

November 2025

The Committee “NGOs as advocates for gender equality and women’s rights” invites to the webinar:

“Empowering Working Mothers”

Advancing Recognition and Overcoming Workplace Challenges: *What prevents women from having the free choice to found a family and work? What are the Challenges young women face when they decide to have children?* This webinar tells the story of mothers—exploring the ‘concept of maternal mobbing’, analysing best practices for work-life balances from Italy and Austria and understanding that motherhood is not a cost but an investment in our society.

Date: **Thursday 13 November 2025, 18:00-19:00 pm**

Please find the zoom link for the webinar [here](#).

With the experts:

1. Elena Bonetti, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, (Italy, ALDE) and Member of *WOMEN@PACE*
2. Judith Tscheppe, Vice-President of the *Catholic Austrian Family Association (KFÖ)*
3. Stephanie Helsmoortel, Representing *Femina Europa*
4. Vincenzo Bassi, President of the *Federation of Catholic Family Associations in Europe (FAFCE)*

Description: Across Europe today, women continue to face discrimination, career stagnation, and systemic challenges simply because they are mothers or wish to become mothers. This webinar is an opportunity to examine both the legal frameworks that support working mothers and the practical steps needed to enforce them effectively. It will bring together policymakers, civil society, politicians, and advocates to discuss how Europe can move to a long-term solution.

Content: Women need policies that work for them, not against them. It is crucial for our society to adapt to the needs of mothers, both through a flexible labour policy and a comprehensive family policy. In the long run, approaching family work-life balance in terms of investment is the solution to finally consider motherhood as a benefit and not a cost for society.

During the webinar concrete solutions and best practices from Italy and Austria will be explained, such as parental leave, rest periods, breastfeeding time, accessible childcare facilities, and protection from maternity-based discrimination.

By supporting working mothers, we are not only protecting individual rights—we are investing in a more solidary, long-term, and sustainable society for all.