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The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Interparliamentary Committee Meeting

WOMEN REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN THE EU

Questionnaire in preparation of the debate on 3 March 2016

All replies to the questionnaire from National Parliaments and other stakeholders will be made available ahead of the event and as background information on the day itself. To this purpose, we kindly ask you to send your replies by 24 January 2016 to femm-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu

Shedding the light on vulnerable persons

In the context of an exceptional humanitarian crisis, the number of people seeking refugee status in Europe has continued to climb over the last year. An increasing share of those fleeing countries of violence and heading for regions where they may find protection, are women and children.

Question 1: Could you provide data on the overall **numbers** and on the **percentage** of women and minors (disaggregated) have been received by your Country?

Women and children are indeed among the most vulnerable categories, subject to multiple discriminations and violations of their basic human rights.

Question 2: Does your national legislation provide any **specific provisions** aimed at receiving in a more appropriate way vulnerable asylum seekers such as women and minors? If yes, which ones?

From fleeing to integration: overcoming difficulties at all stages

Women and girls fleeing conflicts and war face various forms of gender based violence, be it in their country of origin, during their journey towards a hosting

country, or afterwards once they are received in Europe. Women undergo increasingly pervasive violations of their rights in conflicts, including the use of rape as a weapon of war. Whilst fleeing war and conflicts, women are rendered vulnerable to trafficking and prostitution. In addition, NGOs have recently reported widespread violence against women and girls in transit zones. Once they have access to protection in an EU country, their special needs must then be fully addressed.

Question 3: Which **specific actions are currently being implemented** in your Country in order to cope with the special needs of women refugees who are victims of violence?

Violence against women as a ground for seeking asylum

Given the increased use of violence against women in relation to armed conflicts in all its forms, including rape, the use of sexual violence as weapon of war and female genital mutilation, it is timely to analyse these cruel phenomena as motivations: firstly, for women to leave their country of origin and seek asylum, and, secondly, for Member States to grant asylum.

Question 4: Following statistics and data at your disposal, can you say that **gender-based violence is considered in your Country as a reason to grant asylum?**