



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONFERENCE DES OING DU
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

CONF/GEE(2014)RAPACT

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Priority 2013 & 2014

Our main priority has been the ratification of the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, also referred to as the Istanbul Convention, adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2011.

“It is the first legally binding instrument in the world creating a comprehensive legal framework to prevent violence, to protect victims and to end with the impunity of perpetrators. It defines and criminalises various forms of violence against women – including forced marriage, female genital mutilation, stalking, physical and psychological violence and sexual violence.” (CoE press release, April 2011)

Good news!

The Istanbul Convention has been ratified on 1 August 2014.

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/default_en.asp

Main Activities 2014

- 1) PowerPoint presentation at the Conference of INGOs January session on “Highlights of gender equality activities 2013 and priorities 2014”.

http://www.coe.int/t/ngo/conf_tg_gen_en.asp

- 2) Round table organised by the Conference of INGOs during the June session on “Gender perspectives – Peace and Security: including gender perspectives in conflict resolution and peace building.

<http://www.coe.int/t/ngo>

<http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/XRef/X2H-DW-XSL.asp?fileid=17233&lang=en>

- 3) Working Group on preventing and combating violence against women, domestic violence and trafficking in human beings of the INGO Conference.

- Lobby activities such as: writing letters to governments to promote the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and to discuss the importance of the ratification with Members of Parliament at a national and international level;
- Exchange of views on preventing trafficking in human beings;
- Exchange of views on different prostitution policies in the member States especially Sweden, France, Germany and the Netherlands.

http://www.coe.int/t/ngo/Articles/Working_group_HR_violence_women_en.asp

- 4) Freely Constituted Equality Group of the INGO Conference

- Exchange of views on gender equality;

- Lobbied for gender equality and parity by talking with members of the Parliamentary Assembly and drafting amendments for their reports;
- Worked together with the Working Group on preventing and combating violence against women, domestic violence and trafficking in human beings.

5) Working Group Gender perspectives in political and democratic processes

- Endorsed the round table organized by the INGO Conference during the June session on “Gender perspectives – Peace and Security: including gender perspectives in conflict resolution and peace building;
- Lobbied for gender equality for women in the Mediterranean - North African (MENA) Region.

<http://democracy-cingos.weebly.com/democratic-gender-perspectives.html>

6) Participated in the Parliamentary Network women free from violence.

- Worked together especially on the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

<http://assembly.coe.int/nw/Committees/as-ega/as-ega-main-EN.asp>

7) Gender Equality Commission (GEC) Advisory Commission to the Committee of Ministers. (Represented the INGO Conference as a participant).

The Gender Equality Commission (GEC) was established in 2012 to help ensure the mainstreaming of gender equality into all Council of Europe policies and to bridge the gap between commitments made at international level and the reality of women in Europe.

Major subjects 2014:

a) Media & the image of women

CoE Publication: “gender equality and the media at national level; compilations of good practices”

b) The ratification and entry into force of the Istanbul Convention

CoE Publication: “Domestic and sexual violence perpetrator programmes: article 16 of the Istanbul Convention

CoE Publication: “Council of Europe gender equality strategy 2014-2017”

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/equality/02_genderequalityprogramme/gec/index_EN.asp

Quadrilogue

In conclusion, the cooperation within the quadrilogue has been effective. A good example is the promotion of the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. Without the cooperation within the quadrilogue and the pressure of INGOs it would have taken much longer to implement this Convention and to diminish violence against women and domestic violence as soon as possible.

End of term

Hereby I thank everybody with whom I have had the pleasure to work with during this 3-years period!