

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 6 May 2022

GEC (2022) AA/OB

**GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION  
(GEC)**

*21st meeting  
11-13 May 2022*

*Wednesday, 11 May 2022, 10:00 am-12:30 pm/2:30-5:00 pm*

*Thursday, 12 May 2022, 10:00 am-12:30 pm/2:30-5:00 pm*

*Friday, 13 May 2022, 10:00 am – 1:30 pm*

*Room G03 and online  
AGORA Building  
Council of Europe  
Strasbourg*

**DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA  
AND  
ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Wednesday, 11 May 2022**

10:00 – 10:15 am

**I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

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

10:15 – 11:10 am

**V. [Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality](#)**

**1. [Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023](#)**

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

- Reports from GEC members/representatives and Secretariat who have participated in the meetings of Council of Europe bodies
- Committee on [Artificial Intelligence](#)

Members are invited to take note of the information from the Secretariat about the work of the new Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI), as well as the document on [Elements of a legal framework on artificial intelligence](#) which was prepared by the Ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI). Members are also informed that a short questionnaire will be sent to member States with a view to gathering information on the impact of artificial intelligence on equality in the member States, in light of the drafting of a joint study between the GEC and the [Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion \(CDADI\)](#), and in close co-operation with CAI, on the impact of artificial intelligence systems, their potential for promoting equality – including gender equality - and the risks they may cause in relation to non-discrimination .

- [Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion \(CDADI\)](#) and its subordinate bodies including as regards the joint work undertaken with the GEC

Members are invited to take note of the information regarding the work of the [Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion \(CDADI\)](#) concerning artificial intelligence. A member of CDADI, Erik Adell Hellström (Sweden), will also report back to the GEC about the ongoing work.

- 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.

- [Committee of Experts on Hate Crime \(PC/ADI-CH\)](#) – preparation of a draft comprehensive Recommendation on combating hate crime

Members are invited to take note of the report by Andreia Lourenço Marques (Chair, Portugal) on the first meeting of the Committee of Experts on Hate Crime (PC/ADI-CH), which took place on 16-17 February 2022, particularly as regards the preparation of a draft comprehensive Recommendation on combating hate crime.

- [Pompidou Group](#): preparation of a Symposium on Gender and Drugs - side event of the Lisbon Addiction Conference (22 November)

Members are invited to take note of information from the French Representative about the preparation of this side-event.

**11:10 – 11:30 am Coffee break**

**11:30 am – 12:30 pm**

### III. Exchange of views on the war in Ukraine and the impacts on women

Members are invited to have an exchange of views on the war in Ukraine and the impacts on women. Oleksii Boniuk, Head of the Criminal Law Policies and Investments Protection Department of the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, will present the work of the Office of the Prosecutor-General, in particular as regards investigating and prosecuting acts of violence against women. Kateryna Cherepakha, the Director of the NGO La Strada-Ukraine, will also take part in the exchange of views and provide the NGO perspective and experience in the provision of services to victims of violence against women during this challenging time in Ukraine. Members are invited to participate in a question and answer session with the two invited guest speakers. The speakers' insights and the discussion with the members will help to ensure that any Council of Europe assistance provided under the aegis of the Gender Equality Strategy responds to the needs which are emerging as a result of the war.

**12:30 – 2:30 pm Lunch break**

2:30 – 3:30 pm

## 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

Members are invited to participate in a thematic discussion, proposed by Luxembourg, on a study “From Stereotypes to Hostile Sexism - A Psychological Analysis of Conceptions about Gender”. The presentation of the results of the study will be made by Miriam Hale, M.Sc., Doctoral Researcher, and Dr André Melzer, Assistant Professor in Psychology. A question and answer session with participants will follow their presentation.

3:30 – 3:50 pm

## V. [Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality](#)

### 1. [Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023](#)

#### b. Objective 1 – [Prevent and combat gender stereotypes and sexism](#)

- Study on the places of men and boys in gender equality policies

Members are invited to take note of the [final version](#) of the “Study on the places of men and boys in gender equality policies” (English only), which was drafted and finalised taking into account discussions at GEC meetings and interviews with several GEC members.

- 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

Members will be provided with an update on the state of play, including a report of the first meeting of 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](#), which took place online on 31 March 2022.

- Reviewing implementation of the [Recommendation on preventing and combating sexism](#) – proposed approach and procedure and draft questionnaires for member States and NGOs

Following discussions at the GEC meeting in November 2021, the Secretariat has revised [document GEC\(2021\)8](#) and drafted questionnaires for member States and NGOs, with a view to reviewing the implementation of the Committee of Ministers Recommendation on preventing and combating sexism. On the basis of this document, members are invited to approve the questionnaires and commencement of the review.

**3:50 – 4:10 pm Coffee break**

**4:10 pm**

**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

Members are invited to take note of the presentation by Andri Savva (Vice-Chair, Cyprus) of the Cypriot education programme for the empowerment of women in political life.

- Council of Europe cooperation to support 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 ongoing cooperation in the area of balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making.

**CLOSE OF DAY 1**

Thursday, 12 May 2022

10:00 – 11:00 am

III. Exchange of views with Dunja Mijatović, [Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights](#)

Members are invited to have an exchange of views with the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Dunja Mijatović. Since her appointment, the Commissioner has highlighted particularly the importance of human rights issues surrounding migration, promoting gender equality, and combating violence against women. Her intervention and the exchange with her should provide useful inspiration to the GEC as it begins to take stock of the current Gender Equality Strategy and prepares for the future one, to be launched in 2024.

11:00 – 11:20 am Coffee break

11:20 am – 12:00 pm

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)

Members are invited to take note of the oral report by the Italian Representative about the recent [conference on “work-life balance as a leverage for women’s empowerment and promoting gender equality”](#). Members have already received the [Conference Takeaways](#). The English version of Draft Report of the conference (GEC(2022)2) will also be made available shortly.

## 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)

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

12:00 – 12:30 pm

## V. [Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality](#)

### 1. [Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023](#)

#### 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 a study on the impact of Covid-19 on women's access 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. A study on the impact of Covid-19 on women's access to justice is currently under preparation. The presentation will include a proposal to consult GEC members on this topic, in order to include a broader range of perspectives in the study. The result will allow the GEC to fulfil its mandate to produce by the end of 2022 a study on the impact of Covid-19 on gender equality. It is proposed to devote part of the November GEC plenary session to a presentation and discussion of the study.

12:30 – 2:30 pm Lunch break

2:30 – 3:40 pm
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## V. [Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality](#)

### 1. [Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023](#)

#### 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)

Members are invited to have an exchange with the GREVIO President about member States' ongoing activities regarding the Istanbul Convention and GREVIO's current activities. Apart from the high-level exchange on the occasion of 25 November 2021, this will be the first exchange between the GEC members and Iris Luarasi since her election to the role of President.

- Sharing experiences by States Parties on implementation of the Istanbul Convention, and information on further ratifications

Members have an opportunity to exchange information about national developments and experiences regarding the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

- Update by the Secretariat of [co-operation projects](#) undertaken by the Gender Equality Division concerning violence against women and domestic violence

Members are invited to take note of information from the Secretariat about the ongoing [co-operation projects in the member states](#) in the area of preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, including the most recent adjustments to the programme as a result of the ongoing war in Ukraine. Members will have an opportunity to discuss these presentations and put questions about the projects, should they have any.

- External evaluation of the Council of Europe programme on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence for 2016-2020

Members are invited to take note of information provided by Roberto Olla, Head of the Human Dignity and Gender Equality Department, about the external evaluation, which is soon to be published and should be taken into account in the Council of Europe's work, including the GEC's work plan.



3:40 – 4:00 pm Coffee break

4:00 – 4:20 pm

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

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

4:20 – 5:00 pm

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 ahead

The Secretariat will inform the members of the recent steps towards adoption of the Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls. The Recommendation, which was approved by the Ministers' Deputies on 4 May 2022, will be formally adopted at the Ministerial Session in Turin on 20 May.

The members are invited to discuss the future implementation of the Recommendation, with a view to discuss the possible tools and information that will be required to help the member States in this work.

**CLOSE OF DAY 2**

**Friday, 13 May 2022**

10:00 – 11:15 am

**V. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality**

**1. Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023**

**a. Draft Work Plan 2022-2025**

Members are invited to review and agree on the Draft Work Plan 2020-2025 which has been prepared in line with the [GEC terms of reference](#), and adjusted to reflect the current situation in Ukraine and recommendations from the recent external evaluation of the Council of Europe's work on violence against women and domestic violence.

**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]*

In line with the [GEC terms of reference for 2022-2025](#), members are invited to have an exchange to evaluate the GEC's activities. This exchange could also cover the preparation of the next gender equality strategy.

11:15 – 11:30 am

**VII. Co-operation with international/regional organisations**

- Exchange of views with the Chair of the GEC and the CEDAW Committee, online Geneva, 1 July 2022

The Chair of the GEC was invited to hold an exchange with the CEDAW Committee, at its forthcoming session, on issues of common concern. Members are invited to propose items which should be brought up during this exchange, which will take place on 1 July 2022.

- [CSW66 – Commission on the Status of Women](#) (New York, 14-24 March 2022)
  - o 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)

Members are invited to take note of the report by the Italian Representative about the side event on [“STEM Education as a stepping-stone towards gender transformative climate change policies”](#) which was organised during the recent Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 14-24 March 2022). An [overview](#) of the event is available on the website.

Members are invited to share their experiences of this year’s CSW and to inform the members about other side-events organised by the members.

**11:30 am – 11:50 am Coffee break**

**11:50 am – 12:15 pm**

#### **IX. 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 (November 2022).

#### **X. Other business**

Members are invited to raise any additional issues.

**12:15 pm -**

#### **XI. Dates of forthcoming meetings**

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

- 22nd meeting of the GEC - Strasbourg, 16-18 November 2022
- Launch event of the Study on the Impact of Covid-19 on Women’s Access to Justice, 17 November 2022 (afternoon)

#### **XII. Adoption of the Abridged Report of the 21st GEC meeting (11-13 May 2022)**

Members are invited to adopt the Draft Abridged Report of the 21st GEC meeting and instruct the Secretariat to submit it to the Committee of Ministers for them to take note of it.

**CLOSE OF MEETING**