Terms of reference of the General Rapporteur on violence against women[1]

Denomination: General Rapporteur on violence against women.

Term of office: two years, renewable a maximum of once (Rule 50.7 of the Rules of Procedure).

Mandate: it is the duty of the General Rapporteur on violence against women to intervene in the area of violence against women, in all its different forms, including domestic violence, particularly as regards the prevention of violence against women, protection of and assistance to victims, prosecution of the perpetrators and integrated policies.

Responsibilities: the General Rapporteur contributes to raising awareness on the phenomenon of violence against women, following relevant developments in Council of Europe member states and promoting the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention). He or she shall report periodically to the Committee on the information collected and the action taken.

The General Rapporteur on violence against women also ensures the co-ordination of the PACE Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence.

In addition, the role of the General Rapporteur is to:

- follow activities and maintain working relations with relevant Council of Europe bodies dealing with violence against women, including those which may be set up in this context;
- follow activities and maintain working relations with external bodies and institutions active in the same area, be they governmental or non-governmental organisations;
- represent the Committee on behalf of the Assembly vis-à-vis the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention;
- follow up the relevant Assembly resolutions, in particular Resolution 2514 (2023) "Preventing and combating violence against women with disabilities", Resolution 2490 (2023) "Innovative approaches to sexual and reproductive health and rights", Resolution 2481 (2023) "Finding solutions for marital captivity", Resolution 2480 (2023) "The role of men and boys in stopping gender-based violence", Resolution 2479 (2023) and Recommendation 2247 (2023) "The Istanbul Convention: progress and challenges", Resolution 2476 (2023) "Conflict-related sexual violence", Resolution 2465 (2022) "The fight for a level playing field – Ending discrimination against women in the world of sport", Resolution 2450 (2022) "Justice and security for women in peace reconciliation", Resolution 2439 (2022) "Access to abortion in Europe: stopping anti-choice harassment", Resolution 2395 (2021) "Strengthening the fight against so-called "honour" crimes", Resolution 2306 (2019) "Obstetrical and gynaecological violence", Resolution 2289 (2019) "The Istanbul Convention on violence against women: achievements and challenges", Resolution 2274 (2019) and Recommendation 2152 (2019) "Promoting parliaments free of sexism and sexual harassment", Resolution 2233 (2018) "Forced marriage in Europe", Resolution 2177 (2017) "Putting an end to sexual violence and harassment of women in public space" and Resolution 2159 (2017) "Protecting refugee women from gender-based violence".

[1] Approved by the Standing Committee on 9 March 2012; revised by the Parliamentary Assembly on 8 April 2025.