

TGEU and feminist organisations condemn weaponisation of women's rights in European Parliament migration debate

[article](#), [intersectionality](#), [women's rights](#)

This Wednesday, 10 September, during the European Parliament Plenary, a 'debate' titled "After 10 years, time to end mass migration now – protect our women and children" will be held in Strasbourg.

TGEU, alongside our partners, are outraged that this debate was approved.

The simple title of the debate dangerously exploits fear and weaponises the safety of women and children to further promote an anti-migrant agenda. Behind this rhetoric of protection ('protect our women and children') lies a paternalistic way of thinking that denies women their autonomy and agency. What we want is true emancipation – not a protection that, all too often, ends up being a way to limit our rights and keep us under control and justify conservative policies.

Women's rights are increasingly being instrumentalised to feed ideological hatred and political polarisation based on racism, xenophobia, islamophobia, etc.

As feminist civil society organisations, we say NO!

The European Parliament should represent all people living in Europe, regardless of their residency status, and prioritise real issues affecting our societies. **You are not talking on our behalf** by bringing 'women and children' into such discussions!

Instead of instrumentalising and exploiting women's rights to justify racist and anti-migrant agendas, the European Parliament should urgently address the actual threats women continue to face within the EU from gender-based violence, to systemic discrimination and inequalities, intersecting discriminations, and other attacks on the rights of all women in their diversity that remain far from resolved.

We urge the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, to cancel this debate! Pursuant to rule 10, this debate is in blatant violation of the European Parliament's own code of conduct, disregarding the Charter of Fundamental Rights and using fearmongering language to distract the public from real priorities.

We condemn the attempted normalisation of such language and continue our work to ensure that intersectional feminism remains the compass for our actions towards gender equality and the elimination of gender-based violence.

Supporting organisations

1. Oil Europe
2. Women Against Violence Europe
3. International Planned Parenthood Federation – European Network (IPPF EN)
4. European Roma Grassroots Organisations (ERGO) Network

5. Social Platform
6. EL*C – Eurocentralasian Lesbian* Community
7. ECRE
8. PICUM
9. SOLIDAR
10. Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG)
11. Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)
12. ILGA-Europe
13. EPSU (The European Federation of Public Service Unions)
14. TGEU – Trans Europe and Central Asia
15. ESWA- European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance

Sign the statement

Add your organisation's name to the [growing list of signatories](#).

Your support makes change possible

We work across Europe and Central Asia to advance trans rights, build strong communities, and drive change through research, advocacy, and community-building.

Your donation helps us continue this vital work — defending trans lives, amplifying trans voices, and advocating for justice every day.

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