



# The Council of Europe Istanbul Convention: a global instrument for preventing and combating violence against women and girls

**11 March 2019**

10h00 - 11h15

CCR11, United Nations



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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■ Violence against women, whether physical or sexual violence, forced marriages or genital mutilation, are neither free nor isolated. They are part of a social mechanism that allows or tolerates discrimination against women. Violence against women and girls is perhaps today the most widespread human rights violation. Violence against women exists in all countries and societies at home, at school, on the street, at work, on the internet. One in three women or girls is abused in their lifetime, while one in two women is killed as a result of violence by their partner or a family member. In times of conflict, women are the first victims of this violence, which, even in times of peace, is too often trivialized and remains unpunished.

■ The Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) is the most ambitious international treaty to address violence against women. The Istanbul Convention and its provisions stem from an in-depth analysis of the problems and solutions found in Council of Europe member states and in other states: these are good practices that have been elevated to the status of a legally binding instrument. Violence against women and girls is a global phenomenon. The Istanbul Convention was written with the view that measures to address this global problem were not confined to a particular geographical area - all countries of the world could join it.

■ You are invited to join this CSW63 side event, organised by the Permanent Mission of France to the UN and sponsored by the Council of Europe and the Swiss Federation, to learn more about the Istanbul Convention as a comprehensive blueprint for an all-encompassing national and international response to violence against women and domestic violence.

### **PANELLISTS:**

- ▶ Ms Marlène Schiappa, Minister of State for Gender Equality and the Fight against Discrimination, attached to the Prime Minister, France;
- ▶ Ms. Feride Acar, President of the Group of Experts on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), Council of Europe;
- ▶ Ms. Åsa Regnér, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women;
- ▶ Ms. Yamini Mishra, Program Director, Amnesty International.

### **MODERATOR:**

- ▶ Ms. Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele, Executive Secretary of the Monitoring Mechanisms of the Istanbul Convention