

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 13 May 2022

GEC (2022) Abridged Report

**GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION
(GEC)**

**21st meeting
11-13 May 2022
Hybrid meeting**

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. took note of information provided by the Secretariat as regards questions of terminology – raised by members of the GR-H when discussing on 9 May 2022 the GEC’s annual report for 2021 on implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy – and instructed the Secretariat to prepare a document on which to base discussions at a future GEC meeting.
3. took note of the reports from the members of the GEC and the Secretariat regarding gender-equality related work being undertaken by the Committee on Artificial Intelligence, the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion, the Committee of Experts on Hate Crime and the Pompidou Group, as well as an overview of gender mainstreaming activities in the Council of Europe.
4. agreed to the proposed questionnaire for member states regarding artificial intelligence and instructed the Secretariat to disseminate it.
5. held an exchange of views, on the war in Ukraine and its impact on women, with Oleksii Boniuk, Head of the Criminal Law Policies and Investments Protection Department of the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, and Kateryna Cherepakha, Director of the NGO La Strada-Ukraine.
6. held a thematic discussion about the results of the study “From Stereotypes to Hostile Sexism - A Psychological Analysis of Conceptions about Gender” presented by Miriam Hale, M.Sc., Doctoral Researcher, and Dr André Melzer, Assistant Professor in Psychology, Department of Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences, Faculty of Humanities, Social and Educational Sciences, University of Luxembourg.
7. took note of the publication of the Study on the places of men and boys in gender equality policies.
8. took note of the information provided about the first meeting of the Working Group drafting guidelines on the place of men and boys in gender equality policies and in policies to combat violence against women.
9. agreed to the proposed approach and procedure to review the implementation of the Recommendation on preventing and combating sexism.
10. agreed to the proposed questionnaires for member states and NGOs, and instructed the Secretariat to revise them in light of the discussions and to commence the review procedure.
11. took note of the presentation by Andri Savva (Vice-Chair, Cyprus) about the Cypriot education programme for the empowerment of women in political life.

12. took note of information from the Secretariat about statistics and ongoing co-operation activities in the area of balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making.
13. took note of the report from the Italian representative, Stefano Pizzicannella, about the GEC's conference on "work-life balance as a leverage for women's empowerment and promoting gender equality".
14. instructed the Secretariat to finalise the report of the conference in light of the discussions, and to disseminate it.
15. took note of the information provided by Stefano Pizzicannella (Italy), Deirdre Ní Néill (Ireland) and Tryggvi Hallgrímsson (Iceland) about the gender equality programme of their respective presidencies of the Committee of Ministers.
16. took note of the information provided by the Secretariat about the ongoing co-operation work on women's access to justice, including as regards preparation of a study on the impact of COVID-19, to which members agreed to contribute pursuant to its terms of reference deliverables for 2022, and which would be launched during the November plenary meeting of the GEC.
17. considered the questionnaire to be sent to member states and agreed to provide feedback on it within one week, instructing the Secretariat to revise it in line with the comments received, and submit it to members for adoption by written procedure, prior to disseminating it to member states.
18. held an exchange of views with Iris Luarasi, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.
19. took note of information provided by member and observer states regarding national developments and experiences regarding the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention.
20. took note of the ongoing co-operation projects being undertaken in the area of violence against women and domestic violence.
21. took note of the adjustments to the co-operation projects being undertaken in the area of violence against women and domestic violence in light of the war in Ukraine.
22. took note of information about the external evaluation of the Council of Europe programme on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence for 2016-2020.
23. took note of the information provided by Sara Slana (Slovenia), Alexis Rinckenbach (France) and Radan Safarik (Czech Republic) about the gender equality programme of their respective presidencies of the Council of the European Union.

24. took note of information about the recent steps towards adoption of the Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls.
25. discussed preliminary ideas on the future implementation of the Recommendation and instructed the Secretariat to start preparing tools for its implementation.
26. reviewed the draft Work Plan for 2022-2025 and discussed current activities and priorities.
27. took note of the forthcoming exchange of views between the GEC Chair and the CEDAW Committee and proposed that the future priorities of each body, as well as issues of digital violence against women, trafficking in women and data collection on all aspects of gender equality should be included in the exchange.
28. took note of the report by Stefano Pizzicannella about the side-event “STEM Education as a stepping-stone towards gender transformative climate change policies” organised by the Italian Minister of Equal Opportunities and Family and the Council of Europe (15 March 2022).
29. took note of the information provided by GEC members who attended the CSW about the conclusions/other side events.
30. took note of the proposed items and thematic discussions for the next meeting of the GEC such as sexual harassment, institutional mechanisms for gender equality and pornography and agreed that the Bureau would decide which ones to include in the agenda of the next meeting.
31. took note of proposals for the agenda of its next meeting in November 2022.
32. agreed on the dates of the next GEC-related meetings: 2nd meeting of the Working Group on the place of men and boys in gender equality policies and in policies to combat violence against women (WG-GEC-MB) (Strasbourg, 28 June 2022 and online); 22nd meeting of the GEC (Strasbourg, 16-18 November 2022), including the launch event of the Study on the Impact of Covid-19 on Women’s Access to Justice (17 November 2022 - afternoon).
33. agreed on the abridged report of the meeting and instructed the Secretariat to transmit it to the Committee of Ministers for note to be taken of it.

Appendix I

AGENDA

- I. **Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**
 - *Draft Agenda* *GEC(2022)OJ1 Revised*
- II. **Gender Equality Commission**
 - **Annual exchange of views to evaluate GEC activities** *[and advise the CM and the SG on future priorities in its sector, including possible new activities and those that might be discontinued]* [Terms of reference 2022-2025](#)
- III. **Exchange of views on the war in Ukraine and the impacts on women**
- IV. **Exchange of views with Dunja Mijatović, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights**
- V. **Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality**
 1. **Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023**
 - a. **Draft Work Plan 2022-2025** *GEC(2022)1*
 - b. **Objective 1 – Prevent and combat gender stereotypes and sexism**
 - Study on the places of men and boys in gender equality policies *Publication*
 - Information from the Working Group preparing the guidelines on the place of men and boys in gender equality policies and in policies to combat violence against women *Oral presentation*
 - Reviewing implementation of the Recommendation on preventing and combating sexism – proposed approach and procedure and draft questionnaires for member States and NGOs *GEC(2021)8 revised*
 - c. **Objective 2 – Prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence**
 - Exchange of views with Iris Luarasi, 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
- Update by the Secretariat of co-operation projects undertaken by the Gender Equality Division concerning violence against women and domestic violence

d. 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, including as regards a study on the impact of Covid-19

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

- Presentation by Andri Savva (Vice-Chair, Cyprus) of the Cypriot education programme for the empowerment of women in political life

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

- Committee of Ministers Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls – the way forward

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

- Gender mainstreaming in Council of Europe activities *Oral presentation*
- Reports by members of the GEC and the Secretariat who have participated in the following meetings of Council of Europe bodies
 - Committee on [Artificial Intelligence](#) *Oral presentation*
[Elements of a legal framework on artificial intelligence](#)
 - [Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion \(CDADI\)](#) and its subordinate bodies including as regards preparation by GEC and CDADI of a study on the impact of artificial intelligence *Oral presentation*

- [Committee of Experts on Hate Crime \(PC/ADI-CH\)](#) – preparation of a draft comprehensive Recommendation on combating hate crime
Oral presentation
- [Pompidou Group](#): preparation of a side event on equality/gender at the Lisbon Addiction conference (end-November 2022)
Oral presentation

h. Annual Thematic Conference

- Follow up to the conference on “work-life balance as a leverage for women’s empowerment and promoting gender equality” organised by the Italian Ministry of Equal Opportunities and Family and the Council of Europe in the framework of the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers (Rome, 12 April 2022)

*Conference Takeaways
Draft Report (GEC(2022)2)*

VI. Thematic Discussion

“From Stereotypes to Hostile Sexism - A Psychological Analysis of Conceptions about Gender” – presentation and results of project undertaken by the University of Luxembourg followed by a discussion with Miriam Hale, M.Sc., Doctoral Researcher, and Dr André Melzer, Assistant Professor in Psychology, Department of Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences, Faculty of Humanities, Social and Educational Sciences, University of Luxembourg

VII. Co-operation with international/regional organisations

- Exchange of views between the Chair of the GEC and the CEDAW Committee, online Geneva, 1 July 2022
- CSW66 – Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 14-24 March 2022)
 - Side-event on “STEM Education as a stepping-stone towards gender transformative climate change policies” organised by the Italian Minister of Equal Opportunities and Family and the Council of Europe (15 March 2022)
GEC(2022)3
- Council of the European Union – gender equality agenda:
 - Slovenian Presidency (July - December 2021)
 - French Presidency (January - June 2022)
 - Czech Presidency (July - December 2022)

VIII. Current and future activities at national and international level

- Council of Europe gender equality agenda:
 - o Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers (November 2021 - May 2022)
 - o Irish Presidency of the Committee of Ministers (May - November 2022)
 - o Icelandic Presidency of the Committee of Ministers (November 2022 - May 2023)

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

X. Other business

XI. Dates of forthcoming meetings

- 2nd meeting of the Working Group on the place of men and boys in gender equality policies and in policies to combat violence against women (WG-GEC-MB) - Strasbourg, 28 June 2022;
- 22nd meeting of the GEC - Strasbourg, 16-18 November 2022
- Event to launch the study on the impact of Covid-19 on women's access to justice - Strasbourg, 17 November 2022 (afternoon)

XII. Adoption of the abridged report of the 21st GEC meeting (11-13 May 2022)

Calendar of forthcoming events and meetings

- *2nd meeting of the Working Group on the place of men and boys in gender equality policies and in policies to combat violence against women (WG-GEC-MB), Strasbourg, 28 June 2022*
- *Exchange of views with the Chair of the GEC and the CEDAW Committee, online Geneva, 1 July 2022*
- *22nd meeting of the GEC – Strasbourg, 16-18 November 2022*
- *Event to launch the study on the impact of Covid-19 on women's access to justice - Strasbourg, 17 November 2022 (afternoon)*