



Strasbourg, 9 July 2020

GEC (2020) Abridged Report July

**GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION
(GEC)**

*17th meeting
8-9 July 2020
Via videoconference*

List of items discussed and decisions taken

Abridged Report

The Gender Equality Commission (GEC), chaired by Charles Ramsden (United Kingdom):

1. adopted its agenda as set out in Appendix I to the present abridged report.
2. took note of the draft work plan for 2020-2021 and instructed to make it available on the website;
3. held an exchange of views with Janeta Hanganu from the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees and looked forward to further co-operation on areas of common interest.
4. discussed the work of the GEC-MIG Drafting Committee and gave further guidance as to its expectations for the draft recommendation on migrant and refugee women.
5. proposed to include the following issues in the deliberations of the GEC-MIG: the impact on migrant and refugee women that COVID-19 had and how to take this into account in the drafting of the recommendation; discrimination and especially violence against migrant and refugee women; gender sensitive asylum policies and processes; availability of information related to human rights and access to justice in an accessible language so that migrant women can understand what their rights and entitlements are and how to access them; health services and access to them; integration including access to employment, recognising qualifications, diplomas and education.
6. was asked to submit any further contributions as soon as possible to enable the Secretariat and the expert appointed to the GEC-MIG to begin preparing the needs analysis for discussion at the first GEC-MIG meeting.
7. took note of the discussion on Covid-19 and its impact on gender equality and agreed to discuss further action by the GEC on this issue.
8. took note of the presentation by the representative of Serbia on the subject of sexual and reproductive health and rights during COVID-19.
9. took note of the presentation of the gender equality agenda of the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (January-June 2020).
10. took note of the gender equality agenda of the current German Presidency of the Council of the European Union (July-December 2020).
11. took note of the forthcoming events being organised by EIGE.
12. took note of the gender equality agenda during the Georgian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (November 2019-May 2020).

13. took note of the gender equality agenda of the current Greek Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (May-November 2020), including the hosting of a thematic round table on “Advancing Gender Equality: The Role and Situation of Institutional Mechanisms for Gender Equality in the Aftermath of Covid-19”, which will take place on 14 October 2020, in Athens, Greece. The round table will be followed by the 18th meeting of the Gender Equality Commission on 15 and 16 October in Athens, Greece.
14. took note of the gender equality agenda during the forthcoming German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (November 2020-May 2021) including hosting a two-day conference in May 2021.
15. took note that the Secretariat would be shortly requesting input for the 2020 annual report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy in the member states. A template will be sent out for completion.
16. took note of the invitation by Estonia for the GEC Chair to participate in the forthcoming conference on men and gender equality (ICMEO) which will take place in Tallinn in September.
17. took note of her proposal for an activity by the GEC on the subject of men and boys and equality, agreed to come back to this proposal at the next GEC meeting and agreed to gather information about member states’ activities on the subject of men and boys and gender equality.
18. heard a summary and an update on the activities of the Council of Europe in the field of gender equality and gender mainstreaming
19. took note of the presentation on current and planned co-operation projects managed by the Gender Equality Division.
20. took note of the presentation by Johanna Nelles, Executive Secretary of the GREVIO, on the situation regarding the Istanbul Convention and GREVIO’s current activities.
21. took note of the dates and places of the next meetings:
 - 1-2 October 2020 – 1st meeting of the GEC-MIG (Strasbourg, France);
 - 14 October 2020 - Thematic workshop (Athens, Greece);
 - 15-16 October 2020 - 18th GEC meeting (Athens, Greece);
 - 14-15 December 2020 – 2nd meeting of the GEC-MIG (Strasbourg, France).
22. adopted the abridged report of the 17th GEC meeting (8-9 July 2020) and agreed to its transmission to the Committee of Ministers.

APPENDIX I

Agenda

- I. **Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**
Draft Agenda *GEC(2020)OJ1 Revised*

- II. **Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality**
 1. **Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023**
 - a. **Draft Work Plan 2020-2021** *GEC(2020)1*

 - b. **Objective 5 - Protect the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls**
 - Drafting Committee on migrant women (GEC-MIG) *GEC(2020)3*

 - *Gender-Based asylum claims and non-refoulement: Articles 60 and 61 of the Istanbul Convention, 2019* [Study on Articles 60 & 61](#)

 - Exchange of views with Janeta Hanganu of the Office of the Secretary General's Special Representative on migration and refugees

- III. **Thematic discussions**
 - COVID-19 – impact of crisis on women and on gender equality *COVID-19 response*

 - Sexual and reproductive health and rights (Serbia)

- IV. **Co-operation with international/regional organisations**
 - Council of the European Union - gender equality agenda:
 - o Croatian Presidency (January – June 2020)
 - o German Presidency (July – December 2020)

- V. **Current and future activities at national and international level**
 - Council of Europe gender equality agenda:
 - o Georgian Presidency (November 2019 – May 2020)

- Greek Presidency (May – November 2020)
 - Thematic Round Table, Athens, Greece, 14 October 2020
Concept Note

GEC(2020)2

- 18th meeting of the Gender Equality Commission,
Athens, Greece, 15-16 October 2020

- German Presidency (November 2020 – May 2021)

VI. Other business

- Proposed items for discussion - time permitting:
 - *Overview of main gender equality and gender mainstreaming in Council of Europe activities*
 - *Overview of co-operation activities undertaken by the Gender Equality Division*
 - *Update on situation regarding the Istanbul Convention*

VII. Proposals for the agenda of the next meeting including thematic discussions.

VIII. Dates of forthcoming meetings (to be confirmed due to COVID-19 uncertainties)

- *1st meeting GEC-MIG, Strasbourg, France, 1-2 October 2020 (tbc)*
- *Thematic Round Table, Athens, Greece, 14 October 2020 (tbc)*
- *18th GEC meeting, Athens, Greece, 15-16 October 2020 (tbc)*
- *2nd meeting GEC-MIG, Strasbourg, France, 14-15 December 2020 (tbc)*

IX. Adoption of the abridged report of the 17th GEC meeting (8-9 July 2020)

APPENDIX 2

LIST OF REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

Representatives

Albania

Sidita GJIPALI

Andorra

Mireia PORRAS

Armenia

Hasmik SIMONYAN

Austria

Valerie DORI

Valerie ZIERING

Azerbaijan

Sabina MANAFOVA

Belgium

Pauline GILLAIN

Deborah KUPPERBERG

Marian VANDENBOSSCHE

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Samra FILIPOVIC HADZIABDIC

Bulgaria

Irina IVANOVA

Croatia

Martina BOSAK

Cyprus

Andri SAVVA

Czech Republic

Radan SAFARIK

Denmark

Alexander ANDERSSON

Kira APPEL

Estonia

Käthlin SANDER

Finland

Toni SANDELL

France

Jana CURCENCO

Antoine PAUTI

Alexis RINCKENBACH

Nolwenn RUMEUR

Laura VERNET

Georgia

Ana LOMINADZE

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(GEC-MIG representative)

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Expert to the GEC-MIG

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Anne NEGRE

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members of CDEJ and CCJ)**

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