



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION APU

38th Conference

Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, 5 and 6 December 2015

RCF 09/38/15

PARLIAMENTARY ACTION TO EFFICIENTLY COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

(adopted)

The Committee for Women Parliamentarians of APU, meeting on 4 December 2015, in Guinea-Bissau,

Whereas violence constitutes an obstacle to the fulfillment and development of the potential of women and children in Africa,

Whereas women and children are entitled to inalienable, indivisible and interdependent human rights;

Concerned by the damaging, irreversible and, sometimes, fatal physical, psychological and social effects of female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C),

Recalling that FGM/E is of universal concern and constitutes a violation of the human rights of women and children as well as a violation of their physical integrity, and an expression of structural inequality between men and women,

Noting with satisfaction that the United Nations has adopted 6 February as the international day of Zero Tolerance to female genital mutilation,

Whereas child labour, child trafficking and female genital mutilation are all forms of violence,

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights,

Noting that significant progress has been achieved in most African countries and that actions have been undertaken essentially in the areas of awareness-raising and the adoption of laws,

Determined to spare no effort to encourage African Parliaments to adopt laws that will permanently end violence against women and children,

Recommends:

1. Monitoring the implementation of the laws in favour of women and children, and the amendment of the people and family codes to include provisions to protect women and children against all forms of violence;
2. An international, regional and national framework for eliminating violence against women and children, ensuring that the international and regional commitments undertaken by African countries as State parties or signatories to various international laws which protect the freedoms and fundamental rights of women and children are implemented at the national level;
3. That the training of judicial officers and law enforcement officers should be made an integral part of the strategies for the implementation and application of the law;
4. The adoption of appropriate national budgets and mechanisms and the implementation of laws and action plans on the elimination of violence against women and children;
5. The establishment of national action plans to help identify the different roles and responsibilities of the relevant stakeholders, and to ensure proper complementarity of efforts;
6. Strengthening the role of parliaments through the structures responsible for monitoring at the national level, particularly the implementation of national action plans for the elimination of violence against women and children;
7. Regular parliamentary debates on this matter to attract the attention of the public and evaluate the progress made and challenges encountered based on clear and comparable indicators;
8. Development of joint programmes in border areas among parliamentary groups in neighbouring States to raise the awareness of the authorities and the populations about the fight against child trafficking and exploitation;
9. Combatting child labour, building on political will and extensive partnerships;
10. The organization of awareness-raising campaigns and advocacy in favour of girl-child education and against early marriage and genital mutilation, and the inclusion in of educational content on violence against women and children in school curricula;
11. The organization of radio and TV programmes on child issues to raise awareness among parents and society at large;

12. Compliance of national laws with the international standards and their implementation;
13. The adoption of a comprehensive legal framework based on prevention, prosecution, sanctions, protection and help for victims of violence;
14. The drafting of a framework law on violence against women and children, particularly on female genital mutilation and sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations.