



## WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

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## International Peace Day Protest 21 September 2017



*Step up for peace and a life free from violence  
for women and children!*

19 September 2017

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY PROTEST: A MESSAGE TO OUR GOVERNMENTS**

**Vienna, 19 September 2017** – From Belfast and Helsinki, to Bratislava, Sofia, Kiev, to Yerevan and Vanadzor. Different regions, different traditions, different cultures, but same message.

We, women – together with our well-minded allies – stand united in our dream about a world in which women do not fear for their lives just because they are women.

We, women – together with our well-minded allies – stand tall to express that we want this different world to become our reality, sooner rather than later.

There will be no peace in this world until **all** women live their lives free from violence.

This Thursday, which is also International World Peace Day, women and their allies will come together to raise awareness for the issue of violence against women. We want to continue raising awareness on the issue of lack of support structures for women and children who have suffered from domestic violence.

Governments have signed and ratified the Istanbul Convention, yet have not met the requirements of the provisions. This is why we are organising a protest, to send a powerful message, from various parts of Europe and beyond its borders, that we are united in demanding that our governments Step-Up! and take charge of ensuring women victims and their children are protected and provided with the appropriate services.

1 in 3 women in the EU have experienced some form of physical and/or sexual assault since the age of 15. That is 62 million women throughout the EU. Yet, our governments are still reluctant to ensure financial resources for shelters for women and their children. An estimated 47,000 of recommended shelter places are still missing in Europe. Women and children deserve a life without violence.

Our demands are:

1. Governments need to immediately fund shelters and specialised facilities in order to protect victims of violence!
2. Governments must actively support both prevention from violence, and protection for victims of violence through improving access to protection and specialised support services, especially groups facing multiple discriminations.
3. The quality and number of women's specialist support services must be improved as soon as possible.

Women's rights are human rights. Join our protest and show your support for the rights of all women and children!

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Additional information:

WAVE (Women Against Violence) Network: <https://wave-network.org/>

The StepUp! Campaign: <http://wave-stepup.org/>

The StepUp! Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wavestepup/>

Additional resources at your disposal:

Interactive Google map of protest locations: <https://goo.gl/3P9LZR>

The International Peace Day Protest video call: <https://vimeo.com/233466995>

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