



# FIERCE

*Feminist movements  
revitalizing Democracy in Europe.*

**Our charter Outlines Five FIERCE  
Claims for a Feminist Europe as key  
policies challenges for the next  
European Parliament and Commission.**





# The FIERCE Charter: Five claims for a feminist Europe - A Commitment to Action

The FIERCE charter drives our campaign powered by the five FIERCE claims for a feminist Europe. Crafted with a resolute intention, this charter invites all candidates to the European Parliament to step forward and demonstrate their unwavering commitment. On the other hand, FIERCE seeks to engage not just within EU borders but also with the Council of Europe and the legislative bodies of the European Union, including the European Commission and the European Parliament. These bodies hold crucial roles in enacting legislation for women's rights and gender equality. Furthermore, this charter calls for commitment from newly elected political representatives following the June 2024 European Parliament elections. Our claims are backed by detailed data, with input from 8 feminist labs where several movements and NGOs have crafted alliances, and one European level lab, all aiming for an equal Europe.

## How to SIGN the FIERCE CHARTER.

The signature/endorsement process for the FIERCE charter is straightforward and efficient. Candidates and parliamentarians committed to the five FIERCE claims for a feminist Europe can sign the pledge using the form below on this [website](#).

Please keep the following in mind when considering signing: while the FIERCE charter aims to amplify its values and principles and inspire concrete actions for their implementation, it is a non legally binding type of commitment. Still, we encourage the European Parliament candidates to conduct a thorough ethical assessment of their commitment and refrain from signing solely for visibility purposes. Sign only if you believe, to the best of your knowledge, that the FIERCE charter aligns with existing or planned efforts towards: Recognising a European Feminist Network to Stop the Antifeminist and Anti-Gender Movement, Social, Economic and Reproductive Justice, Fighting Against SGBV (Sexual and Gender-Based Violence), Protecting LGBTIQ+ Rights and Global Development, Peace and Feminist Foreign Policy.

The list of all signatories will be displayed on the FIERCE campaign website.

Sign the pledge: [Click here](#)





# OUR CLAIMS ARE:

## 1. A Recognized European Feminist Network to Stop the Antifeminist and Anti-Gender Movement

In response to the rising threat posed by the anti-gender movement in Europe, which received a significant amount of funding totalling over \$437.7 million from within European countries between 2009 and 2018. (European Parliamentary Forum, “Tip of the Iceberg”, Brussels, 2021).

We, the signatories to the FIERCE charter, are eager to take action immediately during this new period. By fostering alliances among feminist networks and challenging regressive ideologies, we aim to safeguard democratic principles and social solidarity from the perils of disinformation and hate speech.

We will advocate for intersectional analysis of media content and the use of debiasing techniques to involve, implement and scrutinise algorithms that address gender bias, thereby sustaining inclusivity. We pledge to work tirelessly to amplify feminist voices.

As signatories to the FIERCE Charter, it is also of our duty to establish a collaborative process that facilitates networking and alliance-building opportunities among existing national and transnational feminist movements and NGOs. Building a STRONG front that the European Parliament systematically supports and empowers.

### 1.1: Redirect the funding to secure sustainable and transparent feminist networking

We will advocate for SHIFTING THE TIDE from financing antifeminist and anti-gender movements to consolidating a durable feminist network by assuring the following:

- Funding monitoring and exposing antifeminist and anti-gender movements: document economic flows and schemes with evidence and data to disclose the narratives and networks behind non-democratic movements. Include funding indicators of antifeminist and anti-gender actors and organisations in annual reports accessible to the public.
- Funding sustainability and long-term functionality: guarantee constant core funding (not exclusively project-based) to facilitate transnational networking of feminist activists and rights advocacy organisations, movements, and networks to secure their actions in response to anti-democratic and anti-feminist forces.

### 1.2: Confront online democracy threats such as disinformation and hate speech

We will engage and promote political action and initiatives that aim at:

- Documenting and exposing gender biases in technology AI and social media algorithms. Promote using tools and systems that foster algorithmic justice.
- Regulating digital platforms' criteria for identifying non-democratic threats and guaranteeing that the algorithm-building process respects European values, using fair and transparent algorithm management tools.
- Advocating intersectional criteria in the analysis of information presented by the media so its coverage shifts towards diversity, considering gender, ethnicity, religion, ideology, and other identity markers.





### 1.3: Words Matter: "Words shape worlds."

The European Parliament can participate in shaping an EQUAL WORLD and create an open discourse with feminist networks to amplify their words and address fake and non-scientific harmful speech.

We commit to do this by supporting policies that:

- Eliminate the anti-gender and antifeminist discourse that often leads to online and offline violence of many people when threats escalate to a personal level. Political discourse should create a narrative that directly connects the feminist agenda with democracy.
- Systematically monitor and denounce hate speech based on anti-gender and antifeminist rhetoric. This includes violent discourse against women, misogynistic attacks on female politicians, gender-based threats against female journalists, women human rights defenders, discrimination attacks on LGBTIQ+, hatred against marginalised groups, etc.

## 2: Social, Economic and Reproductive Justice

In today's climate, it's vital to dismantle barriers and create a society where everyone, regardless of race, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation, or economic status, has equal access to social, economic, and reproductive justice. In Europe, 11 Member States EU member states discriminate against lesbian couples and single women and do not allow them equal access to assisted reproduction, while 16 states do not provide undocumented migrant women with full equal access to affordable maternal health care during pregnancy still. Furthermore even if in the 95% of members states the right for abortion is formally and legally ensured, in reality many women face challenges in accessing care (Source: [Centre for Reproductive Rights](#)). As advocates for change, we commit to ensuring reproductive health justice and dignified employment for all, striving for a world where individuals have autonomy over their bodies and where economic and social equality are unimpeded.

### 2.1: Achieve reproductive justice NOW

Reproductive justice goes beyond fundamental reproductive rights, encompassing aspects such as maintaining personal bodily autonomy, freedom of choice in childbearing (including LGBTIQ+ people) and the right to abortion, access to childcare, and issues related to adoption. These vital rights must be accessible to racialized and minoritized women, women with disabilities, those affected by poverty, and any other inequalities. The reason behind this inequality is simple - marginal groups don't have full access to their rights. A particular emphasis should be put on female genital mutilation (FGM) and combating forced sterilization, one of the most serious human rights violations that have been documented regarding Romani women and LGBTIQ+ people. JUSTICE means JUSTICE FOR EVERYBODY as a universal model, and no specific population group should be excluded.

It is of our responsibility to focus on:

- Institute universal health coverage and guaranteeing access to sexual and reproductive health care services (contraception, abortion, maternal health, accessibility to free medical care, cervical and breast cancer prevention, menstrual hygiene facilities and products etc.), regardless of nationality and citizenship.
- Activate evidence-based decision-making processes based on research and specifically collected data at the European and Member States levels. Use this information to monitor and strengthen sanctioning mechanisms to protect sexual and reproductive rights.
- Combat gender-based physical, verbal and structural violence in the healthcare system—e.g., gynaecological and obstetric violence, primarily including forced sterilisation, for instance, of Romani women, LGTBIQ+ people, as well as the denial of abortion care, that violates the universal concept "MY BODY, MY CHOICE."





- Producing guidelines and design training programmes for healthcare professionals on intersectionality and gender-sensitive treatment, so specialists know how to address and help patients regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, or identity.
- Constitutionalising reproductive rights at the EU level and modifying the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU), in line with the European Parliament proposals. Ensure the EU is up-to-date with the latest reproductive issues in the Member States (MS) and that legislation is modified accordingly.
- Encouraging Member States to focus on the implementation of a basic minimum health insurance (taking into account the socio-economic aspects) to prevent and treat cervical and other types of cancer among women and reduce the percentage of deaths occurring during childbirth and pregnancy.

## 2.2: Dignify and recognize care work as the cornerstone of life

Feminist movements have been and are still constantly highlighting the importance of care work and social reproduction, as invisibilized component of economic and social life, that heavily rely on women and where gender and intersectional structural inequalities are at play.

Thus, we subscribe to the key feminist claims that we are committed to transform into actual legislative initiatives:

- Care is a public matter!
  - Creating a European Public Care system that addresses the universal need for care, guarantees access to public and quality services, particularly for migrant and marginalised people based on their country of origin, social status (undocumented, refugees, indigenous people, etc.), and valorises the work of carers. Offer reasonable inclusive care opportunities regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, political choice, citizenship, etc.
- Turn care into a universal right: TO CARE FOR SOMEONE and TO BE THE SUBJECT OF CARE!
  - Building up on the European Care Strategy to promote a non-profit, relationship-centred quality care model that avoids privatisation and does not dismantle public services.
  - Stopping the “uberisation” of home care services through platforms that dehumanise and impersonalise the employer-worker relationship. Technology should facilitate working processes and simplify daily tasks, not undermine common interpersonal relationships.
- Care work must be decent work!
  - Recognising the rights of care and domestic workers, regardless of their administrative status (citizen, regular or irregular migrant). Focus on providing equal opportunities, especially pay equity.
  - Recognising specific rights of care and domestic workers, such as providing specific treatment for professional diseases, regulating the second shift of live-in domestic workers, guaranteeing protection against discrimination, providing maternity protection during maternity leave, and claiming childcare benefits, among other things.
  - Recognising the time spent in care activities for pension rights regardless of the workers’ legal status (citizen, documented or undocumented migrant).
  - Ratifying and implementing the ILO’s Convention 189 to provide fair and acceptable working conditions for domestic workers.





## 2.3: Decent work for all: Decent conditions! Decent opportunities! Decent legislation!

We will promote political action that aims at:

- Guaranteeing everyone's access to quality jobs considering dignity and equality, with proper working conditions and a fair income (access to decent work according to the ILO's standards). Address the problem of migrant women's work opportunities, who have the least paid jobs but are most needed in the EU. Create mechanisms to protect workers from discrimination, considering their de facto subordinate position in the working relationships.
- Protecting workers from all forms of exploitation (verbal harassment, physical violence, minimum wages, unregistered employment, extended work hours, etc).
- Guaranteeing social protection rights, such as access to social security, healthcare, and retirement benefits.

### 3: Fighting Against SGBV (Sexual and Gender-Based Violence)

The persistence of SGBV as a pervasive injustice demands urgent action from all sectors of society, taking in consideration that in 2020, 47 000 women and girls worldwide were killed by their intimate partners or other family members. We pledge to confront sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) by addressing its underlying discrimination and institutional violence. Our commitment involves establishing preventive measures, victim-centred legislation, and comprehensive sex education to foster a society built on respect, dignity, and equality, empowering future generations to challenge norms and combat violence.

#### 3.1: Implement and improve the EU directive on violence against women (VAW) and visualise the bigger picture - institutional violence that creates structural discrimination

We are commitment to take action to ensure that:

- Modifications to the directive will implement a consent-based definition of rape, as well as intersex genital mutilation/coercive medicalization and forced sterilization will be considered as forms of SGBV.
- Any instrumentalization of the directive will be avoided, by ensuring the complete implementation of each of its components.
- Prevention will be emphasised going beyond criminalization, considering the content of the Victim's Rights Directive and the Istanbul Convention.
- A victim-centred approach will be adopted to address the underlying issues and provide adequate victim support.
- National and local implementation of the directive is guaranteed by sharing examples of successful case studies using cross-checked facts, data, functional tools for combating SGBV, legislative precedents, and media coverage.
- Gender-based violence will be added to the EU Treaties Article 83.1 TFEU to recognize it as a serious crime that needs a common combating approach.
- The perpetration of SGBV by State institutions in the forms of non-recognition of the victims of SGBV, corruption, obstetrical and gynaecological violence, reduced access to basic health care, etc, will be taken into consideration and addressed.
- SGBV will be considered as a transnational problem by periodically reporting on selected indicators (e.g., femicides, cyber-harassment) and applying an intersectional approach to data collection and analysis.





- Media coverage will be used as a tool to increase awareness.
- Harmful practices like female genital mutilation and promote dignified menstruation, contrasting social stigma, limitations, mistreatment, aggression, and the denial of access to essential services and resources will be stopped.

### 3.2: Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE) for all young people in Europe: An informed and empowered generation

The FIERCE Charter signatories agree on addressing sex and gender-based violence as a cultural problem for all nationalities, promoting prevention through education and raising awareness of sexism and its intersections with racism, classism, ableism, and homo-transphobia. Guarantee that age-appropriate material for comprehensive sex education and a curriculum spanning all life stages and well-trained educators are available to all public and private institutions, including pre-schools, schools, universities, colleges, vocational training institutes, adult educational centres, and others.

We are strongly committed to undertake political action to ensure:

- Mandatory and standardized CSE materials for children in the EU countries, addressing consent, gender norms, intersectional discrimination, LGBTIQ+ rights, SGBV, and sexual violence against children, including incest and other issues with real case studies.
- Constant EU funding and allocation of resources for CSE material development and implementation.
- Introduction of specific training courses and materials for teachers and educators highlighting CSE themes and giving valid examples of problem-solving.
- Considering an intersectional perspective on CSE that includes the sexual rights of people with disabilities and the complexity of discrimination based on identity markers (gender, ethnicity, religion, etc.).

## 4: Protect LGBTIQ+ Rights

In contemporary Europe, the battle for LGBTIQ+ rights has become one of the most important battles for equality in modern Europe. Advanced national legislations in certain countries like Malta, Belgium and Denmark, coexist with situations where LGBTIQ+ rights are hindered, like in Poland, Romania and Bulgaria, while as far as the broader European continent is concerned, the worst countries to be LGBTIQ+ on the European continent are Azerbaijan, Turkey, Russia and Armenia ([ILGA Rainbow Europe report, 2023](#)). As signatories of the FIERCE Campaign, we stand united in our belief that meaningful change requires concrete actions. We will devote ourselves to creating equal opportunities for the LGBTIQ+ community, including the freedom to express gender identity and sexual orientation within public and private structures without fear of harassment, bullying, or discrimination. We acknowledge our role in implementing strong legal protections for the rights of members of the LGBTIQ+ community. We will advocate for anti-discrimination laws on homo/trans-phobia, which can fill in gaps in the existing legal protection. What's more, we acknowledge that intersectionality plays a key role in advocating for LGBTIQ+ rights, thus promoting an overall inclusive legal environment within our society.

Additionally, we strive to ensure that principles of LGBTIQ+ rights are integrated into foreign policies since discrimination has no boundaries. By establishing the inclusion of LGBTIQ+ rights protection as one of the criteria used during EU enlargement and accession processes, we aim to foster diversity, fight against discrimination and provide support and advocacy to LGBTIQ+ communities all over the globe to the best of our possibilities. We commit ourselves to becoming catalysts for change by advocating for equal treatment policies, regardless of any discriminatory beliefs based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and our political action will be aimed at ensuring the following objectives find concrete pathways for implementation in legislative measures and policies.





## 4.1: Legal protection of LGBTIQ+ rights in the European Union

- Extend efforts beyond the EC LGBTIQ Equality Strategy and promote an EU anti-discrimination law to ensure LGBTIQ+ rights.
- Improve current legislation on human rights and anti-discrimination to foster greater inclusivity for the LGBTIQ+ community.
- Address intersectionality within LGBTIQ+ rights based on multiple identity markers (gender, ethnicity, religion, etc.).
- Include the rights of LGBTIQ+ families (adoption rights, marriage equality, anti-discrimination protections, healthcare access, inclusive environment, etc.).

## 4.2: Integrate LGBTIQ+ rights into foreign policies

- Make LGBTIQ+ rights protection a criterion in the EU enlargement and accession processes by promoting diversity and combating discrimination.
- Support and fund cooperation programs with civil society in countries where LGBTIQ+ rights are under attack. Provide assistance, protection, and advocacy for LGBTIQ+ communities that face constant threats.
- Foresee binding clauses dedicated to human rights protection in Trade Agreements.
- Oblige parties to adhere to human rights standards and principles by promoting accountability, transparency, and protecting fundamental rights.

## 5: Global Development, Peace and Feminist Foreign Policy

We, the signatories of the FIERCE Campaign, are dedicated to global development and peace, championing solidarity, equality, and justice. We advocate for funding an independent feminist foreign policy and pledge to halt mechanisms perpetuating inequality. Our commitment includes enforcing ceasefires everywhere, sanctioning human rights violations, and prioritising action plans for women, peace, and security. In every conflict, the suffering of women highlights unique aspects. However, it's crucial not to view them as a uniform group because of variations in their needs, levels of vulnerability, and the diverse situations they encounter: according to IOM, 60% of people fleeing from Ukraine were women (source: [Cimino & Degani, 2023](#)), while 70% of the casualties in the war on Palestine-Gaza are women or children (Source: [UN](#)). Recent data indicates that around 600 million women, constituting 15 percent of women worldwide, resided within 50 kilometers of armed conflict in 2022. This figure represents more than double the levels observed in the 1990s (source: [GWPS, 2024](#)).

Wars have their roots into the deeply unjust and unbalanced structural inequalities that feature our economies and this is why we call for debt restructuring and progressive taxation, while opposing racism and defending migrant rights.

The International Organization for Migration's statistics show that a total of 213,896 migrants reached Europe in 2022. We align with EU values to promote equal opportunities, justice, and international peace, and are committed, if and once elected, to transpose the following objectives into political action.

### 5.1: Adjusting the EU's soft power to build a global institutional framework for peace, development, and sustainability by appealing to its core values, policies, and institutions

- Set up an independent foreign policy, based on feminist foreign policy principles, that prioritises the peace agenda against all wars using a diplomatic and peaceful resolution commitment.





- Strengthen the EU's role in advocating for a UN system reform that aligns with its original mandate and mission by addressing global challenges.
- Revisit the EU's financial rules and budget-assigning criteria to stop financing authoritarian regimes and involve women and organisations supporting gender equality in decision-making processes.

## 5.2: Ceasefire everywhere NOW!

- Prevent any national or international conflict from turning into genocide, ethnic cleansing or crimes against humanity and take international measures against actors that commit these crimes. Identify potential targets during the conflict's early stages and ensure protective measures.
- Respect the ICJ's (International Court of Justice) decisions and avoid complicity in these crimes.
- Improve and ensure a concrete action plan for implementing the women's peace and security agenda (UN1325).

## 5.3: Climate, justice and economic governance

- Put people's rights (individuals and communities) in the centre and prioritise them over corporate interests in economic decision-making processes and governance.
- Modify the debt policy to promote debt restructuring and cancellation models in economically disadvantaged countries.
- Modify tax policies to foster progressive taxation systems, establish a common tax policy, set international tax standards, and eliminate tax havens.
- Stop promoting privatisation and liberalisation of public goods and services through trade policy, which limits access to public services and increases the unpaid care burden—a burden that falls heavily on women.
- Recognize the climate justice demands by accepting the disproportionate impact of climate change on women, girls, and gender-diverse people. It is essential to address existing gender inequalities within climate policies.
- Feminist climate action asserts that women are at the front line of climate governance. Empowering women economically, socially, and politically is crucial for building resilient communities and fostering sustainable development.

## 5.4: Europe without borders

- Equal rights to all migrants (special focus on refugees and undocumented people).
  - Stop racist narratives towards migrants.
  - Valorize migrants' work.
  - Regularise the situation of migrant workers currently in irregular employment.
  - Offer unrestricted access to public services regardless of administrative asylum status.
  - Facilitate the recognition process of country-of-origin qualifications.





- Stop institutional violence and racism towards all migrants (special focus on refugees, undocumented people and racialized minorities [e.g. Roma people]).
  - Fight restrictions against freedom of movement.
  - Eliminate detention centres for immigrants and asylum seekers.
  - Address the global roots of the refugee crisis, including climate disasters, pollution, threats, violent conflicts, and economic precarity.
- Rights for refugee women.
  - Revise all EU refugee deals with authoritarian governments to ensure they align with EU values, human rights standards, and ethical considerations.
  - Guarantee refugee rights for all refugee women (special focus on victims of SGBV) to promote and facilitate their economic independence, which is key to ensuring their full inclusion.

