

BIOGRAPHY

Ms Kostopoulou has an extensive knowledge of and experience with the European human rights protection system, including the European Convention on Human Rights, the relevant case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Her field of expertise covers especially children's rights, gender equality and prohibition of discrimination, family law, violence against children and women, domestic violence, custody rights and access to justice.

She is the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Council of Europe for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF) and the Chairperson of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Responses to Violence against Children (CAHENF-VAC). In these capacities, she has participated in the work of the PACE and has represented the CAHENF to several CoE bodies and Committees (CDDH, CDDH-MF, CDDH-MIG, CDCJ, CDPC, CDCT, DH-BIO, PC-CP, CJ-DAM, etc.) by actively contributing to their work and activities. She is also member of the Greek delegation to the Lanzarote Committee (Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse).

She is an independent consultant of the Council of Europe in family law, a member of the Consultative Board of the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP), the Info Point for the Athens Bar Association and a certified national tutor in human rights training by the CoE. She has participated in several Council of Europe missions and has been a rapporteur, keynote speaker or lecturer in several conferences, seminars, roundtables and training events in human rights protection organised by international, European or national actors and entities.

As an Attorney at Law at the Greek Court of Cassation she has acquired experience in areas such as civil and criminal aspects of domestic violence, custody of children, visiting rights and sexual violence. During her studies (four Masters' degrees and a PhD thesis-expected in 2019) she carried out extensive research and acquired a solid legal background (comparative, European and international perspective) in fields such as family law and human rights, anti-discrimination standards and gender equality, domestic violence, child marriages and forced marriages.