



## European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

### NEWS REPORT

<b>Country:</b>	Spain
<b>Title:</b>	The Spanish Government withdrew subsidies of EUR 300 000 to promote Gender Equality
<b>Date:</b>	21 April 2017
<b>Expert:</b>	Maria Amparo, Ballester Pastor
<b><u>Context</u></b>	
<b>Issue at stake:</b>	The Spanish Government withdrew subsidies for university education in gender equality and subsidies to small businesses to promote equality between men and women
<b>Ground of discrimination:</b>	Sex
<b>Source:</b>	Policy development
<b>Field:</b>	Other
<b>Applicable law:</b>	Order of the Ministry of Finances of 20 July 2016

### Content

**Policy development:** On 1 February 2017, the Minister of Health, Social Services and Equality was asked to explain before the Senate of Spain why her Ministry had withdrawn its subsidies to promote gender equality which the Government had committed itself to in 2016. The subsidies were intended to be used for university education in gender equality, and to promote equality between men and women in small businesses. The minister did not give any justification for this withdrawal, and she did not commit herself to restore the grants. Spain has a large amount of small business which are not obliged to have equality plans, therefore the subventions were very important to promote equality at this level. However, the Ministry of Finance issued an order on 20 July 2016, which imposed the closure of the expenditure budget and operations with the objective of limiting public spending. The withdrawal of the subsidies had a great social impact and was the subject of discussion in the media.<sup>1</sup> For this reason, the Socialist Party called the Minister to appear before the Senate on 1 of February 2017.

**Key points of analysis:** The Government withdrawal of the subventions to promote equality between women and men intended to diminish public spending in 2016. The measure has been highly criticized since the measures to promote equality between women and men have been the first ones used to lower the public spending instead of other ones.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.europapress.es/epsocial/igualdad/noticia-psoe-tambien-pide-senado-recuperar-subsenciones-promover-igualdad-universidad-empresas-20170127115156.html>, accessed 22 February 2017. [http://www.eldiario.es/sociedad/ministra-Igualdad-explicaciones-suspension-igualdad\\_0\\_607889363.htm](http://www.eldiario.es/sociedad/ministra-Igualdad-explicaciones-suspension-igualdad_0_607889363.htm), accessed 22 February 2017. [http://cadenaser.com/ser/2017/01/23/sociedad/1485155927\\_383582.html](http://cadenaser.com/ser/2017/01/23/sociedad/1485155927_383582.html), accessed 22 February 2017.