

Strasbourg 8 November 2019

GEC (2019) OJA2

**GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION
(GEC)**

16th meeting

13-14 November 2019, 9:30 am – 5:30 pm

15 November 2019, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

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

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

- Appointment of a Rapporteur for persons with disabilities

Members are invited to review the [draft terms of reference for 2020-2021](#) and to appoint a Rapporteur for persons with disabilities. It should be noted that the draft terms of reference will not be adopted by the Committee of Ministers until its meeting on 19-20-21 November 2019 and any appointment is subject to this adoption.

III. Election of the Chair and two Vice-Chairs (January to December 2020)

Members have been invited to put forward nominations for the posts of Chair and two Vice-Chairs. The elections will take place on Friday morning. The post of second Vice-Chair is one of the revisions to the terms of reference and the appointment is subject to the adoption of the terms of reference by the Committee of Ministers (19-20-21 November 2019).

IV. Exchange of views with Brigitte Grésy, President of the High Council of Equality, France

Brigitte Grésy is the newly-appointed President of the [High Council of Equality of France](#) and will speak *inter alia* about the role and experience of the institution and her plans for her mandate.

V. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality

1. Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023

a. Report of the conference “Tackling Gender Stereotypes and Sexism”

The members are invited to take note of the final report of the conference “[Tackling Gender Stereotypes and Sexism](#)” which was revised following the last meeting, taking their comments and feedback into consideration.

b. Draft 2019 annual report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy

The members are invited to review the [draft 2019 annual report](#) which has been prepared based on the activities undertaken by the GEC, the Gender Equality Division and various sectors of the Council of Europe, as well as [information received from member states](#) concerning the implementation of the Strategy at the national level. It includes a new thematic section on online gender-based violence. Members are particularly invited to ensure that initiatives on this subject at national level are reflected in the thematic section.

c. Objective 1 – Prevent and combat gender stereotypes and sexism

- Committee of Ministers Recommendation on preventing and combating sexism (CM/Rec(2019)1) – follow up

The GEC members are invited to provide information about the activities being undertaken in their member state with a view to promoting the [Recommendation on preventing and combating sexism](#). The instrument is currently available in 13 languages (not including English and French) and members are invited to share information about plans to produce further translations.

- Visibility tools about the sexism recommendation

The Secretariat will present the various visibility tools which have been prepared including an action website page and a video which has been dubbed/translated into several languages.

- Call for proposals – NGO grant to promote the fight against sexism

The Secretariat will inform the members about the current situation with regard to this call for proposals for an NGO to promote the sexism recommendation and related activities. See also: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/-/call-for-proposals-ngo-grant-to-promote-the-fight-against-sexism>

- Draft analytical report on the follow-up to the implementation of CM/Rec(2013)1 on gender equality and the media

The Rapporteur of the analytical report, Pamela Morinière, has produced a [preliminary draft report](#) which the members are invited to review. The report has been prepared on the basis of replies to a questionnaire which was distributed to members of the GEC and the CDMSI (Steering Committee on Media and Information Society) and also to media regulators.

- Presentation by Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele, Head of the Secretariat to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly

Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele will give an update on relevant activities of PACE's [Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination](#) on this topic and will answer possible questions from GEC members.

d. Objective 2 - Prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence

- Exchange of views with Marceline Naudi, President of the [Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence](#) (GREVIO)

While this is a regular item on the GEC agenda, this is the first exchange with Marceline Naudi who was recently elected to the post of GREVIO President. A Q&A discussion will follow

- Exchange of views with Elisabeth Walaas, President of the [Committee of the Parties](#) to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)

Elisabeth Walaas will outline the role of the Committee of the Parties and how the Committee interacts with the GREVIO and she will share experiences from states parties which might help, both in terms of improved implementation as well as encouragement to others to ratify the Convention. A Q&A discussion will follow.

- Sharing experiences by states parties on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention

This is an opportunity for members to exchange information about national developments and lessons learnt as regards implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

- Exchange of views with Martin Kuijer, substitute member of the Venice Commission (the Netherlands), Co-rapporteur of the opinion of the Venice Commission on the Constitutional implications of the ratification of the Istanbul Convention

At the request of Armenia, the Venice Commission prepared an [opinion on the constitutional implications of the ratification of the Istanbul Convention](#), which was published in October. One of the rapporteurs, Martin Kuijer, will be present for an exchange of views. This will be an opportunity for member states to learn more about the way the Venice Commission has, in particular, dispelled various allegations and misconceptions about the Convention.

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

- Study on good practices on promoting gender sensitive approaches to access to justice

The members are invited to comment on the concept paper regarding a [proposed study on good practices to promote gender sensitive approaches to access to justice](#), especially as regards the areas of particular importance to look at, possible bodies/NGOs, national institutions to be interviewed by the research team, and for the countries interested/concerned, to liaise as necessary with the Secretariat as regards the organisation of a short visit with on-site meetings in December 2019.

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

- Experience of co-operation activities

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

- Drafting Committee on migrant women (GEC-MIG)

Members are invited to exchange views on the [draft terms of reference for the GEC-MIG Drafting Committee](#) on migrant women, and the way forward in case it is adopted by the Committee of Ministers. It is planned to hold two meetings in 2020 and possible dates for these meetings will need to be identified. The Council of Europe will cover the costs of eight members of the committee, however, all 47 members are welcome to participate. The members are invited to decide on who the eight members will be. It is recommended that the members selected have some expertise or experience in the area of migrant women. It should be noted that the draft terms of reference will not be adopted by the Committee of Ministers until its meeting on 19-20-21 November 2019 and any appointments are subject to this adoption.

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

Members are invited to take note of the [published version of the Factsheet on the rights of migrant](#), refugee and asylum-seeking women which was approved at the last GEC meeting. The shorter factsheet highlights the [Key Recommendations](#), as requested at the last GEC meeting.

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

- Presentation of gender mainstreaming in Council of Europe activities

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

- Reflection on the role of Senior Gender Equality Adviser at the Council of Europe

Carlien Scheele, has been working at the Council of Europe on secondment for several years. Her presentation will give an opportunity to take stock of her experience of gender-sensitive policies, human resource management and gender mainstreaming.

- Presentation by Philippe Wéry, Gender Equality Rapporteur of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), of the CDDH Roadmap on Mainstreaming Gender and Human Rights

Members are invited to provide feedback on this [Roadmap](#).

i. Committee of Ministers request for information and comments on a Recommendation by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Members are invited to review and adopt the draft [elements for a reply](#) of the Committee of Ministers to PACE Recommendation 2157 (2019) "Towards an ambitious Council of Europe agenda for gender equality" and instruct the Secretariat to transmit them to the Committee of Ministers.

VI. Co-operation projects/programmes

General overview of co-operation projects undertaken by the Gender Equality Division

The GEC members will be informed about current and future activities undertaken by the Gender Equality Division in the field of [co-operation](#) projects.

- Conference on Women's Access to Justice "Moving closer to full ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention" (7 - 8 April 2020, Tbilisi)

Plans are underway under a joint [EU/Council of Europe regional Partnership for Good Governance \(PGG\) project](#), to organise a conference in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 7-8 April 2020, with the support of the Georgian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. Members interested in taking part in this conference are invited to contact the Secretariat.

VII. Thematic discussion

The GEC member from Denmark will make a presentation about the new tendencies and counter-reactions to gender equality.

VIII. Co-operation with other Council of Europe sectors

- Appointment of Käthlin Sander (Estonia) as GEC representative on the [Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence](#) (CAHAI)

The CAHAI was created in September to examine the feasibility and potential elements on the basis of broad multi-stakeholder consultations, of a legal framework for the development, design and application of artificial intelligence, based on Council of Europe's standards on human rights, democracy and the rule of law (see <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/-/the-council-of-europe-established-an-ad-hoc-committee-on-artificial-intelligence-cahai>). Its first meeting will be held in the week after the GEC meeting.

Members are invited to endorse the appointment of Käthlin Sander and to reflect upon the importance and dimensions of gender equality in the development of policies on artificial intelligence, which can serve as input and key messages to be delivered to the CAHAI.

- Presentation by Nina Lichtner, Secretariat of the [Cybercrime Convention Committee \(T-CY\)](#), of the compilation of online resources on combating online violence against women and children
- Presentation by Stan Frossard, [Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport \(EPAS\)](#) of the Council of Europe/European Union joint project "ALL IN: Towards gender balance in sport" on policies and programmes addressing gender inequalities in sport

Members of the Secretariats of the Cybercrime Convention Committee and the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport will present gender equality-related work in their fields. A Q&A discussion will follow.

IX. Co-operation with international/regional organisations

- Council of Europe's contribution to the [Beijing+25 review process](#) following UNECE meeting

The Secretariat will inform the members about the participation at the above event and the two side events which were co-organised by the Council of Europe in Geneva on 29-30 October. The GEC Chair will also report back about his participation.

- Exchange of views with Valentina Beghini, Senior Technical Officer, Gender Equality and Diversity & ILOAIDS Branch, [International Labour Organization](#) about its Convention concerning the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work

Members are invited to exchange views with Valentina Beghini from ILO who will present the recently adopted Convention concerning the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work.

- Council of the European Union - gender equality agenda:
 - o Croatian Presidency (January-June 2020)

A presentation will be made by the GEC member from Croatia about the gender equality agenda during Croatia's forthcoming EU Presidency.

X. Events attended by GEC members, experts and the Secretariat

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 ask for more information from the participants of each event where required.

XI. Current and future activities at national and international level

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

Presentations will be made by the French, Georgian and Greek 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, including thematic discussions

The GEC members are invited to put forward items for discussion at the next meeting (27-28-29 May 2020), particularly under the item "Thematic Discussions".

XIV. Dates of forthcoming meetings

- *17th GEC meeting, Strasbourg, 27-28-29 May 2020 (Room 7 – main building)*
- *18th GEC meeting, Strasbourg, 2-3-4 December 2020 (Room 7 – main building)*

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

XV. Adoption of the abridged report of the 16th GEC meeting (13-14-15 November 2019)

The GEC members are invited to adopt the draft abridged report of the 16th meeting and agree to its transmission to the Committee of Ministers.