

Dear Ms. Logar,

Thank you for your letter of 25 May 2016 informing about launch of the Step up! campaign.

Combating gender-based violence and protecting and supporting its victims is one of the key priorities in the framework of the Commission's efforts to achieve greater gender equality in the EU.

As you know the Commission has long been deeply committed to eradicating violence against women and that is why the Commission has ensured cohesive action among Member States and at EU level by putting into place a number of measures. These include: legislative measures where the EU has clear competence; awareness-raising and funding of projects that aim to prevent violence against women, and/or support victims; and improving knowledge and data collection.

Awareness-raising plays a crucial role in combating violence against women. It is only by changing attitudes and behaviour that we can prevent violence against women before it happens, but also ensure that violence is reported to the relevant authorities, and victims receive the appropriate and sensitive support they are entitled to receive.

In 2017, the Commission will put forward focused actions to combat violence against women. In addition to ensuring the full implementation of relevant legislation, measures to improve data collection and funding for grassroots work, these actions will include a strong focus on awareness-raising at the national and EU levels. Efforts will also continue to be made to promote the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by Member States and EU accession to the Convention.

I congratulate you on your campaign to ensure effective protection and support for victims. Considering the Commission's plans for greater awareness-raising in 2017, I look forward to further collaboration on this issue.

Thank you once again for your ongoing dedication to fighting violence against women.

Yours sincerely,



Věra Jourová

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