

GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION

” Towards guaranteeing
equal access of
women to justice

Conference organised by the Council of Europe
in partnership with the Swiss Federal Office
for Gender Equality (FOGE)

PROGRAMME
15-16 October 2015
Kursaal Congress Centre
Kornhausstrasse 3
Bern, Switzerland



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Federal Office for Gender Equality FOGE

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2015

8:15 – 9 a.m. Registration of participants

Opening Session – Moderator: Kira Appel (Vice-Chairperson of the Gender Equality Commission, Denmark)

9 – 9:40 a.m. Opening remarks by:

- ▶ **Alain Berset**, Head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs, Switzerland
- ▶ **Snežana Samardžić-Marković**, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe

Session 1 – Setting the scene: women’s access to justice in Europe

Moderator: Kira Appel (Vice-Chairperson of the Gender Equality Commission, Denmark)

9:40 – 10 a.m. Keynote speech: Access to justice in Europe
Françoise Tulkens, Member of the Scientific Committee of the EU’s Fundamental Rights Agency, former Judge and Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights

10 – 10:20 a.m. Guaranteeing women’s access to justice: how to meet this challenge?
François Paychère, President of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) Working Group on quality of justice, Council of Europe

Session 2 – Standards on women’s access to justice: progress and challenges

Moderator: Antje Wunderlich (Member of the Gender Equality Commission, Germany)

10:20 – 10:40 a.m. The European Convention on Human Rights: the case law of the Court
Helen Keller, Judge, European Court of Human Rights

10:40 – 11 a.m. The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
Feride Acar, Professor of Political Science and Gender and Women’s Studies, and President of GREVIO

11 – 11:20 a.m. CEDAW’s General Recommendation on Women’s Access to Justice
Patricia Schulz, Member of CEDAW

11:20 – 11:40 a.m. Discussion

11:40 a.m. – 12 p.m. Coffee (& networking) break

Session 3 – Barriers to women’s equal access to justice

Moderator: Charles de Vries (Member of the Gender Equality Commission, the Netherlands)

12 – 12:20 p.m. Tackling judicial stereotyping
Veronica Birga, Chief, Women’s Human Rights and Gender Section, Research and Right to Development Division, Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights

12:20 – 12:40 p.m. Tackling discrimination
Judith Wyttenbach, Professor of Swiss constitutional and public international law, Faculty of Law of University of Bern, Vice-President of the Swiss Federal Commission for Women’s Issues

12:40 – 1 p.m. Discussion

1 – 2:30 p.m. Lunch break

2:30 – 2:50 p.m. Legal and procedural barriers
Jackie Jones, President, European Women Lawyers Association

- 2:50 – 3:10 p.m.** Socio-economic and cultural barriers: the work of Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) on access to justice for undocumented women
Rian Ederveen, *Stichting LOS*, Member of PICUM, the Netherlands
- 3:10 – 3:30 p.m.** Discussion
- 3:30 – 3:50 p.m.** Coffee (& networking) break

Session 4 – Good policies and practices to facilitate women’s access to justice

Moderator: Lise Østby (Member of the Gender Equality Commission, Norway)

- 3:50 – 5:30 p.m.**
- ▶ **Eva Fehringer**, Deputy Head, International and European Social Policy and Labour Law, Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, Austria
 - ▶ **Liesbet Stevens**, Deputy Director, Institute for Equality of Women and Men, Belgium
 - ▶ **Ioanna Pilavaki**, Research Fellow, Gender Equality Committee in Employment and Vocational Training, Cyprus
 - ▶ **Marta Silva**, Head, Gender-based and Domestic Violence Unit, Portugal
 - ▶ **Aner Voloder**, Lawyer, Office for Gender Equality of the Municipality of Zurich, Switzerland
- 5:30 – 6 p.m.** Discussion

Reception offered by the Swiss authorities

FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 2015

Session 5 – Tools to improve women’s access to justice: the work of other international organisations

Moderator: Käthlin Sander (Member of the Gender Equality Commission, Estonia)

- 9 – 9:20 a.m.** Indicators to measure women’s access to justice
Teresa Marchiori, Consultant, UN Women
- 9:20 – 9:40 a.m.** The work of the Organization of American States to promote women’s access to justice: judicial training
Gabriela Pastorino, Head, Training Unit, Women’s Office of the Supreme Court, Argentina, representative of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
- 9:40 – 10 a.m.** Discussion

Session 6 – The role of national equality and human rights bodies and civil society in promoting women’s access to justice

Moderator: Dragan Knezevic (Member of the Gender Equality Commission, Serbia)

- 10 – 10:20 a.m.** The role of equality bodies in supporting women’s access to justice
Jessica Machacova, Project Officer, European Network of Equality Bodies (Equinet)
- 10:20 – 10:40 a.m.** Building the capacity of young lawyers to protect women’s rights
Genoveva Tisheva, Director, Women’s Human Rights Training Institute, Bulgaria
- 10:40 – 11:00 a.m.** The role of civil society in supporting women’s access to justice
Monica Roa, Vice-President, Strategy and External Relations, Women’s Link Worldwide, Spain
- 11 – 11:20 a.m.** Discussion
- 11:20 – 11:40 a.m.** Coffee (& networking) break

Closing session – Moderator: Kira Appel (Vice-Chairperson of the Gender Equality Commission, Denmark)

11:40 a.m. – 12 p.m. Conclusions and recommendations
Doina Ioana Străisteanu, General Rapporteur

12 – 12:30 pm Closing remarks by:

- ▶ **Sylvie Durrer**, Director Swiss Federal Office for Gender Equality
- ▶ **Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele**, Head, Equality Division, Directorate of Human Dignity and Equality, Council of Europe

www.coe.int/equality

www.coe.int

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE