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Europe must become a zone of zero tolerance for violence against women
Statement by Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Strasbourg, 24.11.2015 - Violence against women and girls remains one of the most serious – and sadly most tolerated – human-rights violations worldwide.

No magic bullet exists to solve this problem, but I call on all 47 of our member states to adopt our award-winning [Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence](#).

This international legal treaty remains the first and only one to criminalise all forms of violence against women – physical, sexual and psychological. It obliges states that have fully adopted it to protect victims and prosecute perpetrators.

Since last year, we have set up an independent expert group – [GREVIO](#) – to monitor implementation of our convention by states that are parties to it.

With [19 ratification and 20 signatures](#) so far, I call on those states that have neither signed nor ratified this treaty to do so without delay:

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Moldova and the Russian Federation.

It is time to join your neighbours, so that Europe has a real, zero-tolerance response to violence against women.

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