentary committee meeting on the theme:

"Empowering Women and Girls in Media and Information and Communication Technologies": Key for the future

The topic of empowering women and girls in media and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) retains global importance and is one that allows for in-depth examination. Media has the capacity to influence public opinion and frame information. At the same time, ICTs permeate all levels and areas of society. Both media and ICTs thus have considerable potential in the promotion of women's empowerment. It is therefore crucial that these fields are accessible to women and girls, portray them in a realistic manner and listen to their voice.

We are therefore very pleased to invite up to four Members of the corresponding committee(s) of each National Parliament (two from each chamber in the case of bi-cameral Parliaments) to attend this event on **Thursday, 8 March 2018 from 9.00 to 12.30 in the European Parliament in Brussels.**

The event takes place just prior to the 62nd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women whose review theme also focuses on this topic. In the presence of the European Commission, the Council of Europe and other distinguished guests, the meeting will provide a

global forum for an exchange of experiences and best practices in advancing women's empowerment in media and ICTs.

Practical details regarding the meeting will be forwarded in due course to your Parliament's representatives/services responsible for relations with the European Parliament.

We sincerely hope that you will be able to accept our invitation and we are looking forward to welcoming you to the European Parliament on 8 March 2018.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'V. Blinkevičiūtė', written in a cursive style.

Vilija BLINKEVIČIŪTĖ
Chair of Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality