

Il Vice Ministro del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali con delega alle Pari Opportunità

Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri DPO 0011954 P-4.25 del 20/12/2013



Rome, 19 December 2013

Dear Secretary General,

It was a great pleasure for me to be informed that, following the presentation of the Italian Government's recently launched awareness-raising campaign on violence against women at the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, the Greek Government decided to promote and disseminate our campaign by publishing it on the official website of your General Secretariat for Gender Equality and on the special website you set up on such a topical and alarming phenomenon.

Preceding the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the forthcoming Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union will review the implementation of all twelve critical areas of concern of the Platform in the EU from 2010 to 2014, while specifically focusing on the area of violence against women, a gross violation of human rights which is sadly widespread all across Europe and beyond.

Therefore, in line with the Programme of the Italian Presidency of the EU, as well as with our national priorities and commitment to combating violence against women, the Italian Government will be particularly pleased to cooperate with the Greek Government and participate in its initiatives, including those organised under the next Greek Presidency of the Council of the European Union, with a view to coming together to combat gender-based violence.

Please accept my heartfelt appreciation of your effort to promote such fight also through the adoption of the Italian Government's campaign.

I look forward to further cooperation with your Government.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Cecilia Guerra

H.E. Ms Vasso Kollia Secretary General for Gender Equality Ministry of Interior Hellenic Republic

N July