



Liberal International, 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HD

Resolution number: 03

Title: **Preventing & Combating Violence against Women through the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe**

Submitted by: *the International Network of Liberal Women*

The Congress of the Liberal International, convened in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, on 26 April 2014

- 1 **Noting that**
2 - every day around the world, women face not just domestic violence but other forms of violence, including
3 female mutilation, stalking and “honour” killings.
4 - just recently for example new legislation passed by the Afghan parliament is threatening the safety and
5 security of Afghan women and girls. If signed into law, the effects would be devastating – rapes, beatings
6 and “honor” killings could occur with relative impunity, fathers could more easily arrange child marriages,
7 and women and girls would have little chance of getting justice for violence against them. If a woman or
8 girl is assaulted by a relative, not only would she be prevented from testifying against her attacker, but
9 any other close relative of the accused assailant who was a witness, would also be barred. What Afghan
10 women have achieved for women’s rights lately will be swept away if this legislation is signed by the
11 President.
12
13 **Considering**
14 - the Council of Europe and it’s member states resolved to reverse this trend.
15 - this Convention provides practical measures to prevent violence, protect victims and prosecute
16 perpetrators.
17 - the Convention can lead to safety from fear and violence, because it is already shaping legislation, policies
18 and practices in member states.
19 - this Convention if implemented widely will influence states beyond the Council of Europe to take over the
20 content and consequences of this Convention.
21 - to enter into force at least ten member states must ratify this Convention. Andorra ratified as ninth in
22 January. One more of the 24 signatory states is needed to let it enter into force.
23
24 **Calls upon**
25 - the Liberal leaders and parliamentarians to take steps to get every member state of the Council of Europe
26 to sign, ratify and implement this Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and
27 domestic violence;
28 - all Liberals leaders and parliamentarians from countries not member of the Council of Europe to work on
29 the globalization of the Istanbul Convention in their countries. They should work on the adoption of the
30 content of the Convention by their governments;
31 - all Liberal leaders and parliamentarians to work towards a worldwide Convention to be negotiated which
32 should be a worldwide integral and effective instrument to prevent and combat violence against women
33 and domestic violence.