

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE



Regional Conference
of the PGG Project
“Strengthening Access
to Justice for Women
Victims of Violence
in the Six Eastern
Partnership Countries”

PROGRAMME

18-19 October 2018

Council of Europe, Palais de l'Europe (Room 3)
Strasbourg, France

Partnership for Good Governance



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9.00 - 10.15 am – Opening Plenary

Welcome remarks:

- ▶ **Caterina Bolognese**, Head of the Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe
- ▶ **Sergey Arakelyan**, Rector, Academy of Justice, Armenia
- ▶ **Elchin Khalafov**, Rector, Academy of Justice, Azerbaijan
- ▶ **Ketevan Sarajishvili**, Head of Public International Law Department, Ministry of Justice of Georgia; Interagency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
- ▶ **Diana Scobioala**, Director, National Institute of Justice, Republic of Moldova
- ▶ **Nataliia Shuklina**, Vice Rector, National School of Judges, Ukraine
- ▶ **Georgii Popov**, Director, Institute for Scientific Research, National Prosecution Academy, Ukraine
- ▶ **Vladimir Moroz**, Deputy Director, Institute for retraining and qualification upgrading of judges, prosecutors and legal professionals, Belarus

10.15 - 10.30 am – Introduction of the General Rapporteur of the Conference and the methodologies to be used

- ▶ **Louise Hooper**, General Rapporteur for the Regional Conference on Access to Justice for Women Victims of Violence
- ▶ **Anca Sandescu**, Project Manager, PGG Access to Justice for Women Victims of Violence, Council of Europe

10.30 am – Coffee break

11.15 - 1.00 pm – Session 1: Women's access to justice and the standards of the Istanbul Convention

This session will raise awareness on the Istanbul Convention standards with a focus on access to justice for women victims of violence. Additionally, several national experiences related to the justice system and its responsiveness towards victims of violence against women will be presented.

Moderator: Marta Becerra, Head of Capacity Building and Co-operation Projects, Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe

- ▶ **Johanna Nelles**, Administrator, GREVIO Secretariat, Council of Europe
- ▶ **Bianca Boji-Tahvanainen**, Senior Case-Lawyer and Legal Training Co-ordinator, Registry of the European Court of Human Rights, Council of Europe
- ▶ **Maria Eugenia Prendes**, Prosecutor, Office of the Specialised Prosecutor on Violence against Women, Spain
- ▶ **Emma Ravald**, Gender Specialist at the District Court of Västmanland, Sweden - *Pilot project on gender mainstreaming in the judiciary*

1.00 pm – Lunch Break in the Blue Restaurant, Palais de l'Europe

2.30 - 4.00 pm – Session 2: The road so far: taking stock of the progress made on Women's Access to Justice in the six Eastern Partnership countries and beyond

This session will concentrate on the concrete approaches and results of projects from 2015 to 2018 affecting women's access to justice. It will also allow each partner country to present what is the progress on women's access to justice made so far.

Moderator: Elisabeth Duban, Gender Specialist, United Kingdom

- ▶ *Representatives of legal training institutes in each Eastern Partnership country*
- ▶ **Lauri Sivonen**, Adviser on gender equality and women's rights within the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe
- ▶ **Christel Schurrer**, Secretary of the Working Group on Evaluation of Judicial Systems, the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), Council of Europe
- ▶ **Sandra Velay-Mateu**, Project Officer, Access for Roma and Travellers women to justice programme (JUSTROM), Council of Europe
- ▶ **Bozhena Malanchuk**, Project Co-ordinator, Continued Support to the Criminal Justice Reform in Ukraine, Council of Europe and **Olena Sinchuk**, Deputy Director, Co-ordination Centre for Legal Aid Provision, Ukraine
- ▶ **Rita Marascalchi**, Project Co-ordination, Support to Legal Aid reforms in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Council Of Europe

4.00 pm – Coffee break

4.30 - 6.00 pm – Session 3: Tools to improve Women's Access to Justice

This 'Meet the author' session will allow participants to explore the tools developed during the four years of the successive projects on women's access to justice and other actions specifically dealing with combating violence against women. It will also allow participants to reflect critically and constructively on how these tools enhance/strengthen their work and enhance overall women's access to justice.

Moderator: Sara Haapalainen, Policy Advisor, Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe

- ▶ **Ana Medarska-Lazova**, Council of Europe HELP unit - Council of Europe Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) programme and HELP course on Violence against Women and domestic violence
- ▶ **Elisabeth Duban**, Gender Specialist, Council of Europe HELP course on Women's Access to Justice
- ▶ **Shazia Choudhry**, Professor of Law, Queen Mary University, London, United Kingdom, Factsheet on Women's Access to Justice
- ▶ **Doina Straisteanu**, Human Rights Lawyer, Training Manual for Judges and Prosecutors on Ensuring Women's Access to Justice
- ▶ **Beatrice Duncan**, Policy Advisor, Constitutional and Access to Justice, UN Women - *Framework for measuring Access to Justice including specific challenges facing women (video conference)*

6.30 pm Cocktail in the Blue Restaurant, Palais de l'Europe

Friday, 19 October 2018

9.00 - 11.00 pm – Session 4: Women's Access to Justice Labs

This session will allow participants to share good practices, network and to benefit from peer to peer learning. It will focus on exploring the core standards of the Istanbul Convention in relation to access to justice. Participants will be divided into different thematic "world cafés" where different professional backgrounds and countries will be represented. The labs will be built around topics such as:

Moderator: Jenna Shearer-Demir, Programme Advisor, Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe

- ▶ Provision of adequate legal information
- ▶ Adequate remedies - civil and criminal
- ▶ Investigations and judicial proceedings
- ▶ Protection of victims throughout all stages of judicial proceedings and investigation
- ▶ Access to legal assistance and free legal aid for victims

Facilitators: Five experts from Session 3

11.00 am – Coffee break

11.30 - 12.30 pm – Session 5: The road ahead: next steps and recommendations on strengthening women’s access to justice in the six Eastern Partnership countries

This session will focus on proposing solutions/ideas to move forward on improving women’s access to justice. It will also reinforce the commitment of the six Eastern Partnership countries to strengthening women’s access to justice in close co-operation with the Council of Europe, the European Union and the other international stakeholders.

Moderator: Anca Sandescu, Project Manager PGG Women’s Access to Justice, Council of Europe

- ▶ **Louise Hooper**, General Rapporteur: presenting and summarising the main recommendations

12.30 - 1.00 pm – Close of the conference

- ▶ **Claudia Luciani**, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance, Council of Europe
- ▶ **Per Ibold**, Legal Counsellor, Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

Group photograph

The Council of Europe is the continent’s leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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