



## WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

WAVE Network and European Info Centre against Violence

Bacherplatz 10/6 | 1050 Vienna | Austria

Phone: +43 (0) 1 5482720 | Fax: +43 (0) 1 5482720 27

E-mail: [office@wave-network.org](mailto:office@wave-network.org) | [www.wave-network.org](http://www.wave-network.org)

ZVR: 601608559

### **To the Secretary General of the Council of Europe,**

We, the members of the European network Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) and our allies, are writing to express our shock and concern at the challenge made to the universal recognition of discrimination and inequality as the causes and consequences of violence against women and girls and its inclusion in the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). This challenge was made in a letter sent to you.

We believe that the recommendations in this letter directly undermine the prevention and protection of women and girls from all forms of violence.

WAVE has been working in the field of combating violence against women and girls and implementing women's human rights since 1994, and we are deeply committed to universal principles of gender equality and women's human rights. We strongly affirm our full support for the Istanbul Convention as well as its monitoring Committee GREVIO and we totally reject any call to subject the core provisions of the Convention to reservations.

We recognize the Istanbul Convention as the most comprehensive regional and international tool combating gender based violence against women and domestic violence. We strongly believe that ratification and the full implementation of the Istanbul Convention will significantly reduce women's vulnerability to violence and facilitate a more equal and fairer society for everyone.

We do this in solidarity with other organisations, including the European Women's Lobby, who have also expressed concern at this letter.

Signatories

Rosa Logar, President of WAVE network;  
and the following organisations:

*Organisations that endorse this letter to be listed here...*