COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 15 December 2022 GEC (2022) Bureau 6

GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION
16th Bureau meeting
Wednesday, 14 December 2022

Report

1. **Follow-up to the 22nd meeting of the Gender Equality Commission**
   - Deadline for member states' contributions to the annual report: 16.12.2022 (only one received since the plenary meeting).
   - The Access to Justice report is under revision (the consultant is working on analysing the comments by the GEC to be integrated into the report); once finalised it will be sent to the GEC members in early January 2023.
   - Deadline for the submission of answers to questionnaires on the implementation of the sexism recommendation from both member states and NGOS: 21.12.2022. (As of 14 December 2022, 22 replies have been received).

2. **Draft Guidelines on men and boys – next steps**
   - The English version of the draft Guidelines is being revised by the Secretariat and will also be reviewed by the expert that supported the work; work on the French version will follow.
   - Further to the Director General's suggestion, it is proposed to integrate four promising practices in the document.
   - The draft Guidelines are in line with the style and the content of the draft report by PACE Rapporteur Petra Stienen: "The responsibility of men and boys in preventing and stopping gender-based violence".
     ⇨ ***Secretariat to send the final version of the report to GEC members when published in January 2023***
   - Next steps for the adoption of the Draft Guidelines: Council of Europe terminology check; editorial check by the Council of Europe legal department; transmission to the Group of Rapporteurs on Human Rights (GR-H) meeting at the end of February and possible adoption at the Committee of Ministers meeting in March. It would be good for the text to be adopted in time for the GEC annual thematic conference taking place on 27-28.4.2023.
   - The Secretariat confirmed that the different checks by Council of Europe services aim to reviews the form of the text, ensure language accuracy, lack of repetition and consistency with existing norms, but that the substance will not be modified.

3. **GEC participation in activities of other sectors of the Organisation**
   - The draft Recommendation on equality for Roma and Traveller women and girls has been sent to GEC Bureau members for their comments and validation, after having been reviewed by the GEC Secretariat and the responsible GEC member Elena Grozdanova
     => Action to be taken by the Bureau: validate the proposed comments before 20.12.2022
   - Call for expressions of interest of GEC members to support gender mainstreaming in relation to 1) the campaign on freedom of expression /the safety of women journalists and 2) the follow-up on the implementation of the Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls
     - ⇨ ***Karin Bengtson volunteered to be the GEC member in charge activities related to the issue of freedom of expression / safety of women journalists.***
     - ⇨ ***Secretariat to relaunch a call for interest regarding activities on the Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls (also mentioning the invitation to the GEC to present on the topic during a workshop co-organised in Prague by the Special Representation of the Secretary General on migration and refugees on 26.1.2023)***

4. **Forthcoming events**
   - A CSW event will be organised on the theme of migrant women and girls; GEC members will be further informed and receive the concept note. Kateryna Levchenko mentioned that there will be two events focusing on the Ukrainian dimension of this issue. Date of the CSW event to be confirmed.
   - The Icelandic Presidency will also co-sponsor an event on the digital dimension of VAW during the CSW.
   - GEC members who plan to participate in-person the CSW will be invited to inform the GEC Secretariat accordingly, as well as on the events which they will co-organise.
     - ⇨ ***Secretariat to send an email to GEC members to know about their plans regarding CSW***
     - ⇨ ***Secretariat to organise a separate meeting with Kateryna Levchenko on CSW preparation***
   - More information will be available to GEC members about the GEC annual conference which will take place in Strasbourg on 27-28.4.2023.
   - Meeting in Prague/Workshop co-organised by SRSG on "Strengthening the protection of vulnerable persons, in particular women and children fleeing the war in Ukraine" (26.1.2023)
   - GEC Chair-elect to attend online European Law Institute's High Level Expert Group Meetings on Justice and Gender Discrimination (27.1.2023 and 17.2.2023 -am)
   - Exchange of view between the GEC Chair-elect and ECRI (28.3.2023)

5. **Gender mainstreaming (including update on the recent GER training)**
    - The training for Council of Europe Gender Equality Rapporteurs (GERs) was organised by the GED Secretariat and was very interesting training. Cécile Gréboval informed the Bureau about the role of the GERs, the frequency of this training and its content.
    - She also mentioned that the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), partly thanks to the role of its GER adopted the use of gender-sensitive language for the French translation of human rights as "droits humains", except when referring to the European Court of Human Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights.
    - She also informed the participants about the development of a online HELP course on gender equality and gender mainstreaming, which will allow both Council of Europe staff members and GERs to have sustainable access to basic training and make space for the organisation of specialised training depending on the topic or the role.

6. **Proposed date of next Bureau meeting (Ralph Kass, Karin Bengtson and Andri Savva)**
   9 February 2023, 10-11.30 am (Strasbourg time and online)

Participants:

Bureau: Andreia Lourenço Marques (Chair), Kateryna Levchenko (Vice-Chair), Andri Savva (Vice-Chair), Ralph Kass (Chair-elect), Karin Bengtson (Vice-Chair-elect)

Secretariat: Caterina Bolognese, Natacha De Roeck, Cécile Gréboval, Christa Jakobsson, Tryggvi Hallgrímsson, Evrydiki Tseliou