

PRINCIPLES FOR POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Recognising equality between women and men as a cornerstone of democracy, valuing the necessity for equal representation of men and women in political life and being assured in the need to make full effort in preventing and addressing violence against women in all its forms, we hereby endorse the following principles:

THE PRINCIPLE OF ZERO TOLERANCE towards violence against women

Political parties, as the primary carriers of political processes, have the duty to demonstrate zero tolerance towards violence against women in private, public and political life. They significantly influence the public discourse and policy-making processes. As such, they are responsible to set the example by promoting values of equality, respect and non-violence. When political parties demonstrate zero tolerance for violence against women, they send a strong message to their members, sympathizers and wider society that such behaviour is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY within the party

Political parties should follow the principle of equality as one of their basic postulates, in order to ensure that women and men in all their diversity are treated equally and have equal opportunities for participation, representation and leadership within the party. This commitment must go beyond declarative advocacy and include concrete measures responding to existing inequality and supporting women within party structures.

THE PRINCIPLE OF EFFECTIVE POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH to prevent violence against women

Parties should promote the prevention of violence against women as one of the central principles of their political programme. Through their elected female and male members, parties can support the implementation of comprehensive policies and initiatives to prevent, protect and support victims/survivors. The parties recognize that a society free from violence against women is key to achieve true equality and justice for all.

THE PRINCIPLE OF EFFECTIVE POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT IN LEGISLATIVE STRUCTURES to prevent violence against women

Party representatives have the opportunity, through their political involvement in legislative structures, to initiate the adoption of political solutions clearly punishing discriminatory and violent behaviour against women. Members of parliaments can react to instances of violence against women and send a clear message that violence is not to be tolerated. Parties recognize that regular institutional and parliamentary oversight is a key in securing the best legislative solutions and equality of practice in response to violence against women.

End