

Hello.

On the 19 April 2010 the European Parliament published the 'Written declaration on establishing a European Year of Combating Violence against Women'

(<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+WDECL+P7-DCL-2010-0020+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&language=EN>)

There was also an online petition asking the EU to establish a European Year to end violence against women and girls <https://www.change.org/p/european-commission-president-barroso-establish-now-a-european-year-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls>.

On a few different websites from 2016 I have found it written that

'Věra Jourová, European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, has taken the initiative to dedicate 2017 to ending violence against women.'

(http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item_id=37131 , <http://www.womenlobby.org/2017-European-Year-of-focused-action-to-fight-violence-against-women-will-the>)

But in spite of this, as you can see, 2017 doesn't appear on the list of European Years https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/european-years_en.

Through the European Union contact form, Europe Direct let me know that the European Commission has proposed 2018 as the European Year of Cultural Heritage and no theme has been identified for 2017.

As I understand it, the Commission proposed the 'year' as part of their push for the European Union to ratify the Istanbul Convention. As they themselves have written, treaty no. 210 is a "new landmark treaty which opens the path for creating a legal framework at pan-European level to protect women against all forms of violence, and prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women and domestic violence". <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210>

I understand this, but I don't understand why 2017 was not allowed to be officially recognised and listed as this official European Year. So, please can you tell me why 2017 can only be an unofficial, informal, off-the-record year and couldn't be established as the 'official' European Year to end violence against women and girls?

Many thanks for your attention and help.

Regards

Lidia