



Title: Feminist Movements Revitalizing Democracy in Europe (FIERCE)

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PRESS RELEASE

December 11th, 2023

Invitation to the 1st FIERCE Online Roundtable Discussion
“Feminist agendas in the 2024 European Parliament?
Reaching out to the candidates”

January 9th, 2024, from 14:00-16:00 (CET)

Registration link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ude6hrzkuG9RKhSm77RXMx5YhJOwYxTyI>

The FIERCE online roundtable **“Feminist agendas in the 2024 EP? Reaching out to the candidates”** will take place on **January 9th, 2024, from 14:00-16:00 (CET)**. The event is organised as part of the **Horizon Europe FIERCE project**, kicked off in September 2022, and centered on the study of discourses, actions, and democratic initiatives of feminist movements, analysing their impact on institutions and policies.

The roundtable is organised as part of the co-creation process of the FIERCE transnational lab, where a **Campaign for the 2024 European Parliament (EP) elections** will be designed and implemented. This campaign aims to present some of the most urgent feminist claims with an intersectional approach to the candidates running for the EP.

Within this context, the event is aimed at discussing and getting inputs from experienced feminist actors with an interactive format, where presentations will be followed by Q&A sessions with the audience, revolving around the **following topics**:

- **Lessons learned** from previous experiences in developing campaigns at the European level (speakers from European feminist organisations).



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- Effectively **communicating European feminist agendas to new candidates** for the EP 2024 elections.
- Advocating towards the EP to develop an agenda supporting **feminism and gender equality**.

The FIERCE transnational lab stems from the **participatory approach** the project is developing, promoting **joint initiatives with feminist movements and actors** seeking to strengthen **democracy** in Europe. In particular, the FIERCE co-creation process consists of the implementation of **eight national labs**¹ and **one transnational lab**, conceived as action-oriented "dialogues" with their own concrete policy-oriented or political outcomes.

Agenda

Time (CET)	Item
14:00 – 14:05	Connection of participants
14:05 – 14:10	Welcoming and initial presentation (chaired and moderated by Maria Sangiuliano, Smart Venice - FIERCE Consortium)
14:10 – 14:30	Gea Meijers (WIDE+): Presentation and Q&A session
14:30 – 14:50	Xenia Kellner (Young Feminist Europe): Presentation and Q&A session
14:50 – 15:10	Neil Datta (European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights): Presentation and Q&A session
15:10 – 15:30	Sonja Lokar (Women's Lobby of Slovenia): Presentation and Q&A session
15:30 – 15:45	Moderated panel discussion with the speakers: The current political landscape in Europe. Priorities and needs for the feminist agenda
15:45 – 16:00	Panel discussion with the audience

¹ National labs are being implemented in the 8 countries of the project: Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey.



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Speakers

1. **Neil Datta**, European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, (Executive Director)



Neil Datta has been at the helm of the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights since 2004. Neil founded the organisation with a select group of parliamentarians and with the support of IPPF in 2000, and has been responsible for its growth to its current membership of over 30 all-party parliamentary groups on population and development issues. Neil has over fifteen years' experience in the field of political involvement in population and development. Throughout this period, he has conducted in-depth research on anti-choice activity in Europe, publishing a report in 2018 that continues to receive worldwide media attention. Before founding EPF, Neil coordinated the Parliamentary Programme of the International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network. Neil holds a Master's Degree in European Public Administration from the College of Europe in Bruges and a Bachelor of Arts in History and Languages from the State University of New York at Binghamton. Neil holds five nationalities and is bilingual in English and French.

2. **Xenia Kellner**, Young Feminist Europe (co-founder; advocacy & policy coordinator)



Xenia Kellner is a Co-Founder of Young Feminist Europe (YFE), a young intersectional feminist-led organization that aims to amplify young feminist voices and activities through campaigns, advocacy and movement building. Xenia has experience in international law, human rights, as well as European and international criminal law. She specializes in issues related to women, peace and security, and combating human trafficking, —areas in which she worked for years at KFN, particularly in cross-border investigations and cooperation in Europe. She has studied law in Mexico and has worked for CLADEM in the field of gender-based violence, with a special emphasis on femicides and the monitoring and implementation of CEDAW after the "campo algodonero" case. Her work focuses on multifaceted approaches to systemic and transformative change, and on promoting inclusive feminist leadership for gender equality.



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3. **Sonja Lokar**, Women’s Lobby of Slovenia (President)



Sonja Lokar, professor of French language and sociology, graduated from Ljubljana University in 1971. She worked as a political analyst, MP in socialist and the first multiparty assembly of Slovenia. She had an active role in defending the freedom of birth in the Slovene Constitution of 1991, and in defending free-of-charge abortion and hormonal contraception - both rights are under sporadic attacks of political catholic right. She led a regional CEE Network for Gender Issues for 17 years, and a Stability Pact for SE Europe Gender Task Force for 10 years. In 2012 she was the president of the European Women's Lobby. She is now the president of the Women's Lobby of Slovenia.

4. **Gea Meijers**, WIDE+ (Coordinator)



Gea Meijers, WIDE+'s general coordinator, has promoted feminism through WIDE+'s collective action since 2006. She has a special focus on highlighting the interrelations between EU macro-economic policies in external action (in particular trade), as well as supporting feminist movement building in Europe with partners outside Europe, in order to strengthen an intersectional, inclusive and transformative feminism rooted in global solidarity. She studied sociology and international public policy.



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