



Athena Forum Newsletter

Sex-based rights · Democratic values · Political courage

Join our first campaign!

We have been quite busy over the past weeks, and we are delighted to share what we've been up to!

We have just launched our very first Athena campaign!

Activists have been lobbying the EU for years to advance their demands. It's time that MEPs also hear from ordinary citizens — people who care about reality, fairness and women's and children's rights. Our [Write to your MEP](#) action gives you a quick and effective way to make your voice heard on the EU LGBTIQ+ Strategy. Read more about it below.

In this edition of our newsletter, you will also find:

- a look at the move from the left to erase sex from official documents, as exemplified by the recent motion in France;
- some hard truths on why Latvia almost pulled out of the Istanbul Convention (spoiler: a lot of gender identity!);
- and what's really behind the COP30 gender debate and the capture of development aid.

Plus: an entertaining (and occasionally shocking!) podcast with the wonderful Mr Menno, diving into what Athena is here to do.

We are expanding our reach and are now also on [Facebook](#)! Follow us on Social Media for timely updates on our work. And please invite your friends and networks to do the same. For those who are not on social media, feel free to forward this newsletter to them or share the subscription link to our [newsletter](#) so they can stay informed.

Athena Forum continues because of you. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has subscribed and supports us with a monthly donation. Your commitment makes this work possible.

Please share, forward and spread the word and our work! Let others be inspired by the resilience and momentum that grows when we stand together.

With very best wishes,
Faika

Your voice matters: write to your MEP!



Take action: Stop the EU's new LGBTIQ+ Strategy from undermining women's rights, the rights of lesbians and gays, child safeguarding and freedom of expression!

On 8 October 2025, the European Commission presented the LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy 2026-2030. This strategy proposes measures that would directly affect women's rights, parental rights, child safeguarding and freedom of expression across Europe. They pressure all EU countries to adopt positions that have not been democratically debated or agreed. **Your Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) need to hear from you. You can send them a letter directly through our website.**

Use our template as a starting point, edit it and add your own thoughts to make it stronger.

Write to your MEPs here

The hill the Left is prepared to die on: the erasure of sex



Picture credit: Thierry Monasse/Getty Images

Europe must not erase sex

We must resist the imposition of activist fantasies

When, in mid-October, MPs from the broad left-wing bloc Nouveau Front Populaire tabled a proposal in the French Parliament to remove sex from national identity cards, they prefaced it with an explanation: having one's sex recorded on identity documents, they claimed, is bad for equality, bad for women, and especially bad for those who identify as transgender. "It is common for an individual's appearance not to correspond to the stereotypes associated with the sex recorded on their official papers," they argued, followed by a non sequitur of the highest order: that sex itself is an outdated stereotype.

[Read our article in The Critic](#)

The price of neglect: Latvia's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention



On 30 October 2025, Latvia's parliament voted to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention – the Council of Europe's treaty on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence – only a year after ratifying it. The decision, pending the President's signature, marks a serious setback for women's rights. It also exposes a deeper problem: when international instruments adopt vague or activist-driven terminology, the protection of women and girls becomes hostage to ideological disputes.

[Read our article](#)

Development without women? Gender identity and the global aid sector



Tensions around the meaning of “gender” in official documents and funding plans have already sparked protests at COP30, the UN Climate Change Conference. The debate is being framed as a clash between “progressive gender-rights advocates”, including several Western governments, and a bloc of “hardline conservative” governments accused of trying to turn back the clock. But behind the labels lies a more basic dispute: several states want UN climate texts to retain the categories of male and female, while UN agencies and NGOs push to expand “gender” to include a range of self-proclaimed identities.

[Read our article](#)

Podcast with Mr Menno



While at Battle of Ideas, this fantastic podcast episode with the wonderful Mr Menno came together — an engaging conversation about political activism, career and how attempts to cancel only strengthen the resolve to fight back.

[Watch the podcast](#)

100% people-funded.



We have no big donors, no European Commission funding and no national government grants. We depend entirely on people like you who know that women's rights, the safeguarding of children and freedom of speech matter. If you're able, please consider supporting us financially. Thank you for standing with us.

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