



YOUNG EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS

**ECOSY Bureau Meeting
The Netherlands
19th - 21st November 2004**

**25th of November -
International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**

On 17th of December 1999 the United Nations adopted the resolution 54/134 on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

This resolution designated the 25th of November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. It calls on governments, relevant bodies, funds and programs of the United Nations system and other international organizations to organize and promote activities on that day designed to raise the public awareness of the problem of violence against women.

This is a crime that happens everywhere and touches every one of us. Worldwide, at least every third woman suffers from violence at least once in her lifetime.

Violence against women is institutionalized. It is the result of the unequal distribution of power that marks our patriarchal society. This topic is still a taboo and is not really present in the public debate. Most violence happens in the family and through persons known to the victim. This is also the reason why many women remain silent about the committed crime.

Women aged between 15-44 lose more healthy years through rape and domestic violence than through sicknesses, car accidents and war altogether.

But violence against women is not only physical, but can manifest itself in many different forms: total control, isolation, material, physical or psychological exploitation. All of this is happening every day in our societies - that's why it is our duty to stand up against every form of violence every time!

This is why it is so important to raise the public awareness concerning violence against women and show that this violence is not something that just happens sometimes and can be tolerated - it is absolutely unacceptable!

We Young European Socialists fight for equality, equal rights for every human being and for an equal society. Therefore, it is clear that we cannot accept any violence and thus gender based one.

ECOSY therefore calls all the sister organizations to act against violence against women,

Furthermore, we call for a European wide legislation for the elimination of violence against women (based on laws adopted for example in Austria and recently in Spain). Our parliamentary group has to set itself the clear goal of the implementation of such legislation as soon as possible.