

Strasbourg, 15 May 2019

GEC (2019) OJA 1

**GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION  
(GEC)**

*15th meeting  
22-23-24 May 2019, 9:30 am – 5:30 pm*

*Agora meeting room G03  
Council of Europe  
Strasbourg*

**DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

Members are invited to review and adopt the [draft agenda](#).

**II. Exchange of views with Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe**

The Director General will have an exchange of views with the GEC in light of the current budgetary challenges the Council of Europe is facing and possible implications for the intergovernmental programme.

**III. Exchange of views with Dunja Mijatović, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights**

The GEC has held exchanges of views with the previous Commissioners for Human Rights. This will be the first exchange with Ms Mijatović since her appointment. The Commissioner has [gender equality and women's rights](#) among her priorities and often raises these issues on her country visits. Please see the Commissioner's [annual report](#) which includes some strong gender equality messages.

#### IV. Draft 2020-2021 terms of reference of the Gender Equality Commission

Members are invited to examine and endorse the proposed [draft terms of reference](#) for the biennium 2020-2021.

#### V. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality

##### 1. Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023

###### a. Conference “Tackling Gender Stereotypes and Sexism” (Helsinki, 28-29 March 2019)

The conference rapporteur has delivered a [preliminary draft report](#) which will be developed further and finalised after the meeting on the basis of feedback from the members. Members are invited to discuss the report and any follow-up to be given to the conference.

###### b. Objective 1 – Prevent and combat gender stereotypes and sexism

- Follow-up to the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Recommendation on preventing and combating sexism (CM/Rec(2019)1)

Members are invited to discuss ways in which the [recommendation](#) can be promoted in the member states.

###### c. Objective 2 - Prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence

- Exchange of views with Feride Acar, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)

Members are invited to take note of the observations of the [GREVIO](#) President and to engage in a discussion with her about issues of common concern. The time available for this exchange of views will not allow for members to provide extensive reports on their country’s efforts to sign, ratify or comply with the Istanbul Convention. Discussion should be strategic and address, in particular, how the intergovernmental programme, gender mainstreaming and co-operation programmes can best complement the work of the GREVIO.

###### d. Objective 3 - Ensure the equal access of women to justice

- Exchange of views on the way forward

Members are invited to contribute to the discussions on how to advance in the area of [access to justice](#) in line with this objective of the Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023.

**e. Objective 4 - Achieve balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making**

- Follow-up to the 2017 [analytical report](#) on the third round of monitoring on the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2003)3 of the Committee of Ministers on balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making

Members are invited to report back on any follow-up in their country on the [recommendations](#) (page 111) in the analytical report and to provide instructions/proposals to the Secretariat as to future work in this area.

**f. Objective 5 - Protect the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls**

*Factsheet on the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls*

Members are invited to examine, comment and contribute to the [draft text of the factsheet](#) and agree to its publication. They are also invited to consider further steps towards implementing this objective of the strategy.

**g. Objective 6 - Achieve gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures**

- Gender mainstreaming in Council of Europe activities

Members are invited to take note of the activities taking place in the area of [gender mainstreaming within the Council of Europe](#).

**h. Committee of Ministers request for information and comments on Recommendations by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**

- (i) [PACE Recommendation 2152 \(2019\) "Promoting parliaments free of sexism and sexual harassment"](#) and
- (ii) [PACE Recommendation 2155 \(2019\) "The situation of migrants and refugees on the Greek islands: more needs to be done"](#)

Members are invited to consider and adopt the [draft comments prepared by the Secretariat](#) on these two PACE recommendations, and instruct the Secretariat to transmit them to the Committee of Ministers.

**i. 2019 annual report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023**

A [modified structure](#) for annual reports was agreed at the meeting in December 2018. Members are invited to propose topics for the thematic section of the annual report for 2019. The members are reminded that the request for contributions to the annual report, including the template outlining each member state's activities and measures at the national level contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the strategy, will be sent out following the GEC meeting.

**VI. Co-operation activities**

- Presentation by Marta Pietrobelli, Council of Europe expert, on capacity building and co-operation projects - making the implementation of the Istanbul Convention a reality

Marta Pietrobelli will present an overview of all the [co-operation projects](#) being carried out by the Gender Equality Division in the member states and beyond. This will be followed by a "project fair" (in the Hall between Rooms G04 and G05, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Agora building) at which project managers will be available to explain over refreshments the aims and achievements of the projects. For further information please see [the brochure on the Council of Europe's approach](#) to co-operation projects.

**VII. Thematic conference/discussions**

- i. Women's Rights at the Crossroads: Strengthening International Co-operation to Close the Gap between Legal Frameworks and their Implementation - [conference](#) organised by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences and with the French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers

The GEC members are invited to participate in the conference on 24 May 2019.

- ii. Women, peace and security - UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (Cyprus and Republic of Moldova)
- iii. Gender equality backlash (Serbia)

Presentations will be made by various members on topics proposed by member states and selected by the Chair and Vice-Chair.

### VIII. Co-operation with other Council of Europe sectors

- Presentation by Clotilde Talleu, Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) of the Council of Europe/European Union joint project "[ALL IN: Towards gender balance in sport](#)"
- Presentation by Florence Mabileau, [Pompidou Group – Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs](#)

Members of the Secretariat will present gender equality-related work in their field. A Q&A discussion will follow.

### IX. Co-operation with international/regional organisations

- Exchange of views with Alia El-Yassir, Regional Director, UN Women, Europe and Central Asia

Members are invited to participate in an exchange of views with the Regional Director, [UN Women, Europe and Central Asia](#) on areas of common interest.

- Council of Europe's contribution to the Beijing+25 review process

Members are invited to discuss [a draft factsheet](#) on the Beijing+25 review process and the work of the Council of Europe.

- Council of the European Union - gender equality agenda:
  - o Romanian Presidency (January-June 2019)
  - o Finnish Presidency (July–December 2019)

Presentations will be made by the Romanian and Finnish GEC members about the gender equality agendas during their respective EU presidencies.

### X. Events attended by GEC members and the Secretariat

- International Women's Day (8 March)

The GEC members are invited to take note of the information in the [summary document](#) of events attended by GEC members and Secretariat and to inform the members about the events which took place in the member states to celebrate International Women's Day 2019.

## **XI. Current and future activities at national level and at international level**

- Council of Europe gender equality agenda:
  - o Finnish Presidency (November 2018-May 2019)
  - o French Presidency (May-November 2019)
  - o Georgian Presidency (November 2019-May 2020)

Presentations will be made by the Finnish, French and Georgian members about the gender equality agendas during their respective Council of Europe presidencies.

## **XII. Other business**

The GEC members are invited to propose items for discussion which have not been included on the agenda.

## **XIII. Proposals for the agenda of the next meeting**

The GEC members are invited to put forward items for discussion at the next meeting (13-14-15 November 2019), particularly under the item "Thematic Discussions".

## **XIV. Dates of forthcoming GEC meetings**

- *16th GEC meeting, Strasbourg 13-14-15 November 2019*
- *17th GEC meeting, Strasbourg 27-28-29 May 2020*

The GEC members are invited to take note of the dates of the next meeting.

## **XV. Adoption of the abridged report of the 15th GEC meeting (22-24 May 2019)**

The GEC members are invited to adopt the draft abridged report of the 15th meeting and agree to its transmission to the Committee of Ministers.

**The GEC meeting will continue in Room G03 on 24 May 2019 with the thematic conference "Women's Rights at the Crossroads: Strengthening International Co-operation to Close the Gap between Legal Frameworks and their Implementation"**