

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000118/25
to the Commission
Silvia Sardone (PFE)
(14 January 2025)**

Subject: ‘Taharrush Gamea’ and the violence in Piazza Duomo on New Year’s Eve

Many reports indicate that a number of women of different nationalities were sexually harassed in Milan’s Piazza Duomo during the New Year’s Eve celebrations. The women were surrounded and abused by dozens of young men of foreign background. Investigators believe this very serious incident to be a case of ‘taharrush gamea’, a phenomenon of Arab origin in which groups of men use sexual assault to insult women in front of everyone for daring to appear in public. Europe’s cities are not new to incidents such as this (examples include Milan in 2022 and Koln in 2016), proof that women are increasingly seen as objects to be controlled, a view that is increasingly widespread in Muslim communities.

In the light of the above, what has been done in recent years:

1. To combat the above phenomenon?
2. To push back against the idea that women should be subjugated, a widely held view in many Muslim communities?
3. To prevent Islamist ‘parallel societies’ on the outskirts of our cities from doing away with women’s rights and imposing their values?

Submitted: 14.1.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(12 March 2025)**

Violence against women, including sexual violence, is unfortunately present in all Member States and indeed across the globe. No section of society is immune from the scourge of gender-based violence, as illustrated in the EU-wide surveys on violence against women conducted by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, Eurostat and the European Institute for Gender Equality ⁽¹⁾.

Preventing and combatting all forms of gender-based violence is a key priority of the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 ⁽²⁾. As recalled in the Political Guidelines, the Commission is committed to do everything possible to prevent and combat violence against women, and this will remain a strong pillar of the Gender Equality Strategy post 2025.

In accordance with Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, the EU is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the equality between women and men and the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

The Commission is fully committed to promoting equality and combatting all stereotypes including those based on gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation. These are fundamental principles which must apply in all parts of European society.

⁽¹⁾ <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2014/violence-against-women-eu-wide-survey-main-results-report> ; 2024 FRA
<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2024/eu-gender-violence-survey-key-results>
⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en#:~:text=The%20EU%20Gender%20Equality%20Strategy%20delivers%20on%20the,significant%20progress%20by%202025%20towards%20a%20gender-equal%20Europe