

# Treating Violence Against Women as a European Priority

The Council of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party, convening in Helsinki, Finland on June 27–28, 2025:

## Acknowledges that:

- Violence against women and girls remains one of the most pervasive and underreported violations of human rights in Europe;
- In recent months, several European states have witnessed a concerning rise in cases of violence against women, particularly femicide, prompting public outcry and exposing deep-rooted systemic failures in prevention, protection, and prosecution of abusers;
- According to EIGE, gender-based violence undermines societal cohesion and imposes significant social and economic costs;
- Many Member States lack an official definition of femicide or comprehensive data collection systems;
- The Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence is a historic milestone, but requires sustained implementation and reinforcement, notably adding a European definition of rape based on the absence of consent;

## Underlines that:

- Gender-based violence, including femicide and rape, is a systemic violation of fundamental rights that demands a European response;
- Femicide and rape must be legally defined and prosecuted as such across Europe.

## Calls on all European countries and the EU institutions to:

- Fully implement the EU Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence, ensuring effective prevention, protection, and prosecution measures;
- Introduce and harmonise legal definitions of femicide and rape based on lack of consent, to ensure data comparability, raise awareness, and guide criminal justice responses;
- Establish or strengthen national data collection mechanisms on femicide and gender-based killings of women;
- Provide mandatory, gender-sensitive training for police, judiciary, healthcare professionals, and social workers on handling cases of violence against women;
- Ensure accessible and adequately funded support services, including emergency shelters, legal aid, psychological counselling, and helplines;
- Include femicide prevention and monitoring as a specific objective in future policy frameworks on gender equality and human rights;
- Ensure cross-border protection mechanisms for women at risk and promote European-wide cooperation in prevention and prosecution efforts.