



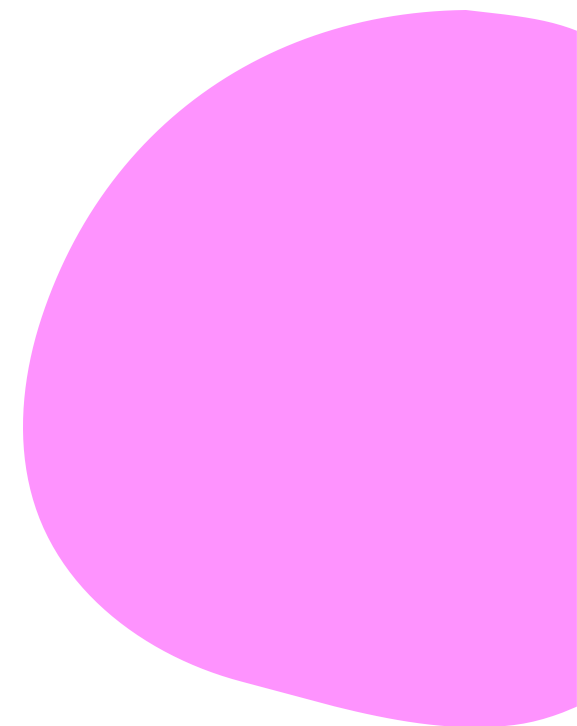
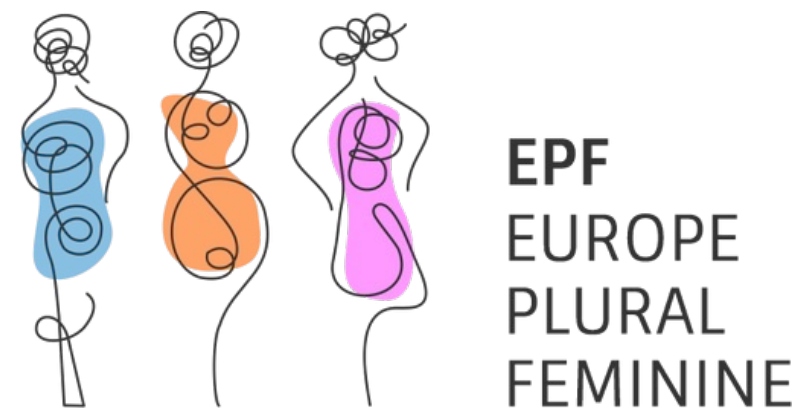
EPF Europe Plural Feminine

Local Meeting 14

COMPLEXITY OF DISCRIMINATION

toolkit

**Sexuality and health:
rights and gender equity
in an intersectional perspective**



Reducing inequalities is a stated objective of the European Union.

Among the founding principles of the social rights of a fairer Europe is the "***Pillar for health equity***", 20 essential conditions to ensure that "***all reach their full potential for health and well-being, through equitable and affordable access to timely and good quality health services in the Member States***"



“Everyone has the right to bodily autonomy, to free, informed, full and universal access to SRHR (sexual reproductive and related rights), and to all related healthcare services without discrimination, including access to safe and legal abortion”.

European Parliament resolution calling for an amendment to Article 3 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and expressing concern about the increase in funding for anti-gender and anti-choice groups, calling on the Commission to prevent similar realities from receiving European funding.

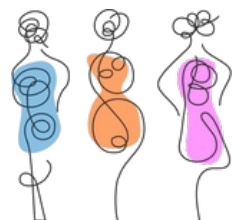


Abortion would seem legal in almost all European countries but barriers, restrictions, stereotypes, taboos and conscientious objection of doctors make abortion inaccessible in many countries and in some it is considered a crime.

All this is contrary to the recommendations of the International Human Rights Bodies and the guidelines of the World Health Organization.

In Europe, 20 million women do not have access to abortion.

On 11 April 2024, with 336 votes in favour, 163 against and 39 abstentions, MEPs declared their willingness to include the right to abortion in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, a request that has already been made numerous times.



Even just talking about abortion is still taboo

from Lunàdigas **Live Archive**
Video 1' 40"



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«*Women Get Sicker, Men Die Quicker*»

data and interpretations in the Report on Gender Equality and Health in the European Union (2021)

Gender medicine is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the study of **the influence of biological (sex-defined) and socio-economic and cultural (gender-defined) differences on each person's state of health and disease.**



The **European Union** has enacted **anti-discrimination laws**, based on six grounds: sex, age, disability, religion or belief, race or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.

However, there is "**multiple discrimination**" due to an intertwining of reasons, including that **the EU and most Member States do not** specifically recognise **inequalities at the intersection of sex, gender and health**.



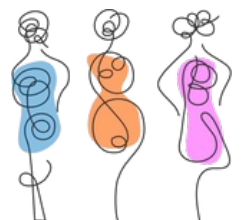
Over-control on mothers

from Lunàdigas **Live Archive**

Video 1' 11"



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Surveys and studies

From a research by the European Parliament Forum on Population and Development it appears that:

- the percentage of women of **childbearing age using contraception is 69%**;
- the percentage of **unplanned pregnancies** reaches **43%**;
- access **to contraception** is considered excellent in only 6 countries and **very poor in 13 countries**.

In almost all countries, **contraception** particularly **difficult for teen agers, low-income people, rural populations, people with HIV, migrants and refugees**.



Over 500,000 women in Europe in the first months of pregnancy do not have access to health services.

Only a part of the member states guarantees free assistance for pregnancy and childbirth also to non-EU women.

Women are burdened

financial barriers , due to their generally lower income conditions than men;

territorial barriers, due to the greater dependence of women on the public transport system;

family and care expenses

that negatively affect women's access to medical services.

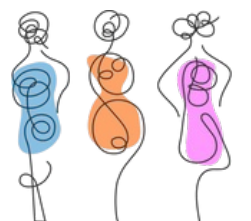




In 2020, the **United Nations Special Commissioner on Violence against Women** collected reports of **forms of obstetric violence from 15 European countries:**

- .intentional and deliberate physical abuse**
- .unintentional neglect due to poor organization or overcrowding of the service**
- .verbal abuse by health personnel against women**
- .shortage of beds, lack of privacy**

that affect women's health and compromise their right to respectful treatment, to the point of cracking their autonomy of choice over their own bodies.



Why can't my sister mother my child?


from Lunàdigas **Live Archive**
Video 3' 16"



Antonia e Franziska: "Perché mia sorella non può generare mio figlio?"

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On 8 July 2024 in Brussels, the European Economic and Social Committee held a public hearing on ***the theme Ensuring sexual and reproductive health rights for women with disabilities***, with a focus on forced sterilisation.

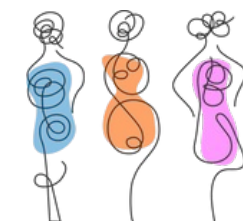
Only nine countries of the European Union criminalize forced sterilization as a crime, while 13 allow its execution on people with disabilities, and in 3 of these countries the practice is also allowed on minors.



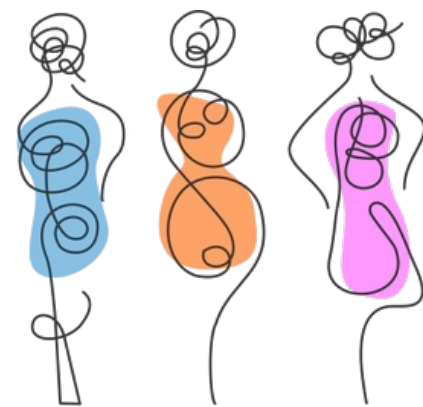
THE STRUGGLE FOR WOMEN'S RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION HAS NO BORDERS



Demonstration in Ecuador for the right to abortion .
Credit: The Daily Fact



beyond gender stereotypes
against all forms of discrimination



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