



FINAL DECLARATION 18 December 2001

We the participants of the Second IEPPFD Council Meetings, held in the State Duma of the Russian Federation, Moscow, 17-18 December 2001 from 19 parliaments in Europe

Note with alarm and concern

- that at least 500,000 women in Europe, and hundreds of thousands elsewhere, are trafficked every year for the purposes of sexual exploitation
- that an estimated 21.8 million people have died of AIDS since the onset of the pandemic, and that currently as many as 36.1 million people are thought to be living with HIV around the world without appropriate health care and medication, the majority of whom are living in sub-Saharan Africa
- that while the spread of HIV/AIDS has stabilised in Western Europe, education and awareness of the disease among young people is lacking and inadequate in many parts of the world
- that the spread of HIV/AIDS in countries with economies in transition is increasing rapidly
- that the decline in population affecting many countries in Eastern, Central and Western Europe has led to the undermining of vital sexual and reproductive health and rights initiatives

RECOGNIZING

The vital place that European parliamentarians have in the continuing promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights in Europe and around the world

The important work that has already been achieved by regional, national, European and international parliamentary groups in the support for domestic and international sexual and reproductive health and rights programmes and policies

The need for parliamentarians and Governments to work at regional, national, European and international levels to provide sustained responses to the sexual and reproductive health needs and rights of all people

The important partnerships that already exist – but need to be strengthened – between parliamentarians and other partners in development such as non-governmental organizations, the United Nations and European organizations

The need to address HIV/AIDS within the context of communicable diseases such as sexually transmitted infections (STIs), tuberculosis and malaria

CALL ON OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS to

Provide adequate resources and concerted political will to address the issues of HIV/AIDS, trafficking of people for sexual exploitation, and defence of sexual and reproductive rights

Provide debt relief, on the condition that those funds are used to implement sexual and reproductive health and rights programmes

Confirm that the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria will be managed in *partnership* with recipient countries

Address the issues of HIV/AIDS, trafficking and sexual and reproductive health and rights with respect for the human rights of all individuals, especially women, young people and children

Implement all existing legislation that relates to the protection of men, women young people and children within the context of HIV/AIDS, trafficking and reproductive and sexual health and rights

Review existing legislation to ensure that it reflects a gender perspective, supports individual rights and protects the marginalized and politically, socially, psychologically and economically compromised

Use existing international recommendations and declarations as tools to create best and most ethical practice concerning HIV/AIDS, trafficking and sexual and reproductive rights

Actively seek to work with relevant government bodies, non-governmental organizations and other experts, and create lasting partnerships and co-operation with these organizations

Work with the media, educational and research institutions and others, to disseminate facts and information – rather than myths and misconceptions – about the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all people in all countries

To promote interventions that will strengthen health systems in the developing world and in countries with economies in transition

CALL ON POPULATION, DEVELOPMENT AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS to

Create and promote a high political profile for HIV/AIDS, trafficking in human beings for the purposes of sexual exploitation, and protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights

Address HIV/AIDS within the holistic context of sexual and reproductive health including other STI prevention and treatment programmes

Develop and promote policies and programmes that do not discriminate against people living with HIV/AIDS or the victims of trafficking, and do not compromise sexual and reproductive rights, *but* provide realistic, empowering and supportive solutions to the needs of the many millions of individuals who are affected by these issues

Bridge gaps between existing organizations and institutions – including government institutions and existing parliamentary groups - that are working in the fields of HIV/AIDS, trafficking, and sexual and reproductive health and rights, and provide an arena for these issues to be discussed within and around the policy making bodies of government

Seek cooperation with other parliamentary groups in Europe and the rest of the world to address the issues of HIV/AIDS, trafficking of women and children, and sexual and reproductive health and rights

Become the focal points within government for the implementation of international agendas including the ICPD *Programme of Action* and the Beijing *Platform for Action*

Seek partnerships in HIV/AIDS, prevention of trafficking and sexual and reproductive health programmes with religious and other social groups

Share existing models of legislation relating to HIV/AIDS and trafficking

Request their respective governments to review and – where necessary – amend existing legislation relating to sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV/AIDS and trafficking

CALL ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS to

Raise awareness about their missions and aims, and ensure that those aims are congruent with the sexual and reproductive health needs of all people

Work with and support parliaments and parliamentarians in initiatives relating to sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV/AIDS prevention and care, and prevention of trafficking

Develop models of best practice concerning sexual and reproductive health and rights, that can be used by parliamentarians and other policy makers to promote popular and realistic responses to HIV/AIDS, trafficking of human beings for sexual exploitation and other sexual and reproductive health issues

Facilitate effective partnerships within the NGO community, the United Nations, the World Health Organisation and other international development groups, and national governments

Facilitate parliamentary study tours to increase international understanding of the causes of - and solutions to - the spread of HIV/AIDS, trafficking and all other sexual and reproductive health and rights issues