

# END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



24 NOVEMBER 2017  
HELSINKI

#endVAW



*Suomi*  
*Finland*  
**100**

# INTRODUCTION

Seventy per cent of women in the world are facing violence. And Europe does not escape this scourge. According to the European Agency for Fundamental Rights, one in three women in Europe has been subjected to physical or sexual violence. In the majority of cases, such violence is exercised by the victim's spouse.

So much so that according to the World Bank, spousal violence represents a greater risk for women than cancer, road accidents, war and malaria. In Finland, one-third of women are victims of spousal violence since the age of 15. Twelve women died from their partner's blows. In France, 223,000 women each year are victims of domestic violence, and one out of every four cases of rape is committed by the spouse or former spouse of the woman. In 2016, 123 women died under the blows of their companion or ex-companion. On the eve of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the French Institute took the initiative to organize a meeting around the representatives of the Finnish Parliament, the Police, the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NGOs such as Amnesty International, and leading jurists to think together about effective solutions to end a scourge that is plaguing our societies.

Jeannette Bougrab  
Director of the French Institute in Finland

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# PROGRAMME

## 09h00 Seminar opening

**Ms Tarja Halonen**, *President*

## 09h05 Welcome words and introduction

**Ms Jeannette Bougrab**, *Former minister, Cultural and scientific Counsellor at the Embassy of France and Director of the French Institute*

## 09h15 Victim's testimony session

### 09h30 Panel 1: Denial of the reality of domestic violence

**Ms Eva Biaudet**, *President of National Council of Women of Finland, Member of Finnish Parliament*

**Ms Anne Meskanen**, *Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women Issues and Gender Equality, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland*

**Ms Pia Puu Oksanen**, *Expert of gender and sexuality based discrimination, Amnesty International Finland*

**Mr Kostas Tassopoulos**, *Executive Director, Lyömätön Linja*

## 10h45 Break

### 11h00 Panel 2: Effectiveness of measures

**Ms Saara Asmundela**, *Detective Chief Inspector, Helsinki Police Department*

**Mr Olli Humalamäki**, *President, Viola – Väkivallasta vapaaksi ry*

**Ms Kevät Nousiainen**, *DDL Professor emerita*

**Ms Merja Pentikäinen**, *Lawyer and Doctor of Laws, Opinio Juris*

## 12h15 Conclusion

**H.E. Mr Serge Tomasi**, *Ambassador of France*

## 12h30 End of the seminar

Moderation will be ensured by **Ms Erja Yläjärvi**, *Editor in chief, Helsingin Sanomat*.

# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN 2016



5,5 M

5200 CASES | 40,6 %

OF ALL  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
BETWEEN MARRIED OR  
COHABITING COUPLES  
AND FORMER COUPLES



80 % OF VICTIMS  
WERE WOMEN

THE 2ND  
MOST GENERAL  
HOMICIDE TYPE IS  
A KILL OF A WOMAN

20 WOMEN  
KILLED YEARLY  
BY THEIR PARTNER



61%  
OF WOMEN WERE KILLED  
BY THEIR PARTNER



55%  
OF WOMEN WERE KILLED  
AT HOME



67 M

223 000

WOMEN WERE VICTIMS  
OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
COMMITTED BY  
THEIR PARTNER



14%  
OF VICTIMS  
PRESSED CHARGES

123

WOMEN  
WERE KILLED  
BY THEIR PARTNER



78%  
OF WOMEN WERE KILLED  
BY THEIR PARTNER



1 WOMAN IS KILLED  
EVERY 3 DAYS

Sources:

Finland: Tilastokeskus, Rikos- ja paikkoleinostilasto, Perhe- ja läheisväkivaltta 2016; Martti Lehti, Henkirikosotakuus 2017, Helsingin yliopisto, Kriminologian ja oikeuspolitiikan tutkimuskeskus

France: <http://stop-violences-femmes.gouv.fr>

# PANELISTS

## EVA BIAUDET

Eva Biaudet is a well known human rights activist in Finland. She is a Member of Parliament and a former Minister of Social Services and Health, as well as Minister of Gender. Having returned for her fifth term in Parliament, in May 2015, she has taken seat as vice chair of the Legal Committee, membership in the Grand Committee handling European Affairs, as well as chairship of the informal human rights network of MP:s. In between, she served as diplomat in Vienna, as the OSCE Special Representative Combating Human Trafficking, working with 57 countries.

After her time in Vienna, she continued working in the sphere of promoting Human Rights, as Ombudsperson for Minorities and later Non-Discrimination Ombudsman. Eva Biaudet is the president of the National Council of Women of Finland – an umbrella organisation for 58 women’s organisations. She is also involved in many NGOs working on enhancing democracy, anti-racism and children’s rights.



Photo: Sonja Siikanen

## ANNE MESKANEN

Anne Meskanen currently serves as Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women Issues and Gender Equality for the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. She obtained an M.A in Political Science from the University of Helsinki and joined the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1996. Since then, she has held diplomatic service posts in the Finnish Embassies of Romania, Syria and Kosovo, as well as with the Finnish Mission to the United Nations in New York. From 2015 to 2017 she served as Ambassador to Afghanistan.



## PIA PUU OKSANEN

Pia Puu Oksanen has worked extensively for the last 20 years towards the elimination of violence against women and girls in Finland. Currently she is holding position as an expert of gender and sexuality based discrimination at Amnesty International Finland. Along the years she has also worked as an acting policy director for Amnesty Finland, director for women's rights organization Women's Line and as a chair for the Finnish Feminist Union. She was also a founding member of the independent Rape Crises Center Tukinainen in Finland.



Photo: Tomi Asikainen

## KOSTAS TASSOPOULOS

Kostas Tassopoulos is working as a main expert in Domestic Violence Preventive Work at Lyömätön Linja Espoossa since 2010. He has a Master's degree in sociology and psychology from the University Paris V – René Descartes. He started at the Lyömätön Linja Espoossa in 2006 as a project worker for the Miehen Linja service that is a special service for immigrant men who have used or are afraid to use violence in their families and/or relationships. He works also as an educator for Domestic Violence and Multicultural issues. He has written different articles for these topics for example in Labyrintti and Tiimi -lehti and he has participated as a researcher to the evaluation of the Miehen Linja service. He is the current Executive Director of the organization since September 2017.



## KEVÄT NOUSIAINEN

Kevät Nousiainen is professor emerita of comparative law and legal theory at the University of Turku. She has worked extensively with gender studies in law. She has held professorships in gender studies, including the Minna Canth Academy professorship, and been principal investigator in several national and Nordic studies in the field. She is the Finnish member of the EU European Equality Law Network. Her latest publications include the EU report Legal implications of EU accession to the Istanbul Convention (2016).



## MERJA PENTIKÄINEN

Merja Pentikäinen is a lawyer, Doctor of Laws (LL.D), researcher, trainer and expert with international law specialisation. Human rights, including women's rights and violence against women, have been at the core of her interests and work for over 20 years. She is among the leading, also internationally recognised human rights experts in Finland. Her expertise has been widely used by international organisations (e.g. UN, Council of Europe, OSCE) as well as national actors in Finland (ministries, Parliament, the President of Finland etc.). Her present work revolves particularly around the issues of business and human rights. [www.opiniojuris.fi](http://www.opiniojuris.fi)



## OLLI HUMALAMÄKI

Olli Humalamäki (Master of Social Sciences) is a social worker who has specialized in themes concerning domestic violence and violence against women. He has several years of experience in coordination and development of multiple projects (ESPER – social and health care reform in Southern-Savo, LAPE – child and family services, VÄISTÖ – prevention of domestic violence in Eastern Finland). Previously he has been a board member of the Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters. Currently he is the President of Viola – Free from the violence association.



## SAARA ASMUNDELA

Ms Saara Asmundela (Master of Arts) is a Detective Chief Inspector at Helsinki Police Department (Violent Crime Unit). She has several years of experience in investigating domestic violence and sexual crimes.



## ERJA YLÄJÄRVI

Erja Yläjärvi is a managing editor at Helsingin Sanomat (Finland's leading daily newspaper) where she is responsible for central news desk and news content. Yläjärvi has a background as a political and foreign news journalist and has among other things worked as a European correspondent for Finnish News Agency STT.



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