



The text of the sample resolution below can be adapted by interested municipalities, cities or regions to the specificities of their local or regional context.

Sample Municipal/City/Regional Council Resolution ON DECLARING
 _____ **(name of the city/region) a "Safe Place For Women"**

The Municipal/Regional Council (delete as appropriate) of _____ (name of the city/region),

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- having regard to Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU),
- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
- having regard to the European Convention on Human Rights and the related case-law of the European Court of Human Rights,
- having regard to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention),
- having regard to the Commission proposal for a directive of 8 March 2022 on combating violence against women and domestic violence,
- having regard to the Commission communication of 5 March 2020 entitled *A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025*,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 16 September 2021 with recommendations to the Commission on identifying gender-based violence as a new area of crime listed in Article 83(1) TFEU,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 12 February 2020 on an EU strategy to put an end to female genital mutilation around the world,
- having regard to the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW),
- having regard to International Labour Organization Convention 190 on Eliminating Violence and Harassment in the World of Work,
- having regard to United Nations Sustainable Development Goal number 5 "Gender Equality",

- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 14 December 2021 with recommendations to the Commission on combating gender-based cyberviolence,
 - having regard to the council resolution of the region of Valencia on the declaration of the region as "a Safe Place for Women".
- A. whereas equality between women and men is a core value of the Union and a fundamental right enshrined in the Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;
 - B. whereas combating gender-based violence in the EU is a shared responsibility, requiring joint efforts and action at every level of government, and especially by local and regional authorities, which have a key role to play in this, being the closest to people at grassroots level;
 - C. whereas eliminating gender-based violence, including male violence against women and girls, is a precondition for the achievement of real gender equality;
 - D. whereas 31% of women in Europe have experienced physical violence, 5% have been raped in EU countries, around 50 women lose their lives to gender-based violence every week and 43% of women have experienced some form of psychological violence by an intimate partner, while it is estimated that violence is still highly under-reported;
 - E. whereas gender-based violence, both online and offline, and the lack of access to adequate protection put in jeopardy a number of fundamental rights, including the right to life, the right to human dignity, the right to physical and mental integrity, the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the prohibition of slavery and forced labour, the right to liberty and security and the right to respect for private and family life;
 - F. whereas gender-related killings of women and girls (femicides) should be a separate category of crimes because the gender-neutral term of homicide overlooks the realities of inequality, oppression and systematic violence against women;
 - G. whereas gender-based violence should be identified as an area of crime in the EU under the Treaties;
 - H. whereas the practices of early and forced marriage and of female genital mutilation, transmitted through traditions and culture, constitute a violation of the rights of liberty, human dignity and physical integrity;
 - I. whereas eliminating gender stereotypes and halting repressive gender practices through progressive educational curricula – with pre-school, primary and secondary education cycles playing a key role – is decisive for girls' full empowerment;
 - J. whereas availability of comprehensive relationships and sexuality education, including specialised educational programmes for boys, is an integral part of such progressive curricula and plays a fundamental role in the fight against gender-based violence, misogyny and gender stereotypes;
 - K. whereas zero tolerance by public authorities to the display of discriminatory or objectivised images of women in advertising in public places is key to eliminating gender stereotypes conducive to gender-based violence;
 - L. whereas gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting are key to making sure that all policies work for women, and therefore, such policies should undergo strict gender impact assessments, including in times of crises;

In view of the above, the Municipal/City/Regional Council (delete as appropriate) of _____ (name of the city/region) commits:

1. to declare _____ (name of the city/region) as a Safe Place for Women and commit to public policies ensuring women's safety on the one hand, and explicitly punishing any forms of gender-based violence on the other, ensuring the full and equitable involvement of women throughout the process;
2. to ensure direct and uninterrupted access to specialised, secure and comprehensive support services for victims of gender-based violence, including domestic and sexual violence;
3. to ensure the prompt reaction of the services competent for the non-discriminatory registration and handling of incidents of gender-based violence and to provide for measures for the effective and immediate protection of victims and their children;
4. to provide gender sensitivity training for police, public authorities and staff of specialised reception centres, including shelters, for female victims of gender-based violence, with first responders being a top priority for such training;
5. to collect administrative data on intimate partner violence and gender-related killings of women and girls (femicides), in order to contribute towards preventing and combating it;
6. to apply a zero-tolerance policy to sexist advertising, including in public spaces and on public transport, as this promotes harmful gender stereotypes;
7. to systematically consider women's safety and needs when deciding on budget measures related to public services such as public lighting, public transport or resources in social services dealing with gender-based violence victims;
8. to organise educational programmes/training/presentations in schools and universities to accompany relationships and sexuality curricula and to raise awareness from an early age about the impact of gender-based harassment and violence;
9. to remain vigilant and apply immediate sanctions for cases of human trafficking and for practices harmful to women and girls (female genital mutilation, early and forced marriages, forced sterilisation);
10. to remain vigilant and apply zero tolerance to any forms of gender-based cyberviolence;
11. to raise public awareness about gender-based violence through communication campaigns, aimed also at informing victims about where and how to access support services, with such activities culminating around the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25 November);
12. to lead by example in the organisation and workings of the XXX local/regional authority.
