

Sexist Hate Speech – a violation of women’s human rights

” Of all the evils for which man has made himself responsible, none is so degrading, so shocking or so brutal as his abuse of the better half of humanity; the female sex.”

Mahatma Gandhi

Sexist hate speech is one form of expression of sexism. It is rampant in Europe and beyond and disproportionately targets women. Sexist hate speech takes many forms both online and offline, including victim blaming and re-victimisation; “slut-shaming”; body-shaming; “revenge porn”; brutal and sexualised threats of death, rape and violence; offensive comments on appearance, sexuality, sexual orientation or gender roles; false compliments or so-called jokes to humiliate and ridicule the target. Sexist hate speech is a form of violence against women and girls that perpetuates and exacerbates gender inequality. It undermines freedom of speech for women and girls, and has serious and severe emotional and/or physical effects on its targets.

You are invited to join a side event to discuss the causes and forms of sexist hate speech, its targets, impact and measures needed to curb it. Organised by the Council of Europe and the Permanent Missions of Cyprus, Bulgaria, Belgium, Andorra and Liechtenstein to the United Nations on the occasion of the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the side event aims at raising awareness and knowledge of the Council of Europe standards and action to tackle sexist hate speech, to encourage a debate on the issue, and strengthen partnerships to increase the impact of the work and efforts in this area.

THE PANEL CONSISTS OF:

- ▶ **Eva Fehringer**, Chair of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Commission
- ▶ **Mary Papadopoulos**, President of the Cyprus Federation of Business and Professional Women
- ▶ **Isabelle Simonis**, Minister of Adult Learning, Youth, Women’s Rights and Equal Opportunities, French Community of Belgium
- ▶ **Carmen Moreno**, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission of Women, Organization of American States (OAS)
- ▶ **Geneveva Tisheva**, Managing Director, Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation, Chair of the Alliance for Protection from Gender-Based Violence

Moderator:

Marja Ruotanen, Director of Human Dignity and Equality, Council of Europe



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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Date: 14 March 2017

Time: 3.00 - 4.15 pm

Venue: Conference Room A, UN HQ,
New York

Contacts:

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