



# Athena Forum Newsletter

Sex-based rights · Democratic values · Political courage

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## Thank you for standing with us!

**What an incredible start.** We launched just over two months ago — and it's already hard to imagine life without Athena.

### In the last weeks:

- You've sent more than one thousand emails to MEPs to raise the alarm about the EU's LGBTIQ+ Strategy. The [campaign](#) remains open — add your voice if you haven't already.
- We've written to all MEPs about a resolution they just adopted — a text that, plainly, makes no sense. We also used the moment to introduce ourselves and offer to talk. There are no more excuses for negligence or bad policy.
- We've released a heartfelt, powerful video featuring some of the faces and voices in the Athena network. [Watch](#) it — and share the spirit of Athena with others!

### In this edition of our newsletter, you will also find:

- our deep dive into how a global “sexual rights” industry merges the surrogacy, prostitution and gender identity lobbies.
- our breakdown of a confusing and contradictory European Parliament resolution on women's rights and our brief exposing its legal and conceptual

flaws.

- our report on Germany's proposed law to let men into women's prisons and the grassroots resistance led by *Was ist eine Frau?* fighting to stop it.
- some of the media coverage of our work over the last weeks.

We are now also on [YouTube](#)! Follow us there and tell your friends about us.

**Athena Forum continues because of you. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has subscribed and supports us with a monthly donation. Your commitment makes this work possible.**

We move into 2026 with hope, resolve and commitment — to continue exposing the harms of gender identity policies and the complicity of political cowardice across all sides of the aisle.

We wish you a peaceful, joyful and restorative holiday season — and send hope, love and strength for the New Year. See you in 2026!

With very best wishes,

**Faika**



**Video: Time to respond**



#IStandWithAthena

[athena-forum.eu](https://athena-forum.eu)

With Athena, we've come together across Europe to build something extraordinary: a European initiative for sex-based rights, democratic values and political courage. Hear from members of our network across Europe – why they are standing up, and why they stand with Athena.

[Watch the video](#)

## In the news



**We've set out to widen and sharpen the public debate. Some conversations need insisting on.** Here you find a selection of our media coverage from the past weeks:

- **Interview in EMMA (Germany)**

Faika [speaks](#) with *EMMA* (1/2026) about Athena's growing European network, the lack of political awareness across party lines on EU gender identity policies and the powerful machinery behind them.

- **Op-ed in De Morgen (Belgium)**

A [contribution](#) by Marianne Driessen of Athena Forum and Suzy Eeckelaerts of Women's Rights Network Vlaanderen Belgium to *De Morgen*, Belgium's progressive daily, on the silencing of women and men who raise legitimate questions about gender identity – and the backlash they face.

- **In-depth interview in Doorbraak Magazine (Belgium)**

[Conversation](#) with *Doorbraak*, a Flemish magazine for political and cultural debate, about Athena Forum and how defending sex-based rights sometimes leads to unexpected common ground.

- **Podcast with Women's Rights Network (UK)**

A sharp and honest [conversation](#) with the *Women's Rights Network UK* about why Athena was founded, how “woman” became a right-wing dog whistle and what political illiteracy across the spectrum is doing to our ability to resist.

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## The new human rights industry: The business of sexual politics



Under the banner of “human rights”, a network of high-profile and heavily resourced NGOs is advancing the interests of those who profit from the sexual and reproductive exploitation of women. What presents itself as progressivism is the consolidation of an industry — one that merges the prostitution lobby, the surrogacy market and the gender-identity movement into a single political force and a unified system of exploitation.

At its core is the belief that women’s bodies — sexually and reproductively — should be available for commercial use. What emerges is a global sexual-rights industry that rebrands male dominance as equality and exploitation as empowerment, while erasing women as a political and legal category altogether.

[Read our article](#)

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## Podcast: The complicity of the Left





## Gender-ID laws betray women and lesbians | Zsófilter #se04e06



Faika sat down with Zsófi Balogh on the [Zsófilter](#) podcast by Partizán – Hungary's leading independent media platform – for a bold conversation about the silence and complicity of the left, activist tantrums and the institutional failure to enact boundaries. Together, they explore performative naïveté, deliberate forgetfulness and what it takes to reclaim courage, clarity and common sense.

[Watch the podcast](#)

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## Do MEPs even understand what they vote on?



In November, the European Parliament adopted a key resolution on the EU's next five-year framework on women's rights. It contains serious legal and conceptual flaws that risk undermining women's rights across the EU. In key areas, it relies on activist-driven frameworks that are not grounded in EU law, merges women with the broad "LGBTIQ+" category and conflates women's sexual and reproductive health and rights with gender-identity medical interventions.

The resolution relies on mutually incompatible frameworks, misapplies international documents and risks eroding long-established sex-based protections.

**[Read our brief](#)**



Germany's most populous state, North Rhine-Westphalia, is considering a law that would allow men into women's prisons. The proposal is backed by the centre-right Christian Democrats. Yes, you've read that right. The women's rights initiative [Was ist eine Frau?](#) are leading the pushback.

The draft law explicitly refers to the national self-ID law as its legal basis. This politically motivated shift aligns with a broader trend at the European level, where gender identity policies are being advanced through the European Commission's LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy, undermining sex-based protections in prisons and beyond.

[Read our article and how to take action](#)

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**100% people-funded.**





We have no big donors, no European Commission funding and no national government grants. We depend entirely on people like you who know that women's rights, the safeguarding of children and freedom of speech matter. If you're able, please consider supporting us financially. Thank you for standing with us.

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