

Ms Stephanie Futter-Orel
Executive Manager
WAVE Office Network

Strasbourg, 14 June 2018

Dear Ms Futter-Orel,

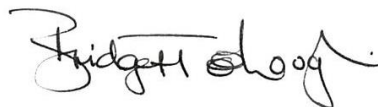
Thank you for your e-mail of 23 April, enclosing a letter of support addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe signed by WAVE and 1166 organisations in support.

The Secretary General has asked me to reply to this letter and on his behalf and my own I would like to express our gratitude for this strong statement of support at a time when our Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence is subject to criticism, including by a number of NGOs.

The Istanbul Convention has now reached 31 ratifications. I stress once again that this unique and leading legal instrument has made the prevention of violence against women an obligation for public authorities.

Like you, and with your help, the Council of Europe is determined to continue working towards a continent to uphold the basic human right of women to live a life free from violence.

Yours sincerely,



Bridget T. O'Loughlin
Executive Secretary of the monitoring mechanism of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence