

**EWL Statement - MS Council of the EU-supporting EC proposal for a Directive on combating  
violence against women and domestic violence**

Statement to Ylva Johansson, Commissioner Internal Security

January 27<sup>th</sup> 2023

Dear Ms Johansson,

I am contacting you on behalf of the Soroptimist International Europe member of the European Women's Lobby, the largest umbrella organization of women's associations in Europe.

We are pleased to send you a statement calling all the Member States in the Council of the European Union to step up their efforts to work towards enhancing and swiftly adopting a Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence, including the provisions based on the EU crime of sexual exploitation of women and children in Article 83(1) TFEU.

We listen bitterly and with great concern to voices removing rape, female genital mutilation and other violations of women's human rights as violence from the Directive on Violence Against Women.

We count on you to send a strong political message and confirm the EU's commitment to fight this pervasive form of women's rights violation and discrimination, including all aspects of sexual exploitation, to prevent a backlash in women's rights.

Please find attached the EWL statement. We thank you in advance for your attention and we remain at your disposal for any further information you might need.

Kind regards,



Carolien Demey  
SIE President 2021-2023