

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The impact of the 1974 Turkish invasion on Cypriot women and girls, and the crimes committed by Turkish forces and consequences on gender equality 2026/2617(RSP)

- having regard to Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and Articles 8, 10, 78 and 83 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
- having regard to Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA2 (the Victims' Rights Directive), which provides a framework for victim-centred justice, including in cases of sexual violence,
- having regard to Directive (EU) 2024/1385 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence,
- resolution of 16 September 2021 with recommendations to the Commission on identifying gender-based violence as a new area of crime listed in Article 83(1) TFEU3,
- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
- having regard to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of 17 July 1998,
- having regard to the Geneva Conventions, especially Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,
- having regard to the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,
- having regard to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security of 31 October 2000 and its follow-up resolutions 1820 (19 June 2008); 1888 (30 September 2009); 1889 (5 October 2009); 1960 (16 December 2010); 2106 (24 June 2013); 2122 (18 October 2013); 2242 (13 October 2015); 2467 (23 April 2019) and 2493 (29 October 2019),
- having regard to the UNSG latest Annual Report on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (S/2025/389) submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2467 (2019), in which the Council requested him to report annually on the implementation of resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010) and 2106 (2013), and to recommend strategic actions,
- having regard to the fundamental principles of international law and to the UN Charter, the 1977 and the 1979 High-Level Agreements between the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus, and the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council on Cyprus, including Resolution 186 (1964), which reaffirms the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus, Resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984) on secessionist actions in Cyprus and Resolution 2815 (2026) on the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), and the agreed framework of bicomunal bizonal federation with

political equality, as set out in the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, for the comprehensive solution of the Cyprus problem,

- having regard to the Report of 10 July 1976 of the European Commission of Human Rights in *Cyprus v. Turkey* (Applications Nos 6780/74 and 6950/75),
- having regard to the UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness of 30 August 1961,
- having regard to the 2018 UN Global Compact on Refugees,
- having regard to General Recommendation No 38 of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women of 6 November 2020 on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration,
- having regard the Council of Europe REPORT on the situation in Cyprus (recent political developments) in 1994,
- having regard to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention),
- having regard to its resolution of 23 October 2020 on Gender Equality in EU's foreign and security policy (2019/2167(INI)),
- having regard to its resolution of 5 May 2022 on the impact of the war against Ukraine on women (2022/2633(RSP)),
- having regard to the question to the Commission on the impact of the 1974 Turkish invasion on Cypriot women and girls, and the crimes committed by Turkish forces and consequences on gender equality (O 000000/2026 - B10 000/2026),
- having regard to the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM Committee) mission to Nicosia, Cyprus that took place 26-28 May 2025, and the subsequent Mission Report (FEMM_CR(2025)774381 PE774.381v01-00),
- having regard to Rules 142(5) and 136(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the motion for a resolution of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality,

A. whereas on 20 July 1974 Turkish armed forces invaded the Republic of Cyprus and, despite the UN-brokered ceasefire declared on 22 July 1974 pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 353 (1974), proceeded to launch a second large-scale offensive on 14 August 1974 in blatant violation of that ceasefire, thereby expanding and consolidating their illegal occupation to approximately 36 % of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus, forcibly displacing a large proportion of the civilian population and committing widespread violations and atrocities against civilians, including women and girls;

- B. whereas the occupying regime, which is a result of the Turkish invasion of 1974 and is subordinate to Türkiye, is illegal and not internationally recognised; whereas the perpetrators were predominantly members of the Turkish armed forces reportedly acting at the direction of and/or under the protection of their officers
- C. whereas the consequences of the 1974 Turkish military invasions of Cyprus on women and girls have been long-overlooked and the Cypriot women experiences of violence and forced displacement remain some of the least acknowledged and are often excluded from official historical, legal and institutional recognition;
- D. whereas the Republic of Cyprus remains the only member state of the EU whose territory is partially under illegal military occupation by a third country, with long-lasting consequences for all Cypriots especially for women and girls, as well as for the Union;
- E. whereas it is essential to recognise the systematic organized large-scale gender-based violence carried out by the Turkish military forces and the gender-based violence by paramilitary extremist perpetrators;
- F. whereas Turkish armed forces have, by way of systematic conduct and established practice, caused deprivation of life to all Cypriot communities, including indiscriminate killing of civilians and have subjected persons, including women of all ages, to torture, inhuman and degrading treatment;
- G. whereas women are disproportionately affected by conflict-related and aftermath violence, being affected in multiple ways such as sexual violence, forced displacement, forced and compulsory labour, and forms of sexual exploitation, economic collapse, physical and psychological trauma; whereas these harms often persist for decades after the formal end of hostilities, undermining women's economic independence, bodily autonomy and political participation;
- H. whereas many survivors were compelled to migrate in order to escape stigma and cope with post-traumatic stress, an unspecified number of cases of suicide or attempted suicide have been reported; whereas the issue remains largely taboo, despite recent instances of survivors providing public testimony, including anonymously;
- I. whereas rape and sexual violence towards the civilian population continue to be used as a weapon of war, done in a widespread intentional way, in order to gain political or military advantage; whereas conflict-related sexual violence is also used as a method of torture and even a so-called "spoil of war"; whereas conflict-related sexual violence can also be a weapon and a tactic of destruction; whereas acts of sexual violence are considered crimes under international human rights law in both war and peacetime;
- J. whereas it was mentioned during the FEMM mission that there was ongoing engagement with the Greek Orthodox Church as a societal actor contributing to the preservation of cultural identity and dialogue in the context of the ongoing situation in Cyprus, following the events of 1974 which resulted in the occupation of the island; whereas it was raised in the mission that it shows capacity to respond with sensitivity and

pragmatism during periods of acute social upheaval with its commitment to promoting gender equality in this regard.

- K. whereas it is urgent to address the long-term trauma, experiences and suffering of these women and put in place victim-centred counselling and specifically designed support services to address the personal, social and economic empowerment of Cypriot women; notes that this must be done in a way that respects autonomy, confidentiality and the wider utmost respect for human dignity, including psychological dignity;
 - L. whereas the real number of Cypriot victims of sexual violence remains unknown and estimates vary considerably which according to the FEMM mission ranges between 700 and 1,500, which hinders the processes of reparation and compensation; whereas the survivors of sexual violence in Cyprus due to trauma, stigma, fear, shame, lack of institutional support and of a safe and trusted mechanism often do not come forward to denounce the acts they suffered, which has exacerbated the long-term psychological, social and economic consequences;
 - M. whereas the victims included women of all ages, from underage girls and teenagers to young women, middle-aged mothers and elderly women, as well as even boys, fathers and men;
 - N. whereas rape and other forms of sexual violence were already prohibited in 1974 under international humanitarian law, including Article 27 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which requires special protection for women against rape and any form of assault;
 - O. whereas the recent FEMM mission to Cyprus on May 2025 highlighted the urgent need for recognition of the impact of the invasion and ongoing occupation on women and girls, including as a matter of dignity and justice for survivors;
 - P. whereas gender equality, respect for human dignity and the protection of fundamental rights are core values of the European Union, which must be upheld consistently, including with regard to past crimes affecting EU citizens;
1. Condemns in the strongest possible terms the Republic of Türkiye's military invasion and continued illegal occupation of the Republic of Cyprus, now in its 52nd year, as a serious breach of international law and an obstacle to peace, stability and EU-Türkiye relations and strongly condemns the grave and enduring consequences of the invasion on Cypriot women and girls, including conflict related sexual violence, and other forms of sexual exploitation enforced displacement, family separation, and other violations of international humanitarian and human rights law disproportionately affecting women and girls, as well as the long term social, economic and psychological harms suffered;
 2. Stresses that the Republic of Türkiye bears continuing responsibility under international law for the violations committed during and after the 1974 invasion, including grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, and recalls that such responsibility entails the obligation to ensure full reparation to victims, including restitution, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition; Calls on Member States to ensure the provision of effective reparation for all victims of gender based violence including sexual

violence; reminds that such reparations should be adequate, promptly attributed, and holistic in order to recognize the harm suffered;

3. Calls, as a matter of urgency, for the resumption of negotiations on the reunification of Cyprus under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General as soon as possible, from the point at which they were interrupted in Crans-Montana in 2017. Strongly reaffirms its view that the only solution to the Cyprus problem is a fair, comprehensive, viable and democratic settlement, within the long-established and agreed UN framework and EU acquis on the basis of a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation with political equality, as set out in the relevant UNSC Resolutions;
4. Fully acknowledges the profound and multidimensional impact of the invasion and occupation on Cypriot women and girls, whose courage, strong role and suffering, has too often remained invisible, underreported and insufficiently recognised at national, European and international levels; Underlines that Cypriot women and girls have also been key agents of resistance, solidarity and peacebuilding and calls for their leadership to be recognised and supported in all relevant policies; States that any political process concerning the future of the island must fully include women, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325;
5. Further calls on Türkiye to withdraw its troops from Cyprus and refrain from any unilateral action that would entrench the permanent occupation of the island and from action altering the demographic balance;
6. Recognizes the consequences of forced displacement, including internal displacement, resulting from the invasion and ongoing occupation, and its enduring impact on first second, and third generation Cypriots, especially women and girls who have been disproportionately affected; highlights that many have experienced the loss of homes, community networks and cultural continuity, as well as intergenerational trauma, identity fragmentation and persistent feelings of dislocation and non-belonging, compounded by gender inequalities and the specific social expectations that were placed upon women, that need to be addressed through targeted psychosocial support policies for victims and survivors;
7. Recognises that conflict related sexual violence produces long term secondary social and economic consequences, including poverty, exclusion and stigma, and calls on the Council to ensure that these effects are fully assessed and reflected in reparation measures adopted at national level;
8. Recognizes that the majority of women and girls, who had been raped could access sexual and reproductive health services, especially abortion in Cyprus' hospitals and British bases despite the criminalization of abortion at the time;
9. Calls on the Member States to ensure that survivors of rape have full access to medical services, such as clinical management of rape and the provision of high-quality health services;
10. Calls on the European Commission to support Cyprus in continuing efforts to establish the full scale and number of victims of conflict related crimes, including sexual violence, data collection and the safe documentation of testimonies, ensuring adequate official

recognition, redress and reparation for survivors and, where appropriate, their descendants, to promote historical awareness and to provide support services for survivors through an enhanced National Action Plan;

11. Recognises the initiative in Cyprus for the construction of a Monument for Women Victims of Sexual Violence in Nicosia, as a space of collective memory and recognition; believes that a visible and prominent location for the monument will contribute to the recognition of the trauma and suffering of the victims;
12. Encourages Member States that have experienced widespread human rights violations, whether during armed conflict or under authoritarian regimes to address without waiting the issue of sexual and gender based violence endured by victims and survivors, break the silence, encourage testimonies by formal investigation, to establish memorial initiatives that specifically recognise and document violations committed against women and girls, including conflict related sexual violence, forced displacement and gender based persecution in order to officially recognize the crimes and open the possibility for compensation; and stresses that such initiatives should form an integral part of justice processes aimed at challenging historical silencing, removing stigma and affirming women's autonomy, integrity, agency and dignity;
13. Calls upon the UNSG who consistently prepares annual reports on sexual violence in conflict zones, to investigate the relevant UN archives and other sources to document these atrocities;
14. Welcomes the efforts undertaken at national level to acknowledge survivors and to address past injustices suffered by all communities; calls on the Member States to set up compensation [mechanisms] for victims and survivors of sexual violence in line with the Victims' Rights Directive; underlines how Article 16 of the Victims' Rights Directive states that compensation should be paid by the offender;
15. Encourages awareness raising throughout the European Union on conflict related sexual violence and its long-term consequences in order to break taboos, combat stigma and empower survivors to come forward;
16. Supports the organization of a high-level public hearing with survivors of conflict-related sexual violence worldwide, and specifically in Cyprus, women rights organisations and peacebuilders, experts in international criminal law and representatives of civil society, in order to formally recognise their testimonies and experiences within the institutional framework of the Union and to show the gravity of the Turkish invasion of 1974;
17. Stresses the need for strengthening of legal frameworks in Cyprus and for victim-centred justice mechanisms, properly addressing the conflict-related sexual violence that targeted countless women and guaranteeing better adequate responses to the victims' calls for justice;
18. Strongly condemns the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war, which represents a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions, and call on the European Commission to raise awareness of this issue by reflecting on the Cypriot conflict experience in order to prevent further violence and take action in the event of the breakout of new conflicts; further calls on the Commission to continue promoting accountability and supporting initiatives, including dedicated financial mechanisms, that uphold the rights of victims and their

families, promote remembrance, and advance gender equality within the Union and facilitate their social reintegration;

19. Calls on the Commission to reinforce its financial support to the Committee on Missing Persons (CMP) in Cyprus so that it can fully fulfil its mission of exhuming, identifying and returning missing persons' remains to their relatives, which include Cypriot women who, in addition to the particular impact of the war, continue to face profound psychological distress; stresses, however, that financial assistance alone is insufficient in light of the continued lack of full cooperation, restricted access to military areas and archives, and obstruction by Türkiye and the illegal secessionist entity in the northern part of Cyprus, which significantly hinder the effective functioning and timely completion of the Committee's humanitarian mandate;
20. Reaffirms that the European Union has not only a political but also a moral and legal obligation to uphold the dignity, rights and historical memory of all EU citizens including Cypriot women and men who suffered conflict-related violence, and highlights the need for sustained engagement and principled action in addressing such serious violations, so as to ensure consistency with the Union's external commitments to gender equality and human rights;
21. Calls for reinforced and sustained EU financial and technical support to victim-centred services in Cyprus, including specialised trauma and gender-sensitive counselling, long-term psychosocial assistance and intergenerational healing programmes specifically tailored to survivors and their families provided by qualified and specialized personnel to prevent secondary victimization;
22. Supports Cyprus' full implementation of UN Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, notably through the adoption of an enhanced and more comprehensive National Action Plan and calls on the inclusion of more women in the peacebuilding processes;
23. Calls for the full compliance with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, notably in what regards support for victims of sexual violence and due diligence to prevent, investigate, punish and provide reparation for these acts of violence;
24. Commends the work of civil society organisations and bicomunal groups working on gender equality in Cyprus, including grassroots civil society initiatives, particularly those led by women, in fostering trust, reconciliation and dialogue and encourages the exchange of good practices between Cyprus and other countries with experience in violations of women's rights; urges the Commission to enhance cooperation with Cypriot civil society, victims' associations and relevant international bodies engaged in truth seeking and reconciliation efforts, including through adequate European Union funding;
25. Reaffirms the binding authority of UNSC resolutions concerning Cyprus.