

Rt.Hon. Philip Hammond MP,
Secretary of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
Whitehall,
London.

February 2015

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention)

The above Convention is based on the understanding that violence against women is a form of gender based violence committed against women because they are women. The Convention leaves no doubt that there can be no real equality between women and men if women experience gender based violence universally.

The Convention, which focusses on prevention, protection, prosecution and monitoring, is seen globally as a leading instrument in the protection of women against violence and abuse. Twenty two countries in the Council of Europe, and beyond, have ratified the Convention which came into force on the 1 August 2014.

The UK Government has shown its commitment to the principles of the Convention by signing it.

Now is the time for the UK Government to ratify the Convention.

International Women's Day on 8 March provides the UK Government with the ideal opportunity to announce its ratification of the Convention.

As a member of the Women's Equality Network (WEN) Wales, I understand that the organisation has written to request that the UK Government ratify the Convention

ADDRESS

WEN Wales,
c/o Chwarae Teg,
Anchor Court, Keen Road,
Cardiff CF24 5JW

CONTACT

admin@wenwales.org.uk
wenwales.org.uk

INFO

Charity Number: 1145706
Company Number: 07891533



forthwith; I strongly support this request, and look forward to the formal announcement of the Government's intention to do so.

Yours Sincerely,

Member, The Women's Equality Network (WEN) Wales

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