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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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## **GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION (GEC)**


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**Summary information about events attended by  
GEC members, NFPs, Experts or Secretariat members**







Event	Date and venue	Participant	Agenda	Presentation (if applicable)	Feedback/Report
Time to Step Up – Nordic Gender & Media Forum	7 May 2014, Bergen, Norway	Camilla Landini, Equality Division	 preliminary program NGMF14 April 22 (2)	 Nordic Gender & Media Forum, Bergen	<p>The “Nordic Gender &amp; Media Forum- Time to Step up” was organised by NORDICOM which is a knowledge centre in the field of media and communications that operates under the auspices of the Nordic Council of Ministers.</p> <p>The forum was about sharing good gender equality practices, faced challenges and suggestions to move forward within the media sector in the Nordic countries. The conference brought together over sixty practitioners, researchers, activists and stakeholders within the media sector in the Nordic Countries and elsewhere. There were plenaries, thematic discussions and think tanks about leadership, storytelling, research and activism in films, journalism, advertising and computer games.</p> <p>The Gender and Media Forum provided the platform for very interesting discussions that inter alia showed both the similarities and the differences among Nordic countries.</p> <p>The Council of Europe activities in the field of Gender and Media were presented and promoted in the Forum.</p>

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					The outcomes and the recommendations of the Gender and Media Forum will be included in an anthology that will be presented in Vilnius on 4 December 2014.
Hemispheric Forum on The Belém do Pará Convention and the Prevention of Violence against Women: Good practices and proposals for the future	14-15 May 2014, Pachuca, Mexico	Carolina Lasén Diaz, Equality Division	 Programa esp corto Seminario PSVI. may	 Presentation Media and Prevention Istant	<p>The two-day event marked the 20th anniversary of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (the “Belem do Pará Convention”). This Hemispheric Forum focused on prevention of violence against women in three key fields: justice, education and communication/media. The Forum ended with the “Pachuca Declaration”, calling on governments to develop comprehensive national strategies to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women. The Forum stressed the need to integrate a gender-based approach in all sectors in order to address and re-set socio-economic practices that contribute to perpetuate violent behaviour. The Forum took stock of progress in the region regarding legislation, public policies, justice systems, and campaigns, among other issues, but also underlined that challenges remain and that the prevention of violence, and its monitoring, need to remain priorities.</p> <p>I presented the CoE standards and work on prevention of violence against women, with a particular focus on the Istanbul Convention and</p>



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					<p>the anti-trafficking Convention; the role of media as covered by the Conventions; the 2013 CM Recommendation on gender equality and media; and the main results of the CoE conference on “media and the image of women” (Amsterdam, July 2013). There was a lot of interest from participants about our work on gender equality and media and also its links with preventing and combating violence against women. There were also questions about possible accession to the Istanbul Convention by States Parties to the Belem do Pará Convention (Argentina, Mexico). In the field of justice, very interesting experiences from Mexico and Argentina were presented, as these countries have developed protocols and training to integrate a gender perspective in the work of the judiciary.</p>
European Commission Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities For Women and Men	22 May 2014, Brussels	Carolina Lasén Diaz, Equality Division	 Brussels 22.5.2014.pdf		<p>There was an exchange of information among European Commission officials, EU member states, IGOs and NGOs on ongoing and planned gender equality activities, including those carried out by the European Commission, the Greek and Italian EU Presidencies.</p> <p>The Commission presented the annual Progress Report on the implementation of the EU Strategy for equality between women and men 2010-2015, published in April 2014.</p>





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					<p>The Commission is preparing a review of the EU 2020 Strategy, to take stock of progress made at EU and member state level. The Advisory Committee agreed that it would be good to issue an opinion during this consultation, aimed at getting gender equality re-introduced in the Strategy, as it is currently missing.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the outline of a draft opinion on “Data collection on gender-based violence” and plans for the preparation of an opinion on “Gender equality in the EU in the 21st century: remaining challenges and priorities”. The CoE participates in the two working groups that are preparing these advisory opinions (to be adopted by the Committee in November 2014).</p>
Global Summit to end sexual violence in conflict	10-13 June, London	Carolina Lasén Diaz, Equality Division	 PROGRAMME London		<p>I represented the CoE at this global event in order to promote the Istanbul Convention as the main European standard for preventing and combating sexual violence in times of peace as well as in situations of armed conflict (we were not invited to participate in any of the panels so interventions were made from the floor). The meeting gathered around 1200 delegates from 123 countries, with a very strong participation of African countries and civil society organisations (and little European presence).</p> <p>Links with the OAS were strengthened: the</p>





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					Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission for Women of the OAS – Ms Carmen Romero - chaired a panel on “The role of regional and multilateral institutions in supporting states to address sexual violence in conflict”. She referred to the Istanbul Convention and its imminent entry into force (which she had also done at the opening plenary).
6th IWG World Conference on Women and Sport Parallel session by the Council of Europe Sport without fear – our concern, our response	12-15 June, Helsinki	Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele, Head of the Equality Division	 6th world conference women and sport.pdf	<a href="#">Link to event website and presentations</a>	Oral presentation
2014 OSCE-Japan Conference Sharing experiences and lessons learned between the OSCE and Asian partners for co-operation in order to create a safer, more interconnected and fairer world in the face of emerging challenges	16-17 June 2014, Tokyo, Japan	Sergiy Kyslytsya, Acting Chair and Ukraine GEC member		 OSCE Conference Tokyo.doc	Oral presentation




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Intervention at the XII Baku International Conference of Ombudsmen on “The role of National Human Rights Institutions in ensuring the rights of women”	18-20 June 2014, Baku, Azerbaijan	Raluca Popa, Equality Division	 Programme_XIIBaku ConfOmbuds.pdf	 Ombudsman Conference, Baku	<p>The XII Baku International Conference of Ombudsmen focused on the role of national human rights institutions in ensuring the rights of women and brought together Ombudspersons mostly from countries that have not yet signed the Istanbul Convention (Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation, and the Republic of Moldova, while Georgia signed while the conference was taking place). Therefore, it was deemed important to present the Istanbul Convention to this audience and encourage these member states to sign and ratify the treaty. Raluca Popa presented the Istanbul Convention to an audience of about 100 participant ombudspersons and other officials, and emphasized that national human rights institutions have an important role to play at all stages, from signature to ratification to implementation of the Istanbul Convention. Awareness was raised on the very existence of the Istanbul Convention, as well as on its relevance and importance for the work of national human rights institutions. The conference was organised under the auspices of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. It ended with the adoption of the draft Baku Declaration of Ombudspersons.</p> <p>Co-operation was strengthened with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights,</p>






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					Section for National Human Rights Institutions and Regional Mechanisms. Ms Shahidzadeh, Deputy Chief of the section extended an invitation for the Council of Europe to present the Istanbul Convention at the next global meeting of national human rights institutions to take place in March 2015, in Geneva.
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) General discussion on Girls' and Women's Right to Education	7 July 2014, Geneva	Camilla Landini, Equality Division	 CEDAW programme	 Contribution Council of Europe Equality Di	<p>The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women held a half-day general discussion on Girls' and Women's Right to Education, on the occasion of its 58<sup>th</sup> session (30 June- 18 July 2014- Geneva). The aim of the half-day general discussion was to commence the Committee's process of elaborating a "General Recommendation on Girls'/Women's Right to Education". The aim of the general recommendation is to provide appropriate and authoritative guidance to State parties to the Convention on the measures to be adopted, with a view to ensuring full compliance with their obligations under article 10 of the Convention to respect, protect and fulfil the right of women and girls to education.</p> <p>The Council of Europe provided written contributions to the concept note on the draft "General Recommendation on Girls'/Women's Right to Education" (currently uploaded on the website of the event:</p>

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					<p><a href="http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/Womensrighttoeducation.aspx">http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/Womensrighttoeducation.aspx</a>).</p> <p>In the course of the general discussion, following the introduction and the interventions of keynote speakers, oral statements were made by 23 stakeholders, including international NGOs, UNAIDS and 9 permanent missions. The permanent missions of Council of Europe member states presenting the oral statements were those of France, Slovenia and Malta.</p>
OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference	10-11 July, Vienna	Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele, Head of Equality Division	 PROGRAMME Vienna	 OSCE_Vienna	Oral presentation
OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Conference	22 September – 3 October, Warsaw	Hanna Machinska – Head of the Council of Europe Warsaw Office  Sergiy Kyslytsya, Acting Chair and Ukraine GEC member	Working Session 7: Tolerance and non-discrimination  Working Session 8: Violence against women and children	 <b>OSCE HDMI Gender Equality fact sheet</b>   Chair_GEC Warsaw.doc	

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<p>“Gender Matters? Gender Matters!”, a study session on the Istanbul Convention organised by the European Youth Centre in Budapest in cooperation with the Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Cross-Cultural Dialogue.</p>	<p>7 October, Budapest</p>	<p>Paula Krol, Equality Division</p>	 Programme Budapest.pdf	 Presentation KROL_Budapest_focu	<p>The study session focused on the work of the Council of Europe in the field of gender-based violence. The Istanbul Convention was presented to an audience of 40 participants, including students, youth workers and youth leaders mainly from Euro-Mediterranean countries, including participants from Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia. Awareness was raised of the content of the Convention, and the role of youth and youth organisations in preventing violence was addressed through an interactive presentation and Q&amp;A. Participants then acted out the different forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention, exploring different scenarios and measures youth workers can implement in order to prevent violence.</p>
<p>Workshop on enhancing cooperation between United Nations and regional mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights</p>	<p>8-9 October, Geneva</p>	<p>Raluca Popa, Equality Division</p>	 RHRM Workshop 19.6.2014  <a href="http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/NHR/Pages/Cooperation.aspx">http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/NHR/Pages/Cooperation.aspx</a>	 RPopa_OHCHR_Geneva9Oct_short.pdf	<p>This was the fourth biennial workshop on enhancing co-operation between the United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms (RHRMs). It was held at the request of the Human Rights Council and was to take stock of developments since the workshop in 2012. The specific objective was to develop concrete proposals of co-operation between UN and RHRMs in promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights including economic, social and cultural rights of persons with disabilities and women. The Council of Europe was represented by a large delegation, including the President of the European Committee of Social Rights, Prof Luis Jimena. The workshop was attended by approx. 100 representatives of RHRMs and observers, including high representation by African regional and sub-regional courts and a large ASEAN delegation. The Istanbul Convention was presented to this audience, at a High-</p>

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					<p>level panel on women's rights.</p> <p>Concrete follow-up activities were identified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council of Europe was invited to present the Istanbul Convention as a case study for the development of regional norms and standards on women's rights at an upcoming workshop for RHRMs in Bangkok, 17-18 November, in view of ongoing discussions at the level of ASEAN on the feasibility of drafting a regional instrument to prevent and combat violence against women.</li> <li>- Council of Europe was invited to present the Istanbul Convention and speak about the possible involvement of National Human Rights Institutions in its monitoring and implementation at their upcoming global meeting, 11-13 March 2015.</li> </ul>
La présence des femmes dans l'industrie cinématographique européenne	13 October, Strasbourg	Carolina Lasén Diaz, Equality Division	 <p>programme 13 octobre_rev_2014_0</p>	 <p>General_presentation_Eurimages_131014</p>	The meeting gathered experts from Eurimages and professionals from the film industry to discuss the presence and situation of women in the industry and the use of positive measures to promote a greater participation and representation of women.
1st European Congress on the Evaluation of Programmes for Perpetrators of Domestic Violence	21 October, Barcelona	Raluca Popa, Equality Division	<a href="#">Link to agenda</a>	 <p>RPopa_Barcelona_21 Oct-final.pdf</p>	The congress was the closing event for the project " <a href="#">Evaluation of European Perpetrator Programmes (IMPACT)</a> ", which explored current practices of evaluation of perpetrator programmes in Europe. The project team included: Dissens e.V., (Berlin, Germany) as co-ordination; Askovgaarden (Copenhagen, Denmark); CONEXUS (Barcelona, Spain); Men's Counselling Centre (Graz, Austria); RESPECT (London, United Kingdom); University of Bristol (United Kingdom); and WAVE (Vienna, Austria). The congress brought together about 120 researchers and

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					<p>practitioners in the field, many of whom are currently networked in a new European Network for Work with Perpetrators of domestic violence (WWPN). The Council of Europe participated and gave the keynote speech on the "Istanbul Convention as the new European standard for setting up domestic and sexual violence perpetrator programmes".</p> <p>The meeting was very productive to consolidate contacts between the Council of Europe and experts in the field of preventing and combating violence against women.</p>
High Level EU Presidency Conference on the Beijing Platform for Action in collaboration with the European Commission	23-24 October, Rome	Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele, Head of the Equality Division	 High level EU Pres Conference on BPfA		Oral presentation
UNECE Beijing+20 Regional Review Meeting	6-7 November, Geneva	Carolina Lasén Diaz, Equality Division	 <b>Agenda Geneva 6-7 November.pdf</b>	 slides_Geneva_0711 14.ppt	<p>The meeting was attended by more than 500 participants (according to the organisers), including high-level officials on gender equality, representatives from regional and international organisations, NGOs and other experts. Participation and contribution to the event provided very good visibility and recognition of the standards, work and activities of the Council of Europe in the area of gender equality and in particular in the areas of violence against women and women's access to justice.</p>