

Press Release

Communication Unit of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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"We must remain mobilised to combat violence against women", says the Congress President

Strasbourg, 23.11.2007 - "Violence against women, including domestic violence, is a serious affront to human dignity. We must acknowledge that it concerns us all, and all of us must take action to put an end to it", said Halvdan Skard in the run-up to the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on Sunday 25 November. He added, "the Congress is appealing to local and regional elected representatives to continue their efforts to combat this evil", and referred to the initiatives being carried out in many European towns and cities as part of the Council of Europe's "Stop Domestic Violence" campaign.

Strasbourg, host city to the Council of Europe, is actively participating in this action. It has already organised an awareness-raising week in universities and a poster campaign, from 1 to 15 March 2007. A number of events are being organised in Strasbourg (France) between 19 November and 10 December 2007 for the fortnight of action to combat violence against women. The joint Congress-Parliamentary Assembly exhibition entitled "Breaking the silence on domestic violence" will be presented at the Strasbourg City Council Offices (place de l'Etoile) in partnership with the Regain shelter.

The exhibition will be inaugurated on 26 November at 11.30 am, attended by Fabienne Keller, Mayor of Strasbourg and Valerio Prignachi, Chair of the Congress's Social Cohesion Committee.

More information can be found on <http://www.coe.int/t/congress/stopviolence>

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The Congress has two chambers, the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions. It brings together 318 full and 318 substitute members representing more than 200 000 European territorial communities. President of the Congress Halvdan Skard (Norway, SOC), President of the Chamber of Regions: Yavuz Milden (EPP/CD, Turkey), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities : Ian Micallef (Malta, EPP/CD).
Political Groups : Socialist Group (**SOC**), Group of the European People's Party – Christian Democrats (**EPP/CD**), Independent and Liberal Democrat Group (**ILDG**).