Declaration on behalf of the European Union on violence against women in Pakistan

The EU is deeply concerned by the widespread violence perpetrated against women in Pakistan. The recent tragic death of Farzana Parveen, killed by her family in front of the High Court in Lahore, is a stark reminder of the barbarity of honour killings and raised outrage across Pakistan.

The EU condemns honour killings, as it condemns all acts of violence, and calls on the Government of Pakistan to take stronger action to ensure the protection of the rights of women, the physical security of all its citizens and to bring to justice those responsible for acts of violence against others.

We also trust that Pakistan will seek to end a culture of impunity and ensure that laws reflecting international legal obligations concerning the rights of all individuals, regardless of their gender, religion or social status are fully implemented.

The EU encourages Pakistan to foster gender equality and the empowerment of women, laying the foundations for equality of treatment and opportunity for women and men, including access to education and extended participation by all its citizens.
The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia *, Montenegro *, Iceland † and Serbia *, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process
† Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area