

We won't wait.
Gender Equality Now!

SVENSKA  KVINNOFÖRBUNDET



Ending Violence Against Women and Girls:

- **Sex must be voluntary.** Finnish law must recognise sex without consent as rape.

- **Allocate sufficient and long-term resources** for the services of victims of crime, including a comprehensive network of shelters for victims of domestic violence and support centres for victims of sexual violence.

- **Prohibit mediation** in cases of violence against women, especially in cases of domestic violence. Mediation assumes that parties approach the process with equal resources and power – which is often not the case in these situations.

- **Improve women's legal protection** against hate speech and hate crime. Add gender in the Criminal Code as a

ground for increasing the punishment.

- **Strengthen the protection** against online hate. The legislation on sexual harassment must be extended to include verbal and visual harassment, so that harassment and violations of the personal integrity that take place via the Internet and social media are also defined as harassment.

- **Enact a separate act** that will improve the status of victims of trafficking in human beings and their access to help and support. Admission to the assistance system for victims of trafficking in human beings should not require investigation of human trafficking offenses.

Promoting Equal Parental Leave Policies:

- **Introduce a new, flexible parental leave system** following the 6 + 6 + 6-model. The right to parental leave and income-related parental benefits must be extended to 18 months, until the child is 1.5 years old.

- **All family policy reforms must** take into account the diversity of family forms and situations in life.

- **Reintroduce the subjective right** to full-time early childhood education and care for all children and limit group sizes for children over 3 years of

age to seven children per adult.

- **Provide at least four hours** of free early childhood education and care services per day for all children over 3 years old.

- **Legislation must better consider** the situation of families in which the parents are separated or divorced. Shared residence where the children alternate periods of residence between the homes of both parents should be legally recognised.

Gender Equality, Health and Wellbeing:

- **The municipalities and student health care** should offer contraceptives free-of-charge for all youth under the age of 25.
- **Cut the tampon tax.** The tax rate for tampons, sanitary pads and incontinence pads must be brought down to a tax rate of 10 per cent from the current 24 per cent.
- **Reform abortion law** to strengthen women's rights and self-determination. Free abortion should be allowed upon the woman's request up to the 12th week of pregnancy.
- **End discrimination** against trans-

gender people. The Transgender Act needs to be reformed so that transgender people in Finland can obtain legal recognition of their gender identity without having to comply with requirements that violate their human rights. Gender reassignment treatments must be separated from the juridical gender recognition and the sterilization requirement must be abolished.

- **Allocate more resources** and increase staff density in elderly care services in order to ensure a high standard of quality.

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Svenska Kvinnoförbundet is a liberal feminist organisation working for gender equality in Finland. We call for a society free from violence, sexism and racism, where human rights are respected and gender stereotypes don't limit anyone's opportunities or life choices. Svenska Kvinnoförbundet is the women's organisation of the Swedish People's Party in Finland.

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