

11 November 2025

Inquiry and Complaint Regarding EU Funding for Activities Promoting Sexual Exploitation under the Guise of “Sexual Assistance”

To: Ana Gallego Torres

Director-General, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST)

Cc: Irena Moozová, Deputy Director-General, DG JUST

Karen Vandekerckhove, Head of Unit, Gender Equality (JUST.D.3)

Sophie Beernaerts, Director, European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)

Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Department “Creativity, Citizens, EU Values & Joint Operations”, EACEA

Godelieve Dutrieux, Head of Unit “Citizens & EU Values (EACEA.B.3)”

Dear Ms Torres,

We are writing to raise serious concerns and request clarification regarding an activity advertised as “Taller Virtual: Introducción a la Asistencia Sexual” (Virtual Workshop: Introduction to Sexual Assistance), held on 29 October, and publicly presented as funded by the European Union. The promotional material for this event, organised by Calala Fondo de Mujeres in collaboration with OTRAS – Organización de Trabajadoras Sexuales, displays the official EU emblem accompanied by the statement “Financiado por la Unión Europea” (“Funded by the European Union”).

The event announcement can be found on the following website: asistenciasexual.org/taller-virtual-introduccion-a-la-asistencia-sexual

According to the materials available, as well as testimonies from individuals who attended the workshop, the activity included content on sexual acts performed in the context of so-called assistance to persons with disabilities, without any ethical or legal safeguards, without participant age verification, and without any legal basis that would justify such activity. The nature and framing of this workshop clearly fall under the exploitation of prostitution, promoted under the misleading notion of “sexual assistance.”



Such an activity raises serious concerns regarding compliance with the European Union’s legal and policy framework on human dignity, women’s rights, and equality between women and men. In particular, the use of the EU emblem in connection with an initiative that effectively promotes prostitution contradicts:

- **Article 83(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)**, which recognises sexual exploitation of women and children as a particularly serious form of crime with a cross-border dimension that must be combated at EU level;
- **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union: Article 1** – the inviolability of human dignity.
- **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union: Article 23** – equality between women and men, which the Union must ensure in all its activities.
- **European Parliament Resolution of 26 February 2014 (2013/2103(INI))**: on sexual exploitation and prostitution and its impact on equality between women and men.
- **European Parliament Resolution of 14 March 2024 (2022/2139(INI))**: which reaffirms that prostitution constitutes a violation of human rights and a form of male violence against women.
- **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW): Article 6**, which obliges States to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of the prostitution of women, as well as the CEDAW General Recommendation N.38 that recognises demand as a driving factor for sexual exploitation of women.
- **UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949)**: which recognises prostitution as a violation of human dignity and obliges States to punish any person who exploits the prostitution of another.
- **Findings and recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls, Reem Alsalem (UN Doc. A/HRC/56/48)**: which reaffirm that prostitution constitutes a grave violation of women’s human rights, a form of male violence against women and girls, and that its legitimisation undermines equality between women and men and the protection of women’s human rights.

Given the above, we request that the European Commission urgently clarify:

Under which funding stream, project, or intermediary mechanism this activity was financed;

Whether the use of the EU emblem in this context has been authorised;

What monitoring or vetting mechanisms the Commission and relevant managing authorities have in place to prevent EU funds from being used to promote or normalise prostitution and sexual exploitation; and

What corrective actions the Commission intends to take to ensure compliance with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, the EU’s obligation to ensure equality between women and men in all its activities, and international human rights instruments.

The public display of the EU emblem on promotional material for activities of this nature risks not only misrepresentation of the Union’s values and policies but also the erosion of the EU’s credibility as a global actor committed to equality between women and men and to the elimination of all forms of violence and exploitation of women.

We therefore request a written response clarifying the funding source, the authorisation process for the use of the EU emblem, and the measures the European Commission will take to address this situation.

Yours sincerely,



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Anna Zobnina
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