
EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY (EWL) ORAL STATEMENT TO THE 53rd SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 2-13
March 2009

**Equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including
care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS**

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) representing 2000 women's organisations in Europe affirms that caring for others and being cared for at different stages of our lives is one of the commonly shared experiences of our humanity. Placing care therefore on the political agenda is a **matter of urgency** in which gender equality must be at the heart of a holistic approach to care.

meaningful gender equality framework is driven from the top and brings about transformation on the ground.

At the level of the **European Union**, we seek a reconfirmation of the **Barcelona Targets** on **Child Care**, agreed by the Heads of States at the Spring Summit of 2002. We call furthermore for a scrutiny of the barriers that are preventing these commitments from being met in all countries by 2010 and in particular issues relating to **accessibility, affordability** and **quality** as well as **valuing** the sector that is gender segregated and predominately female. We also seek an **extension of targets** to the care provision of other dependents -

including women and men faced with HIV/AIDS.

At **country/State level**, we seek clear budgetary provisions as part of **gender budgeted national financial/economic recovery plans** to ensure long term investments in care

In addition we underline the need to invest further **research and resources** into **empowering** women to protect themselves from **sexually transmitted diseases**, including **HIV**, to enable them to take control over their own bodies when faced with situations where men use violence to exert power over women.

Finally, we call for a change in the way in which girls and boys are socially constructed to