



Warsaw 22 March 2023.

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

Dear Ms Iratxe García Pérez, President of S&D Group in the EP,

Dear Mr Manfred Weber, Chair of European People's Party Group in the EP,

Dear Ms Frances Fitzgerald, Member of the European Parliament,

Dear Ms Evin Incir, Member of the European Parliament,

The [Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council \(EU\) on combating violence against women and domestic violence](#) (the Directive) is under discussion in the European Parliament. The work of the EP's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and the EP's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) has resulted in more than 1,600 amendments to the text of the Directive.

The Directive is an extremely important act for the protection of women's rights in the European Union. Violence against women and domestic violence are widespread throughout the European Union - an estimated one-third of women in the EU are affected. EU policymakers have a duty and a task to effectively counter gender-based violence, and the Directive could become one of the most important tools for combating violence against women. However, for the Directive to fulfill its function, it must be drafted with integrity and must comprehensively and holistically protect victims of violence.



On behalf of civil society organizations and experts, we ask you as decision-makers who can play a key role for women's rights in the EU to draft all the provisions of the Directive fairly, comprehensively and precisely, without omitting topics and issues that can and do affect the protection of the rights of women, victims of gender-based violence.

In particular, we would like to draw attention to Amendment No. 1382, guaranteeing the protection of the rights of the victim by guaranteeing shelter for pets that the victim of violence takes care of. This issue has been overlooked for years, and for years women have not abandoned their abusers precisely because they do not want to abandon their animals. We would like to point out that according to [a 2012 study commissioned by the Alberta SPCA Foundation](#), 59 percent of women either do not leave their abuser or delay leaving precisely because of fear for their pets. Providing shelter for pets in shelters for victims of violence is a prerequisite for ensuring that victims are able to leave their abuser and thus protecting the rights of women victims of violence. Without this, the protection of victims' rights will not be comprehensive and complete.

Therefore, on behalf of organizations, experts and activists, we ask you at this crucial moment for human rights and women's rights to adopt an amendment guaranteeing shelter for pets and thus protecting human victims and reliable, comprehensive and holistic work on the Directive. Women in the European Union deserve a law that will protect them and guarantee the possibility of living without fear and violence. European women deserve to have decision-makers on the side of their rights.

Sincerely,



1. Anna Spurek, COO, Green REV Institute
2. dr Marcin Anaszewicz, CEO, European Fem Institute
3. Morgan Janowicz, Future Food 4 Climate
4. dr n. med. Joanna Kowalczyk-Bednarczyk, Green REV Institute
5. prof. Piotr Skubała, Ph.D., University of Silesia in Katowice Faculty of Natural Sciences Institute of Biology, Biotechnology and Environmental Protection
6. assoc. prof. Marcin Urbaniak, Ph.D., Pedagogical University of Krakow, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology
7. Prof. Joanna Hańderek, Professor at the Jagiellonian University
8. Joanna Wiśniewska, animal rights expert & activist
9. Beata Borowiec, Ekowyborca
10. Karolina Skowron - Baka, Executive Director, Akcja Demokracja
11. Jagoda Gmachowska, CEO, Stowarzyszenie Wiosna bez Barier
12. Milena Kubiczek CEO, Ruch zaNIEdbani
13. Anna Walijewska Fundacja Zwierzęta Niczyje w Suwałkach
14. Kazimierz Walijewski Mężczyźni Przeciw Przemocy Warszawa
15. Monika Kohut, WIO z Krakowa
16. Michał Dobrzyński, W Imię Zwierząt
17. Olga Wojdyńska, CEO, Mudita
18. Marcel Długoszewski, VegeVouge
19. Elżbieta Mikucka, Polska dla Zwierząt
20. Anna Złocka, Marsz Wyzwolenia Zwierząt
21. Roman Głodowski, Stowarzyszenie Nasz Bóbr
22. Michał Bomastyk, CEO Instytut Przeciwdziałania Wykluczeniom
23. Marzena Wichniarz, Rodzice dla Klimatu
24. Maja Madejska, Roślinna Strona
25. Azyl dla Świń “Chrumkowo”
26. Fundacja Varia Poznania



27. Anna Gdula, CEO Fundacja na Rzecz Prawnej Ochrony Zwierząt i Kontroli Obywatelskiej "Lex Nova"
28. Sylwia Kowalska, CEO, Fundacja NO.BA
29. Karolina Justyna, Jemy z Klimatem
30. Izabela Kadłucka, Fundacja Ochrony Zwierząt i Środowiska Lex Nova
31. Piotr Miklaszewski, Podróże z Pazurem