



# Work of the Council of Europe on protecting the human rights of migrant, refugee and asylum seeking women and girls

## Athens, 3rd October 2018

Cécile Gréboval, Programme Manager, Gender Mainstreaming Gender Equality Division

# Gender equality at the Council of Europe

- ✓ Gender equality: an **important policy area** of the Council of Europe
- ✓ **Conventions** and Committee of Ministers **Recommendations**
- ✓ Gender Equality **Strategy 2018-2023**
- ✓ **Cooperation** activities

# Protecting the human rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls

- ✓ New **strategic objective**
- ✓ Support the **implementation of existing standards**
- ✓ Support the implementation of **gender-specific measures** to prevent these women from falling victim to any forms of violence
- ✓ Mainstream gender equality in all **integration policies and measures**

# The Istanbul Convention

- ✓ Covers different forms of **gender-based violence**
- ✓ To be implemented **without discrimination** on the ground of migrant status, refugee status or other status
- ✓ **Residence Status** (Article 59)
  - Possibility of granting an **autonomous residence permit** in the event of dissolution of marriage or relationship when the status of the woman depends on that of the spouse
  - **Suspension of eviction proceedings** to allow women to apply for a residence permit

# The Istanbul Convention

## ✓ **Gender-based asylum claims** (Article 60)

- gender-based violence against women may to be recognised **as a form of persecution**
- Develop **gender-sensitive reception procedures** and support services/facilities for asylum seekers and **gender-sensitive asylum procedures**

## ✓ **Non-refoulement** (Article 61)

Ensure that women victims of violence in need of protection, **regardless of their status or residence**, are not returned to any country where their life would be at risk

## Other Council of Europe instruments

- ✓ Convention on Action against **Trafficking in Human Beings**
- ✓ The **Lanzarote Convention**
- ✓ Committee of Ministers **Recommendations**
  
- ✓ **Secretary General Representative on Migration and Refugees**
  - Gather information on how the fundamental rights of migrants and refugees are **protected on the ground**
  - Develop **proposals** for action at national and European level
  - Focus on improving the situation of refugee and migrant **children**

## Conclusions

- ✓ **Implement** existing standards on GE
- ✓ Improve/adopt legislation on **GE in countries of origin**
- ✓ Ratify & implement the **Istanbul Convention**
- ✓ **Gender-sensitive** asylum, migration and integration policies
- ✓ **Empower** migrant, refugee and asylum seeking women and girls
- ✓ **Support women's organisations** working on these issues

[cecile.greboval@coe.int](mailto:cecile.greboval@coe.int)

[www.coe.int/conventionviolence](http://www.coe.int/conventionviolence)

[www.coe.int/equality](http://www.coe.int/equality)

