



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES

EWL Work Programme 2020

Approved by the EWL General Assembly on 7 June 2019



European Women's Lobby
Together for a feminist
Europe #ourfuture

Introduction

This paper presents the draft EWL Work Programme for 2020. The draft work programme has been put together based on EWL's current [Strategic Framework](#) and success indicators, EWL's [Members' Engagement Strategy](#), our [Financial Resilience and Sustainability Plan](#), EWL's [manifesto for the European elections](#), input from EWL members via an online survey carried out in March 2019, work streams identified by the various working structures of EWL (Observatory on VAW, Working Groups and Taskforces), feedback and input from EWL Executive Committee members and EWL staff, as well as EWL's work programme and Emergency Motions adopted by the General Assembly in 2018 and the existing funding framework with the European Commission (2018-2021), as well as existing commitments to donors (eg. Chanel Gender budgeting, Novo Combatting Prostitution, etc.).

The context

2020 will be the last full year of implementing EWL's Strategic Framework "Together for a Feminist Europe". In 2019, we are carrying out a review of the strategy which is an exciting opportunity for EWL to highlight and celebrate what has been achieved so far, evaluate and assess the impact of our work, identify major trends in the external and internal environment, and what more needs to be done, in these challenging times, during the remaining year of this Strategy period. That will certainly also bring lessons and strands for our collective work programme for 2020, so it will be important to leave some space to integrate the learning from the review.

In 2020, the European Union will have a new Commission, which we hope will include equal numbers of women and men Commissioners. The European Parliament elected in May 2019 will have its first full year of operation.

We will be working hard to demand that the EU puts women's rights back at the heart of its political project: with a full strategy for equality between women and men, institutionalised annual meetings of Ministers for women's rights, and clear work towards gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting. We will continue to push for women's rights to be at the centre of the future (post) Europe 2020 Strategy.

In 2020, we will see the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, which UNWomen plans to mark by organising a global gathering in France of women's CSOs, governments and other actors to push for the acceleration of progress on women's rights and equality between women and men. 2020 is also the year EWL will celebrate its 30th Anniversary. Celebrating and learning from our Herstory while building our future strategy and work will also be reflected in our work in 2020

The volatile political context and increasing polarisation of the political debate in most parts of Europe will continue to create a challenging environment for our work, but will also present opportunities to advance a feminist agenda. In many spaces the relevance of the European project itself is being questioned, and political leaders are engaging in conversations about the very future of Europe. As that space opens up we will seize every opportunity to lift up and share our collective vision for a feminist Europe - including our demands for feminist economics based on care, social rights and equality, a shifting of power dynamics to promote diversity & inclusion, and an end to exploitation and violence against women.

We continue to see women disproportionately impacted by the disastrous austerity measures imposed. Women of colour, migrant women, young women, women experiencing poverty and women with disabilities are particularly heavily impacted by unemployment, precarious jobs and increasing inequality, reductions in essential public services, and the erosion of social protection, welfare and pension schemes. With pressure on jobs and the very future of work, coming alongside dramatic demographic shifts we are witnessing a restructuring of the economy and society that may lead to increasing pressure on women to revert to traditional roles in the home, as well as becoming even further exposed to exploitation and violence.

As we work to spread and deepen our vision for a feminist economy in the "Purple Pact", we are also experiencing a growing critical mass around the concept of "care" as a central part of the story of the Future of Europe. It is also important to extend this intersectional feminist discourse on care to include the importance of caring for our environment and our planet. We will work with our members and allies (Trade Unions; CSOs; governments and politicians) to bring feminist perspectives into the future EU strategies on the economy and jobs (post Europe 2020).

With feminist issues capturing greater public attention, following the women's marches, strikes, online activism and actions such as #MeTooⁱ, we see ample opportunities to mobilise around our feminist vision for Europe. This increased attention also comes with robust debates and different views on strategies to become a truly intersectional women's movement, recognising that patriarchy and oppression affect different women in diverse ways. We must invest in our capacity to debate, engage, (re)frame, and tell our stories with greater impact, ensuring the voices of all women in all their diversity are heard. We also need to ensure that EWL is a place where all staff and members wellbeing and inclusion is promoted and ensured.

In 2020 the growing power of technology and big data will continue to shape and influence our lives, including the outcome of elections. We will continue to build on our work on cyber violence against women as well as strengthening our engagement with technology companies to integrate measures to protect women from online abuse and violence.

In implementing our Member Engagement Strategy, we will further clarify and refine our Working Groups and taskforces working practices. We will work to ensure the inclusion and participation of our members in our reviewing, planning and strategic thinking as well as in developing and implementing our campaigns. We will also develop strategies to improve support and capacity for our members, including through stronger support for fundraising. In pursuing the funding targets set out in the Financial Resilience and Sustainability Plan, we will work to ensure that our secretariat structure and systems are aligned with our political analysis and together with our members, we are preparing for potential growth in income, donors and activities. We will prioritise the mobilisation of resources and capacity for our members.

In summary, key priorities for 2020 will be:

- To work with the renewed EU Institutions and governments to highlight and campaign for the demands in the [EWL Manifesto for the European elections](#): especially for a new political Strategy for Equality Between Women and Men; proper institutional mechanisms to support equality between women and men (fully fledged Commissioner; ministerial meetings on equality between women and men; strong FEMM Committee; gender budgeting in the multiannual financial framework (MFF));
- To ensure strong contribution of EWL members in the Beijing +25 anniversary, including through national, regional and international processes. This will include strategic use of the UN Women Global Conference in June in France that coincides with EWL GA and 30th anniversary;
- To collectively design and approve a Strategy for EWL's future work from 2021.

Below are some of the proposed activities and highlights for the work programme 2020 under each strategic aim:

I. Building our movement INTERNAL strategic aims



I.i To raise more, better and sustainable funding for women

In 2020, the EWL will:

- Secure 75% of its **co-funding** for 2021 by June 2020 and continue to build its financial reserve and reduce dependency on European Commission funding according to goals outlined in the FRSP.
- Prepare for a new European Commission funding programme 2022-2025.
- Support **capacity building and fundraising efforts** with EWL Members to build together joint programmes for funding that channel resources to members and the wider women's movement.
- Launch and engage with the European Women's Fund (Chanel project).
- Continue to pursue sources of major **multi-year funding** including EWL Members.
- Strengthen the **accountability and oversight mechanisms** surrounding our funding.



I.ii To work together effectively at different levels and in different contexts: local, national, EU and international

In 2020, the EWL will:

- Organise high quality **governance meetings** including a 2020 European Women's Forum, celebrating 30th Anniversary of EWL (possibly in conjunction with the UNWomen Beijing +25 Forum in France in June 2020).
- Develop and approve, with the EWL Executive Committee and Board of Administration, a new EWL Strategic Framework for the EWL's future work from 2021.
- Begin to develop a **capacity strengthening plan** with and for EWL members, drawing on insights and lessons from the Strategic Review process.
- Invest in building a culture of feminist governance for EWL that embraces care, dialogue, inclusion and conflict management, and produce guidelines for holding feminist governance meetings and events with inclusion at the core.
- Continue to implement the **Members' Engagement Strategy** drawing lessons from the Strategic Review process for the effectiveness mechanisms to ensure the wider EWL membership is involved and engaged in EWL's collective work to be integrated into the new strategic framework.
- Give visibility to members' actions through **EWL website, social media and newsletter** and continue to update members' information on the EWL website.



I.iii To promote and debate diversity, advancing consensus and strengthen our collective voice

In 2020, the EWL will:

- Invest in working with our members and partners on framing and messaging our work and values in a more inclusive and effective way. Ensuring **framing and testing** of core messages with our membership and the wider public.
- The Inclusion, Diversity and Equality Committee develops and starts to implement a **policy and action plan on diversity, inclusion and equality** for EWL as a movement, which will also lead to a comprehensive action plan for the Secretariat (encompassing outreach, networks, alliances, culture, recruitment, communications, campaigning).
- Continue work of the Statutes Review Committee on amending **EWL's statutes or internal rules (for 2022 General Assembly)**.
- Continue to build an active and effective presence through media, **social media** and online.
- Building on the strategic reflection on youth engagement in EWL (November 2019), improve the inclusion and engagement of young feminist women into the EWL movement at national and European level.
- Initiate a consultation process through the Taskforce on SRHR and Sexual Exploitation, to develop a policy with other Working Groups, Board and relevant member organisations, on gender identities. The text resulting from this process will be brought to the Board for discussion and approval.

II. Transforming society EXTERNAL strategic aims

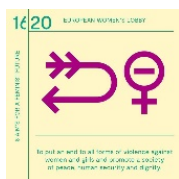


II.i To ensure sustainable & strong institutional mechanisms for equality between women & men at EU level

In 2020, the EWL will:

- Review the implementation of the **European Commission's Strategic Engagement**, and make the case for a new full strategy for Equality between Women and Men from 2020 through regular contact with the European Commission and the new **Commissioner for Women's Rights**, as well as monitoring of the work of the **EU Presidencies** (Croatia and Germany 2020) and partnership with key EU institutions (such as EIGE).
- Following the 2019 **European Parliament** elections, engage with political parties, MEPs and committees to proactively share our strategic thinking and priorities.
- Participate in **CSW64** and influence its conclusions, ensure that the Beijing Platform for Action remains the reference women's human rights instrument in Europe. Develop and implement a strategy for effective engagement of EWL membership in the processes towards Beijing+25, and especially the UN Women Global Forum on Beijing +25 in France in June 2020, aligned to our work on the European Union strategy for Equality between women and men.

- Continue to ensure diversity and inclusion and the promotion of the human rights of women and girls experiencing the most extreme forms of vulnerability in all our political and campaigning work.



II.ii To put an end to all forms of violence against women and promote a society of peace, human security and dignity

In 2020, the EWL will:

- Continue our campaign towards the ratification and implementation of the **Istanbul Convention** by the EU and its Member States and develop campaign for an EU Directive on VAW.
- Continue to support the work of its **Observatory on violence against women** towards advocacy tools for the EWL. **Establishing working hubs** on the areas identified.
- **Explore how to further integrate work on cyber-violence** into the new EWL strategy.
- Continue to develop our activities towards a **Europe free from prostitution**, and follow up the 2019 European Conference to mark the fifth anniversary of the Honeyball Resolution in the European Parliament.
- Continue work on the CEDAW General Recommendation on Trafficking in the Context of Global Migration.
- Roll out an EWL **strategy on SRHR** to reframe the concept from a feminist perspective, including EWL positions on prostitution, pornography, surrogacy, and sex education.
- Continue to work with EWL Members to highlight the **situation of migrant and refugee women** specifically the violence they face in Europe, as a follow up of our #womensvoices project.

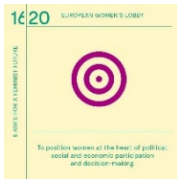


II.iii To promote the feminist transformation of a sustainable economy based on new economic models based on equality, well-being, care and social justice

In 2020, the EWL will:

- Consolidate the **feminist economics working group**, organise bi-monthly online meetings, identify key issues – in-depth briefings on specific issues identified in the Purple Pact. In **2020**, the proposal is to focus on **Care**. In this context, we propose to:
 - Revive and revise the EWL Care Campaign and update the policy paper of 2006;
 - Follow-up of the care economy paper: *A Purple Economy – The case for placing the economics of care at the heart of sustainable development* (2017), provide briefings and advocacy strategies, seek legally binding care targets: Barcelona and beyond (other care needs).
 - Roll out a strategic plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the **Purple Pact** especially in relation to the **Post Europe 2020 Strategy** i.e. the future macro-economic framework (post Europe 2020 Strategy); ensuring more visibility for EWL's work on the mainstreaming of gender into the European Semester process.
- Develop and deliver phase 2 of the **gender budgeting** project: expert working group meetings, communication materials. **Conference** to launch the **digital platform** to include resources and on-line toolkits.

- Work with Social Platform for the strengthening of the **European Pillar of Social Rights**, from a gender perspective;
- Follow-up on the implementation of the **Work-Life-Balance Directive**.



II.iv To position women at the heart of political, social and economic participation and decision-making

In 2020, the EWL will:

- Focus on building the EWL **Working Group on Women in Politics** to play a central role in the implementation of the EWL manifesto, follow up to the European elections and in monitoring the influence of anti-feminist populism and anti-feminism in the EP and in national and local elections.
- Implement the work plan developed by the Women in Politics Working Group in June 2019.
- Consolidate the building of relationships with political stakeholders to ensure the demands from our European election manifesto are implemented, and ensure support for the 2020 Global Women's Forum/Beijing +25 from feminist women politicians.
- Work with the Women in Politics Working Group to ensure that our demands about women in decision-making and leadership are implemented at national level.

ⁱ In using #MeToo we acknowledge the origins of the term by movement founder Tarana Burke who coined the term to highlight and combatting harassment and violence against women of colour in the US