

# 1 EFGP 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress, Berlin – Draft Resolution

2 Tabled by Swedish Miljöpartiet de Groena

## 3 4 MALE GENDER ROLES

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6 Men dominate the societies of the world, from the home to the global level. Therefore, the roles,  
7 perceptions and values of men are crucial for our understanding of how the world works, and for  
8 correcting what has gone wrong. The problem is not individual men but the armour of male roles that men  
9 wear, and the culturally enforced instructions on how to use them.

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11 Men cause virtually all of the physical violence - from domestic to internationally armed conflicts. Men also  
12 cause other kinds of social violence. Although only a minority of all men are violent, male ideals and  
13 traditions are still the root cause of most violent acts. Humankind - men, women and children - suffers  
14 from it. The need for young boys to encounter positive males is generally known and well accepted. The  
15 number of children suffering from domestic violence in the world is innumerable and child victims of civil  
16 wars and other kinds of armed conflicts are also far too many.

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18 Despite this, male ideals and traditions remain virtually unchanged. It is an urgent issue for international  
19 society to address the links between persistent male values, norms of masculinity and the male society on  
20 the one hand, and basic factors, structures and trends in different kinds of conflict on the other.

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22 Consequently, as violence is an important feature and component of some male gender roles we need to  
23 look more closely at the underlying causes for this also in the characteristics of masculine culture. This is  
24 not to say that men are to blame for all the violence in the world - most men are never violent. The  
25 important task is to see why some men are violent and to explore the connection between male culture  
26 and violence. At the same time, we have to look at how such features are mirrored among other  
27 members of society. Consequently, women quite often encourage male violence in wars, in ethnic  
28 conflicts as well as in domestic violence against other women. Indeed, one could talk about a double  
29 nature of gender-based violence, affecting and infecting the roles of both men and women.

### 30 31 ***A UN Conference on men and male society***

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33 The United Nations has been instrumental in promoting and improving women's conditions worldwide.  
34 Four UN conferences on women have taken place. Several other conferences have made reference to,  
35 or dealt with, gender related causes of imbalances of power between women and men. One main,  
36 recurring conclusion has been that no real improvement can be achieved unless also male ideals, roles  
37 and patterns of action are changed.

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39 It is time for the UN to take an initiative to organise a conference on the male-governed society and the  
40 living conditions of men, not for the sake of justice but because of the conclusions that the women's  
41 conferences have arrived at. It is the male-governed society that must change so that we can find  
42 solutions to many of the problems that affect the inhabitants of the Earth, including men.

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44 In Sweden there is an initiative group for a UN-conference on men. It was founded by Swedish writer Eva  
45 Moberg in 1995 and up till now several small steps have been taken to achieve the future goal of a UN  
46 conference on men. The next step is an expert conference in Florence in March 2003.

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48 There is also a need for several regional conferences on men and male society in Asia, Africa and Latin  
49 America before the UN conference.

### 50 51 52 **We, the European Greens assembled in Berlin, declare through this resolution**

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54 **- that sustainable development requires a change of male gender roles;**

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56 **- that we are committed to** working actively in order to influence the United Nations to organize a  
57 conference on men and the male-dominated society.

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59 **- that we are committed to** working actively against and focussing on violence by men.