

Bratislava conference promotes Council of Europe Convention as tool to combat violence against women and domestic violence

Strasbourg, 25.11.2011 – Bringing together high-level government representatives, experts, international organisations, NGOs and the media, the conference organised on 29 November in Bratislava will take as its starting point the [Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence](#), deciding how to best spread awareness of its existence and added value, and encourage countries to sign and ratify it. The conference will also launch the [Norway Grants](#)’ support to combat domestic and gender-based violence in around 10 countries.

Preventing violence, protecting victims and prosecuting the perpetrators are the cornerstones of the Convention. It also seeks to change the hearts and minds of individuals by calling on all members of society, in particular men and boys, to change attitudes. It aims at zero tolerance for violence against women and domestic violence.

Slovak Justice Minister Lucia Žitňanská and Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General Maud de Boer-Buquicchio will open the conference, along with the Slovak Deputy Prime Minister for Human Rights and National Minorities Rudolf Chmel, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women Rashida Manjoo, and the State Secretary of the Norwegian Justice and Police Ministry Astri Aas-Hansen.

The conference, which is **open to the press**, is co-organised by the Council of Europe, the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic and the Norway Grants.

A **press conference** is scheduled **from 11.00 to 11.30 am on Tuesday 29 November** (Radisson Blu Carlton Hotel, Bratislava).

[Additional information and programme of the conference](#)

Press contacts:

Slovak Justice Ministry:

Lenka Skorpilova, Head of the Press and Information Department, tel. +421 2 5935 3513/ +421 915 839 520, lenka.skorpilova@justice.sk

Council of Europe:

Can Fisek, Media Officer, tel. +33 3 88 41 30 41, mobile +33 6 75 65 03 41, can.fisek@coe.int

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

Christian Grotnes Halvorsen, Press and Information Officer, tel. +47 23 950 523, mobile +47 48 153 748, Christian.Grotnes.Halvorsen@mfa.no