## EDF WOMEN’S COMMITTEE

**WORK PLAN 2023-2026**

**Background**

This document explains the priorities for the work of EDF related to women and girls with disabilities for 2023-2026.

It is based on the EDF work plan for 2023 as adopted by the EDF Executive Committee and Board in 2022 and should be read in conjunction with this overall work plan for the Forum.

The document aims to incorporate the perspectives of women and girls with disabilities and mothers of persons with disabilities in the work of EDF.

This mainstreaming exercise draws on General Comment no. 3 on women with disabilities of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and seeks to apply an intersectional approach between gender and disability.

As the EDF has its own Women’s Committee, the action areas set out in this document constitute the action or work plan for the Women’s Committee, to be implemented with support from the EDF Secretariat.

**Contents**

The following action areas in the field of women and girls with disabilities are addressed in this work plan:

1. Mainstreaming the perspective of women and girls with disabilities in EU policies and EDF’s work
2. Combating violence against women and domestic violence
3. Human rights of women and girls with disabilities
4. Statements, position papers and other documents to be prepared by the Women’s Committee
5. Monitoring international human rights treaties in Europe
6. Networking
7. External representation
8. Communication work

**The intersection of gender and disability in EDF’s work**

**Action area 1 –** **mainstream the perspective of women and girls with disabilities in EU policies and EDF’s work**

* Ensure the EU mainstreams the perspective of women and girls with disabilities and mothers of persons with disabilities in activities relevant to them, including the EU Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Gender Equality Strategy, and other relevant initiatives
* Advocate for the development of targeted measures and affirmative actions to advance the rights of women and girls with disabilities, including in the area of social policy
* Work jointly with the European Women’s Lobby, and other relevant organisations, on legislative and policy initiatives important for women and girls with disabilities and women caring for persons with disabilities
* Update EDF’s gender mainstreaming tool developed in 2015 and raise awareness about it among EDF’s members

**Action area 2 -** **combating violence against women and girls with disabilities**

* Advocate for the full inclusion of women and girls with disabilities under the proposed Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence, including the criminalisation of forced sterilisation
* Continue to advocate for the accession and implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) by the European Union and all its Member States

**Action area 3 - advancing the human rights of women and girls with disabilities**

* Lead a European campaign on ending forced sterilisation, with the objective to criminalise forced sterilisation in all EU countries
* Ensure the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls with disabilities in EU health-related initiatives
* Ensure the European Union funds research and studies on the human rights of women and girls with disabilities, including disaggregated data
* Design awareness raising tools and provide training on the rights of women and girls with disabilities to relevant stakeholders

**Action area 4 – Publish and share position papers, statements and other documents prepared by EDF Women’s Committee**

* Prepare and publish the EDF Third Manifesto on women and girls with disabilities
* Prepare and publish position papers and statements necessary to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities in the European Union
* Continue to share EDF reports and position papers, such as the report on ‘Ending forced sterilisations of persons with disabilities in the EU’ and EDF position paper on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls with disabilities

**Action area 5 - Monitor international human rights treaties relevant to women and girls with disabilities and support EDF members to participate in the evaluation process, including evaluation by:**

* CRPD Committee
* CEDAW Committee
* Council of Europe GREVIO (independent expert body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention)

**Action area 6 - networking**

* Promoteco-operation andsharing of best practises among national organisations of women with disabilities in Europe
* Develop a joint European project with the engagement of national organisations of women with disabilities

**Action area 7 - external representation**

* Provide support to play an active role in European Women’s Lobby governing bodies and working groups (EDF is a member of EWL)
* Explore other external representation of the women’s committee in activities organised by the women’s movement

**Action area 8 - communication**

* Publish and advertise EDF Women’s Voice newsletter
* Regularly update the pages on gender equality and women’s rights on the EDF web site with further information on women and girls with disabilities
* Publish communication for key dates, including the International Women's Day (March 8th), International Day of the Girl Child (October 11th) and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25th)

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