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# NEWSLETTER




## FROM THE COORDINATOR

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (25 November-10 December) remind us that violence against women (VAW) is not only a human rights violation, it is a direct threat to peace, democracy, and security.

As part of this global campaign, our **Jean Monnet Module "Empowering Equality and Bridging Borders: Women, Peace and Security in the European Union"** highlights the EU's efforts to prevent gender-based violence (GBV), support survivors, and promote women's leadership in peacebuilding.

## Focus Theme: GBV as a Peace and Security Issue

Gender-based violence affects women and girls disproportionately in conflict, displacement, and humanitarian crises.Within its Women, Peace and Security (WPS) framework, the European Union integrates GBV prevention across:

- EU Action Plan on WPS
- EU Gender Action Plan III (GAP III)
- Support for women's rights defenders and local peacebuilders
- CSDP Missions and Operations
- EU accession to the Istanbul Convention

***Highlighted EU initiatives include:***

- Protection of refugees and displaced women
- Strengthening GBV response in Ukraine, MENA, and the Western Balkans
- Gender advisers embedded in CSDP missions
- Funding for women peacebuilders and civil society organizations
- The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative

These efforts demonstrate the EU's commitment to addressing GBV not only within its borders but also across fragile regions.

*The message is clear.*

***There is no sustainable peace where GBV persists!***

## The First-Ever Specific Directive on Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence

For decades, the fight against GBV in Europe was fragmented, with different laws in different member states. The new Directive aims to harmonize this.

What changes for EU Member States?

- **Criminalization:** It mandates that all EU countries must criminalize female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and-crucially-certain forms of cyber violence.
- **Access to Justice:** It establishes minimum standards for the protection and support of victims, ensuring they have access to specialized services like shelters and rape crisis centers.
- **Prevention:** Member states are now legally obliged to improve data collection and conduct awareness-raising campaigns.




## Data Snapshot




## Tackling Cyber Violence

Under the new EU rules, the following are now clearly defined offenses:

- Cyber-flashing
- Doxxing
- Cyber-stalking
- Non-consensual sharing of intimate material



## Women, Peace and Security in the European Union Course Activities

During the 2024-2025 academic year, the Women, Peace and Security in the European Union course was delivered within the framework of the Jean Monnet Module (EUWPS 2024-2027). The course combined theoretical foundations with applied learning to strengthen students' understanding of gender-sensitive peacebuilding and EU external action. Students produced original research papers on key WPS themes, including:

- Conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence,
- EU's WPS agenda in Ukraine, Israel-Palestine, and the Democratic Republic of Congo,
- National Action Plans (NAPs) in Sweden, Poland, Afghanistan, Türkiye, Burundi, and the Netherlands,
- Refugee women, intersectionality, and security,
- Gender in cybersecurity and digital conflicts,
- Civil society participation and local ownership in peace processes.

*These papers critically assessed the gap between policy commitments and field implementation.




We are a Model Project in the Stars League of the Turkish National Agency!

Our project was presented as a best practice example during the session "Jean Monnet Activities: Experience Sharing", held on 23 October 2025 at Kafkas University within the framework of the Stars League: Central Projects Meetings organized by the Turkish National Agency.

This presentation significantly enhanced the national visibility of our project and created new opportunities for future collaborations. We sincerely thank the Turkish National Agency for the invitation and Kafkas University for hosting the event.



On 29 May 2025, students participated in a full-scale diplomatic simulation titled "Negotiating Peace in Naburi: A Gender-Responsive EU-led Process." Students represented EU officials, national authorities, armed opposition, women's organizations, youth, minorities, international organizations, media, and the private sector.

Through structured negotiations on power-sharing, justice, security sector reform, and economic recovery, students drafted a gender-responsive peace agreement based on WPS principles.

**Stay Connected**
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*Upcoming events & announcements will be shared regularly.*