

DECLARATION
of civil society organizations on preventing violence against women
Belgrade, 10th November 2013

Believing that anyone, including all women, has the same right to a life free of violence, both in the public and the private sphere, without discrimination based on any ground, and that the states have the obligation to act with due diligence in order to prevent, investigate, sanction and provide compensation for the committed acts of violence,

Believing that without true condemnation of all forms of violence against women and dedication comprised of political will, adequate financial means, readiness to alter legislation, policy, procedures and actions, comprehensive approach and cooperation among all social actors, prioritizing the rights and needs of women victims of violence, taking into consideration all the existing differences among them, free of any bias whatsoever regarding any of their characteristics, there can't be no genuine respect of women's human rights,

Acknowledging and recognizing the immense contribution made by independent women organizations and the global women's movement to raise awareness about the problem of violence against women, as well as supporting women,

We, undersigned civil society organizations, call upon our parliaments and governments to:

(1) Immediately undertake all the necessary measures in order to ratify, within the shortest possible delay, the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in all Western Balkans countries and in all the Council of Europe member states that have not yet ratified the Convention.

(2) Immediately and without delay begin with the implementation of the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in all Western Balkans countries and in all the Council of Europe member states that have ratified it, which include all the necessary measures and procedures in providing appropriate protection and support to the victims, organizing efficient investigation, prosecution and sanctioning the perpetrators of violence, exercising prevention, developing integrated policies and continually monitoring and evaluating the effects.

ORGANIZATION: _____

Place and country: _____

Name and family name of the authorized person: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____