



Gender equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in EU External Action

Directorate General for International Partnerships

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Gender Equality – a core value of the EU

- Since 1957 the **Treaty of Rome** has provided a legal basis for policy and action on gender equality.
- **Amsterdam Treaty 1997** – "positive actions" and gender mainstreaming
- **EU charter of Fundamental rights** (2000)
- **Treaty of the EU 2007**– gender equality is "a fundamental value and an objective"
- **Treaty of the Functioning of the EU 2007** – to "promote equality between women and men in all its activities".
- **Consensus on development** '*women's empowerment is central to achieving all development goals, and requires that gender equality be a core aspect of all policy areas*'
- *GAP I (2008), GAP II (2016), **GAP III** (2020)*

EU Gender action plan (GAP) III – An ambitious agenda for gender equality and women's empowerment in EU external action

Based on

- The conclusions and recommendations of an **independent evaluation** of external action support in the area of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment' 2010-2018
- **Extensive consultations** of development actors and civil society organisations

Sneak peak into numbers

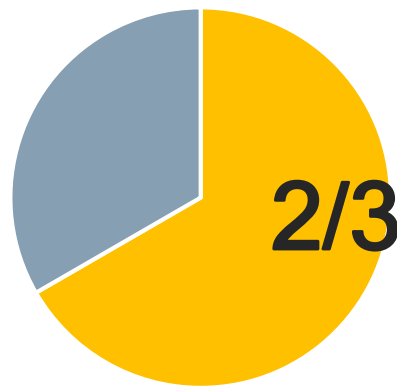
1 in 5 girls and women under 50 face physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the last 12 months



Extreme poverty Globally



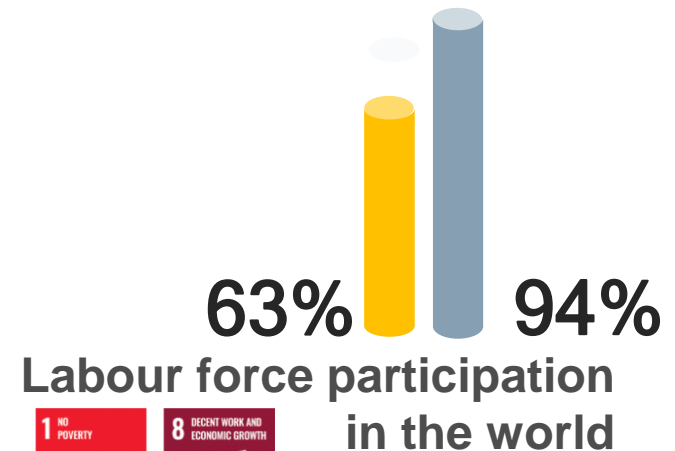
of countries that criminalized consensual same-sex sexual acts between adults



Illiterate adults in the world



Parliamentarians Worldwide



The EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III

1

Increasing actions for GEWE and boosting effectiveness

2

Joint strategic EU engagement

3

Six key areas of engagement

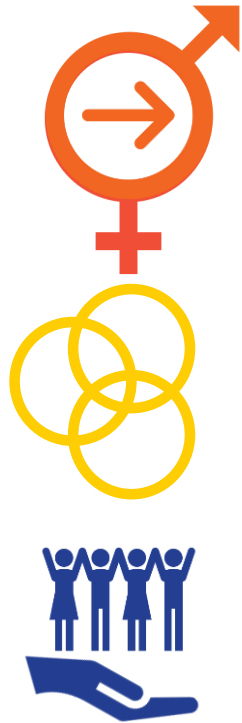
4

EU Leads by example

5

Accountability

Core principles of the GAP III



Take a gender transformative approach

Address intersectionality

Adopting a rights-based approach

Six key areas of engagement



**Ensuring freedom
from all forms of
gender-based violence**



**Promoting sexual and
reproductive health
and rights**



**Strengthening
economic and social
rights and empowering
girls and women**



**Advancing equal
participation and
leadership**



**Integrating the women,
peace and security
agenda**



**Challenges and
opportunities of green
transition and digital
transformation**

Gender Mainstreaming

1

Increasing
actions for
GEWE and
boosting
effecti-
veness

“Gender mainstreaming ensures that policies and programmes maximise the potential of all – women and men, girls and boys, in all their diversity. The aim is to redistribute power, influence and resources in a fair and gender-equal way, tackling inequality, promoting fairness, and creating opportunity.”

(*A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020–2025*,
COM/2020/152, p. 15.)

The OECD Gender Markers

Not targeted

The project/programme does not target gender equality



Principal objective

GE is the main objective of the project/programme.

Significant objective

GE is an important and deliberate objective, but not the main reason for the project/programme.

Resources

- [Gender equality and empowering women and girls | International Partnerships \(europa.eu\)](#)
- [JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL EU GENDER ACTION PLAN \(GAP\) III – AN AMBITIOUS AGENDA FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT IN EU EXTERNAL ACTION, JOIN/2020/17 final](#)
- <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/public-gender/dashboard>

Thank you



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