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Women's Access to Justice:

Moving closer to full ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention

An International Conference of the Partnership for Good Governance II Programme

Online, 7-8 October 2021

PROGRAMME

DAY 1: 7 OCTOBER 2021

9:00 – 9:30 am CEST *Coffee and registration*

Host of the Conference: Annette Gerlach, journalist, Arte TV

9:30-10:00 am **High Level Opening Remarks:** How the European Convention of Human Rights and the Istanbul Convention are ensuring justice for women victims of violence

Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General, Council of Europe
Helena Dalli, Equality Commissioner, European Union

10:00 – 11:30 am **Setting the scene:** Violence against women: the shadow pandemic, its impact and the barriers for women's access to justice

This session will look at the impact of Covid-19 on women's rights as seen by practitioners and experts and the intersections between violence against women and gender bias and stereotypes as main barriers for women's access to justice.

Keynote presentation: Prof. Christine Chinkin, Emeritus Professor, London School of Economics, UK
followed by

Panel discussions with: Zita Gurmai, MP, PACE, Council of Europe
Dr. Ilaria Bottigliero, Director of Policy, Research and Learning at the International Development Law Organization -IDLO
Alexandra Timmer, Associate Professor Human Rights Law, Utrecht University, the Netherlands
Anca Ciupa, WAVE Network-Women Against Violence Europe, Austria

Intermezzo with videos: voices of practitioners

Moderator: Christine Chinkin, Emeritus Professor, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

11:30 – 11:50am *Break (video about the Istanbul Convention)*

11:50 – 1:00 pm **The Istanbul Convention: the impact of ratification on ensuring women's access to justice**

This session will look at different paths taken by countries in order to ratify and implement the Istanbul Convention, and the strategies used to tackle barriers for access to justice for women and dispel misconceptions about the Convention's impact at national level.

Panel discussions with: Prof. Feride Acar, former President of GREVIO, Turkey
Judge Ganna Yudkivska, European Court of Human Rights, Council of Europe
Jaša Vrabec, President of the CEPEJ -GT-EVAL, Council of Europe

Moderator: Johanna Nelles, Executive Secretary of the Istanbul Convention, Council of Europe

DAY 2: 8 OCTOBER 2021

9:30 – 11:15 am CEST **LABS Human rights friendly justice that works for women/Gender responsive justice that works**

*Participants will be invited to develop in different LABs, a comprehensive **checklist for gender responsive judicial systems** by looking at justice actors' roles in ensuring the justice system is effective, efficient, accountable and meets the quality standards of human rights and rule of law with case studies from the field of VAW/DV.*

Each LAB will discuss the same questions. LABs will be monolingual either in English or in Russian.

11:15-11:30 am *Break (video about the Istanbul Convention)*

11:30- 12:40 pm **Building the future: next steps for ensuring women's access to justice**

This session will look at next steps for national and regional decision makers on women's access to justice and what is the impact of gender sensitive justice chain and of gender sensitive data on ensuring protection of human rights at national level.

Panel discussion with Albin Dearing, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
Veronika Bílková, Venice Commission, Council of Europe
Alia El-Yassir, Regional Director Europe and Central Asia, UN Women
Neil Datta, European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual & Reproductive Rights
Jacqui Hunt, Equality Now

Moderator: Caterina Bolognese, Head of Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe

12:40- 12:55 pm **Presentation of conclusions**

Dr Shazia Choudhry, Professor of Law, Oxford University, UK- General Rapporteur accompanied by a graphic facilitator's visuals.

12:55- 1:15 pm **Closing Remarks**

Irena Moozova, Director, DG Justice and Consumers, European Union

Claudia Luciani, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance, Council of Europe

1:15 – 1:30 pm **Artistic performance** – Spoken Word Performance: **Amerah Saleh**, Beatfreaks, UK

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE:

1. Promote and enhance understanding of the Istanbul Convention as a whole and as a sum of its parts
2. Exchange good practices in the paths to the ratification of the Istanbul Convention including ways to ensure access to justice for victims of violence.
3. Generate knowledge about concrete steps and strategies to ensure access to justice for women victims of violence against women and domestic violence.
4. Contribute to creating human rights counternarratives to the Istanbul Convention backlash phenomena.
5. Provide an impetus for closer cooperation among international organisations and national governments in implementing gender equality standards, including the Istanbul Convention.

New Yorker illustrator, **Liana Finck** will be creating the visual identity of the Conference sessions and LABs. **Vanda Kovacs** will provide graphic facilitation services throughout the Conference.