

EN

E-004697/2025

Answer given by Ms Lahbib  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(18.2.2026)

The Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025<sup>1</sup> refers to harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, forced abortion, forced sterilisation, early and forced marriage and so-called honour-related violence. The lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, non-binary, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) strategy 2020-2025 refers to harmful practices against women and girls such as forced abortion and forced sterilisation.

Two of the harmful practices mentioned in the Gender Equality Strategy have been defined as crime at EU level in Directive (EU) 2024/1385 on combating violence against women and domestic violence<sup>2</sup>: female genital mutilation and forced marriage. For victims of these crimes and for victims of any crime amounting to violence against women at national level (including forced abortion and forced sterilisation), the Directive provides for a set of rights of protection, access to justice, support, as well as measures of prevention. Moreover, the aggravating circumstances defined in the Directive include where the crime of violence against women is committed with the intention of preserving or restoring the so-called honour of a person, a family, a community or another similar group.

The Commission is holding implementation workshops with Member States to steer the complete and timely transposition of the Directive by June 2027 (the deadline for transposition).

The Commission is currently preparing the Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030 (planned for adoption around International Women's Day 2026).

---

<sup>1</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, COM/2020/152 final.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L, 2024/1385, 24.5.2024.