

Strasbourg, 16 November 2021

GEC (2021) OB/AA2

**GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION
(GEC)**

*20th meeting
23-24-25 November 2021*

*Tuesday, 23 November 2021, 10:00 am-1:00 pm/2:30-5:00 pm
Wednesday, 24 November 2021, 10:00 am-1:00 pm/2:30-5:00 pm
Thursday, 25 November 2021, 10:00 am-1:00 pm/2:30-5:00 pm*

*Hybrid meeting
Room G02 AGORA
Council of Europe
Strasbourg*

**DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA
AND
ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Tuesday, 23 November 2021

I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

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

10:15 – 11:30 am

III. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality

1. Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023

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

Members are invited to review the [4th \(April 2021\)](#) and [5th meeting \(September 2021\)](#) reports of the GEC-MIG Drafting Committee who prepared the [draft Committee of Ministers Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls GEC\(2021\)9](#). Members are also invited to review, discuss and adopt the draft recommendation and to agree on its transmission to the Committee of Ministers for its adoption in 2022.

- Preparation of a draft Committee of Ministers Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls
 - o Presentation by the Secretariat of the GEC-MIG process
 - o Presentation of the text of the recommendation by Vera Eloi da Fonseca, Chair of the Drafting Committee on migrant women (GEC-MIG)
 - o Discussion and adoption of the text of the Draft Committee of Ministers Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls

11:30 – 11:50 am Coffee break

11:50 am – 1:00 pm

- o Discussion and adoption of the text of the Draft Committee of Ministers Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls (continued)

1:00 – 2:30 pm Lunch break

2:30 – 3:30 pm

- Discussion and adoption of the text of the Draft Committee of Ministers Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls (continued)

3:30 – 3:50 pm *Coffee break*

3:50 – 5:00 pm

- Discussion and adoption of the text of the Draft Committee of Ministers Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls (continued)

CLOSE OF DAY 1

Wednesday, 24 November 2021

If more time is needed for the discussions on the draft migration recommendation, the order of business will be revised.

10:00 – 10:30 am

III. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality

1. Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023

a. Draft 2021 annual report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy

Members are invited to review and discuss the [preliminary version of the 2021 draft annual report \(GEC\(2021\)6\)](#) which has been prepared on the basis of activities undertaken by the GEC, the Gender Equality Division and various sectors of the Council of Europe.

The annual report and the appendix to the annual report on the “[Activities and measures in member states towards the achievement of the objectives of the Gender Equality Strategy \(GEC\(2021\)5\)](#)” will be updated in the light of the discussions and finalised when all contributions from member states have been received. The deadline for these contributions is 3 December 2021.

10:30 – 11:30 am

b. Thematic discussion/exchange of views on COVID-19: its effect on gender equality

Building on the results of the October 2020 seminar “[Advancing Gender Equality: the role and situation for gender equality mechanisms in the context of COVID-19](#)”, members are invited to hold an exchange on the effects of COVID-19 on gender equality in the member states. This exchange will be used as a basis for further work on the gendered impact of the COVID-19, as included in the proposed terms of reference of the GEC for 2022-2025.

11:30 – 11:50 am Coffee break

11:50 am – 12:15 pm

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

- Committee of Ministers [Recommendation on preventing and combating sexism - the approach to review its implementation](#)

Members are invited to discuss [the approach to review the implementation of the Committee of Ministers Recommendation on preventing and combating sexism](#). The Secretariat has prepared document GEC(2021)8 as a basis for this discussion.

12:15 – 1:00 pm

h. [Objective 6 - Achieve gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures](#)

- Reports from GEC members who have participated in the following intergovernmental committee meetings:
 - Meetings of the [Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion \(CDADI\)](#) and its subordinate committees

Andreia Lourenço Marques (Portugal) will report on the meetings she has attended on behalf of the GEC, including the progress made on the preparation of a new Council of Europe recommendation on hate speech.

- Update by the Secretariat about gender mainstreaming in Council of Europe activities

Members are invited to take note of the information from the Secretariat about the ongoing activities related to gender mainstreaming.

- Conference on “[The role of foreign policy in advancing gender equality: addressing the challenges, pushbacks and obstacles faced by women](#)” (Nicosia, Cyprus, 26 October 2021) [Takeaway points](#)

The Secretariat will inform the members about the conference which took place in Nicosia in October, organised in partnership with the Cypriot authorities, on the role of foreign policy in advancing gender equality: addressing the challenges, pushbacks and obstacles faced by women.

- i. **Follow up to the conference “Gender equality and the Istanbul Convention: a decade of action”** (Berlin, Germany, 11 May 2021)

Following the conference on “Gender Equality and Istanbul Convention: a decade of action” which took place from Berlin in May, a [report](#) was prepared. Members are invited to take note of and disseminate this report.

1:00 – 2:30 pm Lunch Break

2:30 – 2:40 pm

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

The places of men and boys in gender equality policies – plans for future work on this topic

The Secretariat will inform the members about the progress and future plans in the area of men and boys and gender equality.

2:40 – 2:50 pm

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

Members are invited to review [document GEC \(2021\)7](#) which outlines the events in which GEC members or Secretariat have participated. Members are invited to send any updates in their areas of expertise to the Secretariat so that they can be considered for events where GEC participation has been requested.

2:50 – 3:10 pm

VI. Current and future activities at national and international level

- Council of Europe gender equality agenda:
 - o Italian Presidency (November 2021 - May 2022)

Members are invited to hear and take note of the gender equality agenda of the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, including the GEC conference for 2022 hosted by Italy, a [high-level event on work-life balance through women’s empowerment](#) (Rome, 12 April 2022).

3:10 – 3:25 pm

- [Hungarian Presidency \(May - November 2021\)](#)
- Irish Presidency (May - November 2022)
- Icelandic Presidency (November 2022 - May 2023)

Members are invited to take note of the presentations by the national representatives of Hungary, Ireland and Iceland, regarding the gender equality agendas during their respective Presidencies of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

3:25 – 4:00 pm

VII. Co-operation with international/regional organisations

- [Generation Equality Forum](#) (Paris, 30 June-2 July 2021)

Members are invited to take note of an update from Alexis Rinckenbach (France), about the Generation Equality Forum.

- [Council of the European Union](#) – gender equality agenda:
 - Portuguese Presidency (January - June 2021)
 - [Slovenian Presidency](#) (July - December 2021)
 - French Presidency (January - June 2022)

Members are invited to take note of the presentations from the representatives of Portugal, Slovenia and France, about their respective Presidencies of the Council of the European Union.

4:00 – 4:20 pm Coffee break

4:20 pm

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

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

Members are invited to take note of the information from the Secretariat about the [ongoing co-operation projects in the member states](#) in the area of equal access of women to justice.

CLOSE OF DAY 2

Thursday, 25 November 2021

10:00 – 11:00 am

II. Gender Equality Commission

- Election of President and two Vice-Presidents (January-December 2022)

In accordance with the [terms of reference of the GEC](#), the mandates of the current President and two Vice-Presidents come to an end on 31 December 2021. GEC members are invited to put forward nominations for the three positions.

In this connection it should be noted that the current President, Andreia Lourenco Marques (Portugal) and current Vice-President, Kateryna Levchenko (Ukraine), have both indicated that they will put themselves forward for a second term. Basim Al Alousi (Netherlands) will not be going forward for election for a second mandate.

Candidates will be asked to make a short introduction of three minutes before the voting begins.

Voting for the three positions will take place electronically using the KUDO platform. For this reason, all members attending the meeting in person in Strasbourg are invited to download the KUDO application on their computer or telephone (see attached instructions).

11:00 – 11:10 am

- GEC Terms of Reference (2022-2025)

The current terms of reference of the GEC come to an end on 31 December 2021. The Council of Europe is currently reforming the area of intergovernmental committees and discussing terms of reference for a four-year period instead of the current two years. The Committee of Ministers is meeting the same week as the GEC. It is hoped that the Secretariat will be in a position to inform the members about the adoption of the next terms of reference before the end of their meeting.

11:10 – 11:30 am Coffee Break

11:30 am – 12:00 pm

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

- Meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI) and its subordinate committees

Käthlin Sander (Estonia) will report on the meetings she has attended on behalf of the GEC and the different developments in the area.

- Study, together with CDADI on the impact of artificial intelligence, in close co-operation with CAHAI

In the light of the adoption of the GEC Terms of Reference for 2022 to 2025, the Secretariat will inform the members about the work planned in the area of artificial intelligence. Members will be invited to flag their interest in taking an active part in this work and to assist in compiling a roster of experts, from a variety of fields, on the (potential) impact of artificial intelligence on gender equality.

12:00 – 12:30 pm

VI. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality

1. Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023

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

- Update by the Secretariat of co-operation projects undertaken by the Gender Equality Division concerning violence against women and domestic violence

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

- Update by the Secretariat of co-operation projects undertaken by the Gender Equality Division concerning balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making

Members are invited to take note of the information from the Secretariat about the ongoing co-operation projects in the member states in the areas of violence against women and domestic violence and balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making.

12:30 – 2:15 pm Lunch break

2:30 – 3:30 pm

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

- High-level panel with Marija Pejčinović Burić, [Secretary General of the Council of Europe](#), Elena Bonetti, [Minister for Family and Equal Opportunities of Italy](#) and Iris Luarasi, President of the [Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence](#) (GREVIO)

To mark the first day of the 2021 campaign of 16 days of activism to combat violence against women, a high-level panel on the subject of violence against women will take place during the GEC and will be live-streamed.

3:30 – 4:30 pm

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

Members are asked to make proposals for the agenda of the next GEC meeting (May 2022).

VIII. Other business

Members are invited to raise any additional issues.

IX. Dates of forthcoming meetings

Members are invited to take note of the dates of the next GEC-related meetings.

- *GEC Conference 2022: High-level event on work-life balance through women's empowerment – hosted by the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers (November 2021 – May 2022) – Rome, 12 April 2022*
- *21st meeting of the GEC, Strasbourg, 11-13 May 2022 – dates to be confirmed*
- *22nd meeting of the GEC, Strasbourg, 16-18 November 2022 – dates to be confirmed*

X. Adoption of the abridged report of the 20th GEC meeting (23-25 November 2021)

Members are invited to adopt the draft abridged report of the 20th GEC meeting and instruct the Secretariat to submit it to the Committee of Ministers for taking note of it.

CLOSE OF MEETING