

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000049/26
to the Commission
Lina Gálvez (S&D)
(8 January 2026)**

Subject: European Union as a leader defending the multilateral system of women's rights

The United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the main multilateral forum for promoting women's rights and gender equality. President Trump announced that the United States is withdrawing from the CSW, as well as from other international organisations and fora that promote women's rights and gender equality, which weakens the multilateral and global rights protection system.

The EU Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights state that multilateralism, human rights and fundamental freedoms linked to gender equality are among the fundamental values and obligations of the EU and that the Commission has a mandate to uphold them effectively within its political and financial competences.

In light of the above:

1. What specific actions will the Commission propose to strengthen the multilateral gender equality system? Would these actions include offering Europe as a headquarters for the CSW?
2. What new measures will the Commission adopt to politically and financially support international agencies and organisations that promote women's rights, particularly UN Women, as well as women's organisations, especially in the Global South, for CSW processes?

Submitted: 8.1.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(11 February 2026)**

1. The EU remains engaged in all multilateral meetings and processes that discuss gender equality. This includes the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) but also gender equality related meetings in the Human Right Council in Geneva, in the 3rd Committee of UN General Assembly or in various national Universal Periodic Review (UPR) dialogues. CSW is one of the priorities of the EU each year. The EU is represented by a strong delegation from the Commission and the European External Action Service, usually led by the Commissioner for Equality, and joined also by a delegation from the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and civil society representatives. There is currently no intention to offer to host CSW in the EU.

2. The Commission's external actions integrating gender equality as a significant or principal target have increased from 68% in 2020 to 84% for actions under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)-Global Europe.

In line with the EU Roadmap on Women's Rights ⁽¹⁾, the Gender Equality Strategy ⁽²⁾ the Gender Action Plan III ⁽³⁾, and as proposed in the new Global Europe instrument, the EU will continue to promote women's and girls' empowerment and full enjoyment of gender equality as a priority across all areas of external action, ensuring internal-external coherence. The proposed Global Europe regulation identifies gender-relevant specific objectives for all geographic and global pillars of the instrument.

The EU continues to engage actively with UN Women in a partnership that stretches from policy formulation to implementation of joint programmes, also in providing support for women's rights organisations.

⁽¹⁾ The EU Roadmap for Women's Rights: a renewed push for gender equality: https://commission.europa.eu/news-and-media/news/eu-roadmap-womens-rights-renewed-push-gender-equality-2025-03-07_en.

⁽²⁾ Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en.

⁽³⁾ EU Gender Action Plan (GAP III) 2020-2027: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/gender-action-plan-iii-its-key-areas-eu-engagement_en.