



The Spring session of the Conference of INGOs is fast approaching

Our **three thematic committees** will have a very challenging and stimulating programme during the spring session.

We will also have a **working session on digital civic space**. As you know, the development of digital technologies, the use of artificial intelligence versus ethical and human rights standards constitutes a priority of the Secretary General, the Commissioner for Human Rights and other bodies. To contribute to this work, the Conference of INGOs will look more specifically at how the development of new technologies impacts the enabling environment for INGOs and their fundamental rights. We cannot contribute to that without knowing your experiences and practices. In order to prepare this discussion, we kindly ask you to share your experience with us through this [survey](#).

During the working session, we will have the pleasure in welcoming Council of Europe representatives and other experts and with their facilitation we will draft recommendations for further developments by the Council of Europe and the Conference of INGOs.



Another important discussion will be held concerning the implementation and ratification of the **Istanbul Convention**. As you know, this important legal instrument is misinterpreted and provokes backlashes in some member states. Your organisation should help to disseminate the right information ([Questions and answers about the Istanbul Convention](#)). The Council of Europe is waiting for your feedback on challenges and recommendations to assist the member states in the ratification and implementation of this important instrument.

Two side events will take place: **Freedom of religion, Belief and LGBTI Rights** (9 April) and **Migration: Obligation or offence of solidarity** (11 April)

Last but not least, we will have the honour and pleasure to meet the **candidates for the election of the next Secretary General**. All four candidates are invited for an exchange of views with you on Wednesday, 10 April 2019 from 17.00 to 18.00.

Please do not forget to [register](#) for the **dinner of INGOs!** The informal environment will help us to get to know each other better. The general agenda is available [online](#) and is updated until the end of preparations.

Looking forward to meeting you