



Vienna, 14th of October 2005

EPP WOMEN VIENNA DECLARATION ON HARMFUL TRADITIONAL PRACTICES

We, the EPP Women participating in the conference "Taking measures against harmful traditional practices" held on 14th of October 2005 in Vienna,

Recognising that many migrant women who live in the European Union are victims or potential victims of the so-called "harmful traditional practices". These practices range from forced marriage to female genital mutilation to honour killing.

Bearing in mind that prohibition by the law is only the basis for combating such practices but that there are more flanking policies needed.

Recognizing that full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls is an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights and is essential for the advancement of women and girls, peace and development.

Reaffirming that the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms is essential for the empowerment of women and girls and the achievement of a real democracy.

Commit ourselves to make every effort to raise awareness of harmful traditional practices in our respective fields of policy and action and to show solidarity with the victims.

Congratulate the Austrian government upon the joint forces of their women ministers in combating harmful traditional practices on a national level.

Call upon the EPP to put the item of "combating harmful traditional practices" on the agenda of the next EPP congress. Furthermore, "harmful traditional practices" should be made the subject of the discussions by medical professionals, lawyers, religious leaders, teachers and other decision makers.

Call upon the media to become actively involved in combating "harmful traditional practices".

Call upon all governments to fully ban harmful traditional practices.