

## Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

### Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence

#### Terms of Reference<sup>1</sup>

1. The Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence (“the Network”) was established under the auspices of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, following the Council of Europe campaign “Stop domestic violence against women” in 2006.

#### Aim of the Network

2. In accordance with [Resolution 1512 \(2006\)](#) “Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women”, it is the task of the Network to facilitate co-operation between national parliaments aimed at ending violence against women and domestic violence throughout the continent, and at promoting the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

#### Composition of the Network

3. The Network is composed of:

3.1. In respect of Council of Europe member States: each national delegation appoints members from each parliamentary chamber;

3.2. In respect of the parliaments with Observer or Partner for Democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: for each unicameral parliament, one member of parliament, appointed by the national parliament; for each for bicameral parliament, one member of each chamber of the parliament, appointed by their chamber.

4. The members of the Bureau of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination are *ex officio* members of the Network.

5. The Network may invite members of other similar interparliamentary networks to participate in its work.

#### Working methods of the Network

6. All members of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination are entitled to attend the meetings of the Network.

7. The working languages of the Network are English and French.

8. The Network is co-ordinated and its meetings chaired by the General Rapporteur on violence against women. In the absence of the General Rapporteur, a meeting of the Network may exceptionally be chaired by a member of the Bureau of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, or, in their absence, by the oldest member present.

9. The Network shall submit to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, for approval and transmission to the Bureau of the Assembly any decisions that may have consequences for the ordinary budget of the Assembly.

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted by the Committee on 29 January 2025 and approved by the Bureau on 31 January 2025.

10. Except where alternative arrangements are expressly made, the costs of participation of members of the Network in its events shall be borne by their national parliaments.

11. In fulfilling its task set out in paragraph 1 of these terms of reference, the Network shall be inspired by the European Convention on Human Rights, the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), and other relevant international and European treaties, texts adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly, as well as by other relevant international declarations and reports relevant to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence.

12. The Network may co-operate with parliamentarians and national parliaments outside of Europe, as well as with parliamentary networks and regional and international parliamentary assemblies.

13. The dissolution of the Network shall be subject to a decision of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and to the latter's approval by the Bureau.