

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 15 April 2021

GEC (2021) Report April

**GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION
(GEC)**

**19th meeting
14-15 April 2021
Via videoconference**

Abridged Report

The Gender Equality Commission (GEC), chaired by Andreia Lourenço Marques (Portugal):

1. adopted its agenda, as set out in Appendix I to the present abridged report.
2. held an exchange of views about the main priorities for the GEC's Terms of Reference for 2022-2025. The Secretariat will share a preliminary document with the Bureau in view of discussions in the Committee of Ministers, which will make final decisions on the GEC's Terms of Reference.
3. discussed the GEC working methods and agreed that physical meetings should resume whenever possible and to look at the possibility of working in smaller groups on some topics.
4. took note of the 2020 draft Annual Report on the Implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023, and the deadline of 28 April 2021 for any further contributions to the report.
5. instructed the Secretariat to revise the report with any further contributions and updates received by 28 April 2021, and to transmit the final annual report to the Chair for approval before forwarding to the Committee of Ministers for note to be taken of it.
6. decided to postpone the exchange of views about COVID-19: one year on to the next meeting of the GEC (24-26 November 2021).
7. took note of the information provided by the German representative about the online conference "Gender equality and the Istanbul Convention: a decade of action" which will be broadcast from Berlin, on 11 May 2021.
8. took note of the update of the promotion of the Committee of Ministers Recommendation on preventing and combating sexism (CM/Rec(2019)1) presented by the Secretariat.
9. took note of the presentation by the Secretary General of the European Women's Lobby about the results of the project "Mobilise against Sexism!" funded by the Council of Europe and implemented in nine member states.
10. took note of the presentation by Christian Mogensen of the report "The angry internet – A threat to gender equality, democracy & well-being".
11. took note of the presentation and the mapping study on the place of men and boys in women's rights and gender equality policies by Claire Guiraud and Romain Sabathier.
12. instructed the Secretariat to prepare with the GEC Bureau a dedicated discussion on this topic at November's GEC meeting, to discuss and agree specific measures for follow-up.

13. took note of the exchange of views with Marceline Naudi, President of GREVIO, on the current activities of GREVIO.
14. took note of national experiences by states parties on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and information on further ratifications presented by the members.
15. agreed to the GEC comments on GREVIO's draft General Recommendation on the digital dimension of violence against women and instructed the Secretariat to transmit them to GREVIO.
16. took note of the presentation on current and planned co-operation projects regarding violence against women and domestic violence managed by the Gender Equality Division.
17. took note of the exchange of views with Jasa Vrabec, Chair of the Working Group on Evaluation of Judicial Systems (GT-EVAL) of the Council of Europe European Commission for the efficiency of justice (CEPEJ), and presentation of the 2020 edition of the "European judicial systems: Efficiency and quality of justice (2018 data)".
18. took note of the presentation the Secretariat on co-operation projects undertaken by the Gender Equality Division concerning equal access of women to justice.
19. took note of the reports of the 2nd and 3rd meetings of the Drafting Committee on migrant women (GEC-MIG) and the presentation by its Chair, Vera Eloi da Fonseca.
20. agreed on the approach followed by the GEC-MIG to date, and on future steps as outlined by the GEC-MIG Chair regarding the ongoing preparation of the draft recommendation.
21. took note of the presentations made by Käthlin Sander (Estonia) following her participation in the Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI) and its Legal Frameworks Group (CAHAI-LFG) and Policy Development Group (CAHAI-PDG).
22. took note of the presentation made by Andreia Lourenço Marques following her participation in the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) and its subordinate body, the Committee of Experts on Combating Hate Speech (ADI/MSI-DIS).
23. took note of the exchange of views with Irena Moozova, Director for Equality and Union Citizenship, European Commission and areas of common interest for possible further co-operation.

24. took note of the information provided by the participants about the various side events organised during the Commission on the Status of Women CSW-65 (New York, 15-26 March 2021).
25. took note of the Generation Equality Forum, which took place in Mexico on 29-31 March 2021 and asked Alexis Rinckenbach (France) and UN Women to provide information about the plans for the Forum in Paris on 30 June-2 July 2021.
26. took note that the information about the gender equality agenda of the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union (July – December 2020), the current Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union (January – June 2021), and the forthcoming Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (July - December 2021), will be sent by email following the GEC meeting.
27. took note of the gender equality agenda during the current German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (November 2020-May 2021).
28. took note of the gender equality agenda during the forthcoming Hungarian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (May - November 2021).
29. took note of the gender equality agenda during the forthcoming Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (November 2021 - May 2022).
30. took note of the gender equality agenda during the forthcoming Icelandic Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (November 2022 – May 2023).
31. took note of the proposals by members for the agenda of the next meetings, including having an exchange of views with the OECD during one of the forthcoming meetings of the GEC.
32. took note of the information provided by the delegation of Spain on the Spanish Feminist Foreign Policy.
33. took note of the next GEC-related meetings: Conference “Gender equality and the Istanbul Convention: a decade of action” (Online) (Berlin, 11 May 2021); 4th meeting of the GEC-MIG (Strasbourg, 27-28 April 2021); 5th meeting of the GEC-MIG (Strasbourg, 30 September-1 October 2021, date to be confirmed); 20th GEC meeting (Strasbourg, 24-26 November 2021).
34. adopted the abridged report of the 19th GEC meeting (14-15 April 2021) and agreed to its transmission to the Committee of Ministers.

Appendix I

I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

- *Draft Agenda* *GEC(2021)OJ1 Revised*

II. Gender Equality Commission

- Annual exchange of views and main priorities for the GEC's Terms of Reference for 2022-2025 [Terms of reference 2021-2022](#)
[GEC Chair's reply to SG questionnaire \(September 2020\)](#)
- GEC working methods
- GEC Work Plan *Draft Work Plan 2020-2021*

III. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality

1. Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023

a. Draft 2020 annual report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy

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Activities and measures in member states towards the achievement of the objectives of the Gender Equality Strategy

[GEC\(2021\)1](#)

b. COVID-19: one year on

- Report of the Seminar "Advancing Gender Equality: The role and situation for gender equality mechanisms in the context of COVID-19" [Publication](#)
- Exchange of views

c. Conference "Gender equality and the Istanbul Convention: a decade of action" (online), (Berlin, 11 May 2021)

*Concept Note
Programme*

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

Promotion of the recommendation on preventing and combating sexism

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

- Presentation of the results and outputs of the grant awarded to the European Women's Lobby (EWL) for the implementation of the Project "Mobilise against Sexism!", by Joanna Maycock, Secretary General of EWL

Oral presentation

The place of men and boys in gender equality policies

- Presentation by Christian Mogensen, author of the report "The angry internet – A threat to gender equality, democracy & well-being" (prepared by the Centre for Digital Youth Care, in the framework of the Danish Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers)

Oral presentation

Report

- Presentation of the report on the place of men and boys in women's rights and gender equality policies by Claire Guiraud and Romain Sabathier, authors of the report

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e. 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)
- Sharing experiences by states parties on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and information on further ratifications
- GEC comments on the draft General Recommendation on the digital dimension of violence against women
- Update by the Secretariat of co-operation projects undertaken by the Gender Equality Division concerning violence against women and domestic violence

- *GEC(2021)4*

Oral presentation

[*Information document*](#)

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

- Exchange of views with Jasa Vrabec, Chair of the Working Group on Evaluation of Judicial Systems (GT-EVAL) of the Council of Europe European Commission for the efficiency of justice (CEPEJ), and presentation of the 2020 edition of the "European judicial systems: Efficiency and quality of justice (2018 data)"

Oral presentation

[*Special file*](#)

- Update by the Secretariat on co-operation projects undertaken by the Gender Equality Division concerning equal access of women to justice

Oral presentation

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

- Report by Vera Eloi da Fonseca, Chair of the Drafting Committee on migrant women (GEC-MIG)
GEC-MIG Reports [\(2020\)December](#) & [\(2021\)March](#)

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

- Gender mainstreaming in Council of Europe activities
Oral presentation
- Reports from GEC members who have participated in the following intergovernmental committee meetings:
 - Meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI) and its subordinate committees
Oral presentation
 - Meetings of the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) and its subordinate committees
Oral presentation

IV. Co-operation with international/regional organisations

- Exchange of views with Irena Moozova, Director for Equality and Union Citizenship, European Commission
- United Nations: related activities
- CSW65 – Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 15-26 March 2021)
- Generation Equality Forum (Mexico, 29-31 March 2021; Paris, 30 June-2 July 2021)
- Council of the European Union – gender equality agenda:

- German Presidency (June - December 2020)
- Portuguese Presidency (January - June 2021)
- Slovenian Presidency (July - December 2021)

V. Current and future activities at national and international level

- Council of Europe gender equality agenda:
 - German Presidency (November 2020 - May 2021)
 - Hungarian Presidency (May - November 2021)
 - Italian Presidency (November 2021 - May 2022)
 - Icelandic Presidency (November 2022 – May 2023)

VI. Proposals for the agenda of the next meeting, including thematic discussions

VII. Other business

VIII. Dates of forthcoming meetings

- Conference “Gender equality and the Istanbul Convention: a decade of action” (Online) (Berlin, 11 May 2021)
- 4th meeting of the GEC-MIG (Strasbourg, 27-28 April 2021)
- 5th meeting of the GEC-MIG (Strasbourg, September/October 2021, dates to be confirmed)
- 20th GEC meeting (Strasbourg, 24-26 November 2021)

IX. Adoption of the abridged report of the 19th GEC meeting (14-15 April 2021)

Calendar of forthcoming events and meetings

- Conference “Gender equality and the Istanbul Convention: a decade of action” (Online) (Berlin, 11 May 2021)
- 4th meeting of the GEC-MIG (Strasbourg, 27-28 April 2021)
- Generation Equality Forum (Paris, 30 June-2 July 2021)
- 5th meeting of the GEC-MIG (Strasbourg, September/October 2021, dates to be confirmed)
- Event on sexism (Cyprus, October/November 2021, dates to be confirmed)
- 20th GEC meeting (Strasbourg, 24-26 November 2021)