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Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality The Chair

To the Chair of the Committee concerned

Dear Colleague,

Following the tradition to celebrate International Women's Day as a special event to recognise the progress achieved and look forward to future challenges, the European Parliament proposes to bring together European and National Parliamentarians on the theme:

## "Preventing violence against women - a challenge for all"

The President of the European Parliament, Mr. Martin SCHULZ, will be invited to open the meeting.

On this occasion the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) would like to invite members of National Parliaments of the EU Member States, candidate countries and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to attend an inter-parliamentary committee meeting for celebrating the International Women's Day.

It would be of great importance and value for us to discuss experiences and legislation at national level as well as strategic action and ideas for the way forward at European level.

We are therefore very pleased to invite up to four Members of the corresponding committee(s) of each National Parliament (two from each chamber in the case of bi-cameral Parliaments) to attend this event on Wednesday, 5 March 2014, from 15.00 to 18.30 in the European Parliament in Brussels.

With a view to prepare this meeting, a short questionnaire will be made available to you, to guide the contributions for the discussion. Should you and/or your Members be unable to attend, we would welcome any written contributions which would be distributed to the participants.

Practical details regarding the meeting as well as a detailed draft programme will be forwarded in due course to your Parliament's Representatives/Services responsible for relations with the European Parliament.

We sincerely hope that you will be able to accept our invitation and we are looking forward to welcoming you to the European Parliament on 5 March 2014.

Yours sincerely,

Mikael GUSTAFSSON