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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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GEC (2024) 4 Report

**GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION
(GEC)**

*25th meeting
16-18 April 2024*

MEETING REPORT

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. Ralph Kass (Luxembourg), Chair of the Gender Equality Commission (GEC), opened the meeting and welcomed the new GEC members. He highlighted the achievements since the last GEC plenary meeting in November 2023, namely the adoption of the Gender Equality Strategy (GES) 2024-2029 by the Committee of Ministers and the launch of the HELP course on gender equality and gender mainstreaming. He also recalled the forthcoming deliverables under the GEC Terms of Reference. Highlights of the agenda would be exchanges of views with Bertil Cotier, Chair of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and with Ana Peláez Narváez, Chair of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Other important exchanges would take place with representatives of ODIHR/OSCE and OECD.
2. Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Director of Equal Rights and Dignity, congratulated the GEC on the adoption of the GES 2024-2029 and informed them that the Secretariat was restructured in line with the priorities set out in the Reykjavik Declaration and the new Programme and Budget. The new Directorate now covers gender equality and anti-discrimination, two sides of the same coin. This merger allows for stronger synergies and transversality.
3. The Director also pointed to potential areas with which GEC could explore closer synergies. He reiterated the importance of complementing the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence with the two deliverables in the GEC Terms of Reference, namely the draft Recommendations on technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, and on the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on equality, including gender equality, and discrimination. In line with the intersectional approach of the GES, he recalled the need to work for the rights of women and girls in all their diversity, including Roma and Traveller¹ women and refugee, migrant and asylum-seeking women. Finally, he encouraged members to promote the new HELP course on gender equality and gender mainstreaming.
4. The GEC adopted the draft agenda as it appears in Appendix I to this report.

2. Report from the GEC Chair

5. The GEC took note of the information from the Chair about his activities and those of Bureau members since the last meeting on 14-16 November 2023. These included:
 - opening of the CDCJ webinar on mainstreaming gender in private and public law reform processes (5 December);
 - participation in the 2nd meeting of the Secretary General with Presidents of intergovernmental committees as Rapporteur on the fight against discrimination and anti-gender movements, the use of new digital technologies, protection of the environment (1 February 2024);
 - participation in the information meeting of the Expert Committee on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression, and Sex Characteristics (ADI-SOGIESC) (15 February 2024);
 - presentation of the GES 2024-2029 to the PACE Committee on Equality and Non-discrimination Committee (15 April 2024) and invitation to its President, Mariia Mezentseva, to exchange with the GEC at its next meeting.

¹ Roma...

3. GEC Terms of reference 2024-2027 and 2024 workplan

6. The Secretariat presented the Terms of reference 2024-2027 adopted by the Committee of Ministers in the context of the Council of Europe Programme and Budget 2024-2027, recalled the deliverables to be completed by the end of 2025 and the 2024 revised workplan. It also informed the GEC that a mid-term review of the Programme and Budget would be carried out in 2025 allowing for adjustments and proposals for the period 2026-2027.
7. The Secretariat drew attention to the call for secondment, in particular to support the development of awareness-raising tools to deflect anti-gender narratives, and invited GEC members to disseminate the call.
8. The GEC took note of the information provided the Secretariat.

4. Elections / appointments

9. The GEC appointed Ralph Kass (Luxembourg) as Focal point on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) issues and Maria Ellul (Malta) as substitute focal point.

5. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality

5.1 Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023: 2023 annual report

10. The Secretariat thanked the GEC members for using the new data collection system for the preparation of the 2023 annual report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2018 – 2023 and presented relevant highlights, statistics and conclusions. It was noted that gender mainstreaming activities were increasing but that activities for the protection of the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls remained limited.
11. One delegation proposed certain amendments to the report based on measures taken by its national authorities in 2023. The GEC agreed to include these proposals.
12. Several delegations shared proposals such as to collect promising practices on an ongoing basis to facilitate contributions and the efficient preparation of the biennial reporting on the GES 2024-2029. They suggested inviting Council of Europe entities to present relevant and promising actions undertaken. It was agreed that a specific section on good practices from non-member states could be included in the biennial reporting on the GES 2024-2029.
13. Some delegations suggested that the reporting mechanism be streamlined through the use of a more focused questionnaire to enable the production of a more reader-friendly report whilst others emphasised that all the strategic objectives needed to be covered as different countries have different priorities. Including all strategic objectives would also allow for indicators to be identified on the priorities of each country and would facilitate a gap analysis. All delegations agreed that it would be more user-friendly to receive only one link to collect all the information per strategic objective.

The GEC suggested that the Secretariat could have a stronger editorial role and tasked it to produce a short questionnaire on data collection methodology and establish a working group. This working group would develop a questionnaire which would highlight indicators and statistics and facilitate data analysis. The new reporting format aims to be more analytical.

14. The GEC adopted the 2023 annual report, as amended, and its appendices and tasked the Secretariat to transmit it for information to the Committee of Ministers.

5.2 Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029

15. The Secretariat updated the GEC on the adoption of the GES 2024-2029 by the Committee of Ministers on 6 March 2024.
16. The Secretariat referred members to the quadrennial table of activities accompanying the GES, which details the on-going and planned activities of the Council of Europe to achieve the strategic objectives.
17. Several GEC members expressed interest in translating the GES 2024-2029 into national languages and asked the Secretariat to provide instructions as to the procedure to follow.
18. The GEC took note of the latest developments in the organisation and programme of the high-level conference “United around gender equality: making space for women and girls” on 30 May 2024 in Strasbourg, to be held under the aegis of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. The conference would officially launch the Strategy and mark the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention. The Chair invited interested members to register by 17 May 2024.
19. One delegation proposed including a panellist from Ukraine in one of the sessions of the conference to speak about gender equality in times of peace and in times of war.
20. The Secretariat underlined that the conference would be an opportunity to initiate a dialogue with representatives of the Advisory Council on Youth and that this could be continued through regular exchanges of views during GEC plenary meetings. This would ensure that a youth perspective is included in the implementation of the GES 2024-2029.

5.3 Thematic work

a. Preventing and combating gender stereotypes and sexism

▪ Report of the 1st meeting of the Committee of Experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI)

21. The Secretariat provided an update about the work of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) and the finalisation of the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence expected to be adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 17 May 2024.
22. The Secretariat presented the outcomes of the first meeting, held on 20-21 February 2024, of the Committee of Experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI). Discussions have focused on the preliminary outline and several aspects were raised, including the need to clearly define the scope and title, to present the general principles only once in the document, to identify how to present the part on promotion of equality and positive obligations, to ensure consistency with the Framework Convention and to give prominence to the role of equality bodies. Based on this, the Secretariat would

prepare a first draft of the Recommendation to be discussed during the second meeting on 25-26 September. The GEC took note of the report.

- **Presentation of promising practices from member States on measures to prevent and combat sexism, followed by an exchange.**

23. Three members presented promising practices on measures to prevent and combat sexism.

Cyprus presented the law on combating sexism, which was adopted in 2020. This legislation criminalises sexism in all its forms. It aims to cover acts of sexism online and offline against women and men, recognising that women, especially some groups of women, are more affected. The definition used in the Cypriot law is inspired by the definition contained in the 2019 Council of Europe Recommendation on preventing and combating sexism.

Denmark presented the work done to prevent and combat sexual harassment. Through public funding an alliance was created between relevant stakeholders, to foster cultural change. Four projects were implemented, including a study examining the prevalence of sexual harassment. This initiative demonstrated the advantages for different actors to work together, in order to keep the focus on the topic.

France presented the annual report on the state of sexism, which is produced since 2019, following the adoption of specific legislation against sexism in 2016. The annual report is mandatory by law and drafted by the High Council for Equality between Women and Men; it covers a different topic related to sexism every year. The 2023 report was about perceptions of sexism among youth and showed alarming trends, notably that more than one third of young women were subjected to non-consensual sexual relations. France has also introduced a national day against sexism (25 January).

24. A short discussion followed the presentations the GEC took note of the information provided, welcoming the format of the exchange.

b. Preventing and combating violence against women and girls and domestic violence

- **Presentation of experiences from State Parties on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.**

25. The GEC took note of information provided by **Italy** on a new legislative decree, unanimously adopted by parliament in November 2023, strengthening the protection of victims by increasing the focus on crimes related to domestic violence and providing for more protective measures. It introduced restraining orders and new tools for the judiciary. Training sessions of frontline staff working with victims of violence against women (VAW) were organised and awareness-raising measures introduced, such as short movies showing positive messaging to escape the cycle of violence. Measures involving all stakeholders were rolled out to address poverty (economic violence and dependence) through for example microcredits for women entrepreneurs and minimum income for women victims of violence for a period of 12 months. An observatory on VAW has also been established.

In **Luxembourg**, the GREVIO recommendations have been taken into account and a new action plan to combat gender-based violence (GBV) is being elaborated. An informal working group will assist with its implementation. A questionnaire to collect data on incidents of GBV has been developed which will inform the national action plan.

Croatia indicated that amendments to the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Act and the Act on Protection from Domestic Violence would expand the rights of victims of violence. Previously classified as misdemeanour, sexual harassment is now a criminal offence. Although femicide was not explicitly mentioned in the legislation, the term is covered under aggravated murder of female persons and the concept of gender-based violence has been introduced in the criminal code. Specialised judges must now follow mandatory training on GBV. The maximum prison sentence for GBV has been increased from 5 to 10 years.

Lithuania indicated that ratification of the Istanbul Convention would be possible although the debate on the issue was very politicised. The Constitutional Court ruled that the Convention did not contradict the constitution. The issue would be further discussed after the national elections in October 2024.

Czechia indicated that ratification requires consent from both chambers. In 2024, the Senate (upper chamber) motion in favour failed by 2 votes. Advocacy for ratification continues and pundits speculate that the Senate elections in October 2024 may result in the reversal of the decision.

Slovenia informed that a new resolution on preventing violence against women and domestic violence was adopted in March 2024. The main part of the resolution was devoted to the protection of victims of violence in the context of family law.

North Macedonia indicated that the Ministry of Justice recently adopted amendments to the Criminal Code, which introduced a definition of sexual violence and rape based on the absence of consent, as well as stalking, sexual harassment and female genital mutilation. In 2023, the parliament adopted a new law on monetary compensation for victims of violent crime.

Republic of Moldova announced that in January 2024 a new national agency on the prevention of VAW and domestic violence was established and that its national plan would be established. A voluntary contribution was signed by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to finance cooperation activities to combat VAW in the context of migration of Ukrainian refugees.

Ukraine indicated that the institutional mechanism involved in prevention, protection and prosecution was strengthened and a new department created in the General Prosecutor's Office. Two draft laws were developed: the first on the status of victims of sexual violence related to the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and interim reparations, and the second on registrations of persons whose lives and health were harmed as a result of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. Both legal acts are before parliament and are expected to be adopted. State budgets have been secured to subsidise local authorities for the development and strengthening of shelters, institutions and other services for victims of violence.

The Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality (**EIGE**) indicated that when monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, member states could refer to EIGE's system of indicators to monitor administrative data on gender-based violence and violence against women. The indicators are aligned on the new EU directive and help collect data on intimate partner violence, domestic violence, rape and femicide. The Director said that EIGE would also publish a methodological report to support member states to develop their own methodologies. An EU wide survey on prevalence of violence against women will be available later in 2024. It will provide an update since the first such survey in 2014.

- **Presentation by the Secretariat of specific cooperation activities**

26. The Secretariat presented developments regarding ongoing co-operation projects on promoting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls in Romania, Slovak Republic, Hungary, Poland and the Republic of Moldova and upcoming projects in Armenia and Ukraine. Forthcoming activities within the multi-country programme on ending violence against women include reports on Greece and Slovenia, and a Conference "Synergy for change: Civil society raising awareness on violence against women in a context of global challenges" (Budapest, 11-12 July 2024). Other cooperation and assistance has focused on the digital dimension of violence against women and girls, gender stereotypes and sexism, women's equal access to justice and women's empowerment and gender equality in relation to global and geopolitical changes. The presentation covered also the development of perpetrators programmes in line with the Istanbul Convention.

- **Combating technology-facilitated violence against women and girls - update on the future work of the GEC/PC eVIO**

27. The GEC took note of the revised timeline of the work of the Committee on Experts on combating technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (GEC/PC-eVIO) as a result of the heavy workload of the committees involved in the drafting (CDPC, GREVIO and GEC). The first meeting would take place in October 2024 and up to 3 meetings would be organised in 2025. The preliminary outline to draft the recommendation on combating technology-facilitated violence against women and girls would be ready by summer and shared with the committee members prior to the first meeting with the objective of developing a first draft text of the Recommendation afterwards. This deliverable should be completed by the end of 2025 as forecasted. One delegation expressed concern about the timetable and completion date. Another delegation mentioned that the draft must take into account the fact that new technologies keep evolving and that the wording should reflect the coverage of current but also future technologies, to ensure the Recommendation is not obsolete before it comes out. **Denmark** proposed that it also cover boys and men as well as women and girls, as in some cases eg. sextortion, boys are more often victims than girls. The Chair supported the proposal to include boys and men and expressed confidence that the Recommendation would be ready by the end of 2025, although an extension could be requested if necessary.

28. The GEC approved the methodology and revised timeline.

- **OECD work on indicators of technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV)**

29. The GEC took note of the presentation made by the OECD representative. The OECD is working on TFGBV under 3 frameworks 1) ongoing work on gender-based violence (as the digital space usually represents the continuation & amplification of the phenomenon); 2) managing digital transition through the gender equality lens; 3) reinforcing democracy initiative, as it is also an issue of democratic governance. Under the Japanese presidency of the G7, the OECD was asked to develop indicators on TFGBV with an aim to elevate it in the political agenda, possibly including it in the G7 Dashboard on gender gaps.

30. The three areas looked into are data availability, legal coverage and implementation frameworks. The preliminary findings highlighted the uneven and incomparable nature of administrative data on non-consensual image sharing and stalking. Underreporting is due to a low level of trust in the government and law enforcement actors. Strengthening administrative data remains crucial to observe trends in reporting, and to gather data on the profiles of victims, the perpetrators and so on. This of course requires definitions and data collection methods to be harmonised and adherence to international standards. Data collection methods from third-party data, such as social media, to understand the prevalence remains exceptional but it offers great potential. **Italy** has a promising practice in that regard where their national Statistics Office worked together with the equal opportunities department to better understand the phenomenon by using big data and tracking social media interactions. They cross-compared the results with the administrative data for a more comprehensive approach. The OECD can support the development of population-based surveys carried out by national authorities. OECD have used this method to map the legal coverage of certain types of TFGBV. The most pressing area for action is the role of online platforms and providers of intermediary services. Regulations in this area have advanced, especially because of the EU Level Digital Services Act but much progress remains to be made to effectively enforce the regulations, where they exist, in order to meaningfully tackle online gender-based violence. The OECD will expand the mapping of good regulatory practices and other non-regulatory mechanisms. More and more countries are now including the concept of TFGBV or technology-facilitated violence against women (TFVAW) in strategic documents in their overarching framework for combating and preventing gender-based violence. Mapping is under way on how these goals are measured, budgeted, and attributed to certain institutions.

The Director of **EIGE** proposed that GEC members consult the EIGE definitions and indicators to assess TFVAW. A report is available and soon also a short fact sheet on a few larger social media platforms and their policies on gender equality and combating different forms of violence against women.

c. Ensuring equal access to justice for women and girls

31. The Secretariat presented developments regarding co-operation projects on women's access to justice. Some highlights included training on legal literacy; women in earthquake affected provinces in Türkiye, increased access to free legal aid, mentoring programme for legal professionals, disaggregated data collection efforts and research to analyse and identify good practices and shortcomings on the collection of data by the justice systems. Interventions are aimed at legal professionals to increase the application of Council of Europe standards namely the Istanbul Convention, and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights.

d. Achieving balanced participation of women and men in political, public, social and economic life

- **Exchange of views with Yulia Netesova, Chief of Democratic Governance and Gender Unit, and Saša Gavrić, Associate Gender Officer, ODIHR/OSCE on gender equality in politics**

32. Yulia Netesova, Chief of Democratic Governance and Gender Unit, presented ODIHR's work on advancing gender equality in politics and advising on transformative gender equality. Within the OSCE structure ODIHR has an exclusive mandate on gender equality in political life and works with democratic institutions, government bodies for gender equality, government ministries and agencies, women and men leaders and women movements. ODIHR has developed an online political party gender audit [tool](#) for assessing internal political party processes, procedures, structures, culture and activities from a gender perspective.

33. Saša Gavrić, Associate Gender Officer, underlined the role of Institutional Mechanisms (IM) as critical actors for gender equality and presented a review from the OSCE Region, Forty-two member states shared their experience through an online survey and interviews on how IMs approach the issue of gender equality. Data on the use of gender mainstreaming tools and policy related tasks carried out by IMs over the past 3 years was analysed. It highlighted the triangle of empowerment: 1. cooperation between women's movements and NGOs and gender experts, 2. IMs for gender equality and 3. women and men in public office. In some cases, a 4th angle is international cooperation.

34. During the discussion, questions were raised on how to keep women in politics as they are quitting massively due to violence against them in the political arena (eg. the president of the Slovak Republic resigned because of hate speech she received), encouraging international organisations to work together to design toolkits. As regards noticeable trends in gender equality according to parties' political leanings, it was observed that sexism crossed over all party lines. As the gatekeepers of democracy, political parties should be more open and inclusive and promote integrity and respect between colleagues and ensure effective anti-harassment policies.

35. ODIHR designed a service line specifically on the issue of VAW in politics as the violence is clearly gendered, highly sexualised, often with threats of rape and with a huge impact on family and children. Five tools were developed for use by parliaments, political parties, civil society and women politicians with the aim to increase the democratic nature of political parties. It was recalled that political parties are voluntary institutions of citizens, not governmental institutions. Engagement with them is very different as compared to engaging with parliaments.
36. In reply to questions, the ODIHR representatives indicated that a report on Slovenia should be adopted soon; that they work with civil society; that expert groups of researchers and practitioners can be appointed to conduct reports on diverse issues; and that in the past three years reports were mostly related to the situation in Ukraine.
37. Representatives from PACE and EIGE also indicated that they have both collaborated with ODIHR to complement their work on political participation.

▪ **Exchange of views with Ana Peláez Narváez, CEDAW Chair**

38. The GEC held an exchange of views with Ana Peláez Narváez, CEDAW Chair, who emphasised the importance of the CEDAW Convention to guarantee women's rights on an equal footing with men in all spheres of life (public, political, private). She praised the work of the Council of Europe, in particular the work of GREVIO and GRETA, and stressed the need to share best practices in national jurisdictions.
39. She underlined that the participation of women in decision-making must include all women in all their diversity. She explained that the CEDAW Committee had the possibility to provide recommendations to any countries and to the international community as a whole. The Committee is currently working on a [draft General Recommendation No 40](#) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems. To ensure countries' engagement with the Convention, when drafting the general recommendation CEDAW carried out wide consultations with stakeholders as from the drafting stage of the concept note. Draft General Recommendation No 40 would be discussed in May 2024 and undergo a second reading in September 2024 before adoption. The recommendation includes an introduction which puts forward the background and the issues at stake and focuses on:
- women's role in peace and political stability worldwide;
 - sustainability and climate change, consequences for marginalised women, participation of women in decision-making related to climate change and reduction of disasters;
 - women's participation in technological development and the role of AI in decision-making;
 - women's rights related to participation and decision-making, but also in international decision-making, related to diplomacy and consideration of women in all systems.

The General Recommendation would not be just about equal participation in public and political life, but also about equal participation in the field of justice, education, economy, health care, social benefits, rural development, family life etc. All these fields have the obligation to take into account gender.

40. Ana Peláez Narváez underlined that the 50-50 equal participation of women and men in all decision-making fields was an obligation, not a measure. It must ensure intersectional equality, which considers women in all their diversity. This is a comprehensive approach which goes beyond gender issues, including equality in power and influence in fields such as defence, economy, and the interior. The participation of civil society and women's organisations is crucial in fighting for a 50-50 participation in decision-making. International organisations have an important role in this struggle.
41. She explained that CEDAW was finalising an inquiry report on the optional protocol on Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) to grant access to legal abortion to all women. CEDAW was also working on a recommendation on gender stereotypes, which would include the notion of trans women.
42. The CEDAW Chair officially invited the GEC to a meeting of CEDAW to present the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029, with a view to inspire its work.
43. During the discussion, questions were raised on transposing EU directives; how to effectively implement the CEDAW Convention; how to deal with the backlash on SRHR in many regions of the world and ensure States Parties comply with the Optional Protocol; the implementation of CEDAW recommendations in Ukraine; the availability of a database listing national legislation on women's rights per country; to what extent General Recommendation No 40 will address resistance, by some political systems, to temporary special measures and go beyond gender quotas.
44. The CEDAW Chair raised the issue of harmful practices against women and girls under the guise of cultural tradition such as child marriage and female genital mutilation. Forced sterilisation of Roma and trans women also remain a real concern. She indicated that the issue of gender quotas is covered in the draft General Recommendation but welcomed contributions from other international organisations.
45. The Secretariat mentioned the new Committee of Ministers Recommendation on Equality for Roma and Traveller women and girls as well as the Guidelines on the place of men and boys in gender equality policies and in policies to combat violence against women. The Secretariat had taken part in the consultation on the Draft General Recommendation N°40.
46. The GEC Chair thanked the CEDAW Chair for her participation and for her personal commitment to women's rights.

e. **Ensuring women's empowerment and gender equality in relation to global and geopolitical challenges**

- **Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)17 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls –update on translations, dissemination, promotion (tools) and cooperation activities**

47. The Chair invited the members to update the GEC about any activities they have carried out to promote the Committee of Ministers Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls. He reminded the members of one of the deliverables of the terms of reference for this year, namely to develop “awareness-raising tools supporting dissemination and implementation at national level of the Recommendation CM(2022)17” and asked the members if they had proposals on the format, focus or target audience of these tools.

48. One delegation took the floor to welcome the discussion and stress the importance of promoting the implementation of the Recommendation.

49. The Secretariat proposed to adapt a “Guide to the implementation of the Council of Europe Recommendation on Protecting the rights of Migrant, Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Women and Girls”, which was produced in the framework of a cooperation project with Ukraine. The idea would be to develop a practical guide for policy-makers at the national level on the basis of this existing document. Other tools targeting a broader audience, including migrant women themselves, could also be produced in future.

50. The GEC agreed with the proposal of the Secretariat concerning the development of an awareness raising tool by the end of the year 2024.

- **Deflecting anti-gender rhetoric and creating a new narrative – preparatory steps**

51. The Chair recalled that the Committee of Ministers had tasked the GEC to prepare an “awareness-raising campaign deflecting anti-gender rhetoric and creating a new narrative” by the end of 2025. He reminded members of the context for this work, as set out in the GES 2024-2029, notably the fact that acquired rights cannot be taken for granted and that backsliding on gender equality policies and the rise of anti-gender movements weaken existing *acquis* and seek to limit, among other things, women's access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, action to prevent violence against women, and protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons. He explained that there are already initiatives and material to build on in this area, including within the Council of Europe.

52. During the discussion, several delegations stressed the need to brainstorm and to work with experts on the topic, in order to have a clearer idea of the existing challenges and initiatives and to agree on possible impactful activities to support positive narratives around gender and the Istanbul Convention. Delegations also stressed the importance of cooperating with civil society on this issue. Regarding the topics to be addressed, delegations mentioned sexual and reproductive health and rights, but also the more general impact of anti-rights and misogynist platforms on measures to combat violence against women and on gender equality in general (for example on measures promoting women's roles outside the home or addressing gender stereotypes). Several members mentioned youth, including young men as important targets for these future activities. EIGE and the NGO WAVE mentioned that they could also offer material on the topic.

53. The GEC members discussed the wording of the deliverable and what should be understood by “awareness-raising campaign” given the risks of misfiring and the need for adaptation to different contexts. A possible focus could be on positive messaging on deflecting anti-gender rhetoric and creating a new narrative.
54. The Secretariat made a short presentation of previous and current work of the Council of Europe on this topic and proposed a calendar and working methods, including the setting up of a GEC working group during the November 2024 plenary meeting as well as possible cooperation with experts.
55. The GEC instructed the Secretariat to invite an expert to make a presentation during the November 2024 plenary meeting and to prepare by the end of 2024, with the support of one or more experts a preliminary mapping of relevant existing material and initiatives identifying possible target groups, multipliers and allies, types of medium and messaging.
- f. **Achieving gender mainstreaming and including an intersectional approach in all policies and measures**
- **Exchange of views with Bertil Cottier, Chair of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)**
56. The Chair welcomed Bertil Cottier (Switzerland), the new Chair of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and stressed the excellent collaboration between the GEC and ECRI, a unique human rights expert body that monitors action against racism, discrimination and intolerance in Europe.
57. The ECRI Chair explained that ECRI was celebrating its 30th anniversary and was in its 6th monitoring cycle. He stressed the importance of gender mainstreaming and of implementing an intersectional perspective, looking at the enhanced vulnerabilities of women within groups confronted with discrimination, for example Roma women, women of African origin, Muslim or Jewish women; and listed relevant ECRI general recommendations in this regard. He mentioned the importance of data disaggregated by sex/gender, which are not always easy to gather. He also explained that ECRI analyses gender equality issues only when the gender aspect intersects with a discrimination ground pertaining to ECRI’s mandate.
58. During the discussion, the general pushback on democratic values and the changing nature of racism was mentioned as an issue that impacts the work of both the GEC and ECRI. In relation to the gathering of sex-disaggregated data, it was stressed that due respect for data protection rules, they cannot stand in the way of the gathering of such data. In relation to the possible trickledown effect in member states of the integration of a gender equality perspective in the work of ECRI, the Chair said that some advances are visible, notably when ECRI issues priority recommendations on gender equality issues, but that the impact and implementation of gender mainstreaming at national level still needs to be improved.
59. The GEC took note of the presentation made by the ECRI Chair and thanked him for the very fruitful exchange of views, confirming the interest in pursuing co-operation between the GEC and ECRI.

- **Gender mainstreaming in Council of Europe activities – update on HELP course and other activities and initiatives**

60. The Secretariat informed the GEC about the launch of the new HELP course on gender equality and gender mainstreaming, the adoption of internal guidelines for the use of language as a driver of inclusivity, as well as other gender mainstreaming activities underway at the Council of Europe.

61. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the HELP course and stressed that it could be of interest for a wide range of stakeholders. One delegation proposed that the course be translated into Arabic.

- **Reports from members of the GEC, experts and Secretariat who have participated in meetings of Council of Europe bodies**

62. The Chair invited GEC members who had followed the work of other Council of Europe bodies to briefly report about the outcomes of the meetings having taken place since the previous plenary.

63. Elena Grozdanova (North Macedonia) reported about the 9th International Roma and Traveller Women Conference, which took place in Skopje, North Macedonia on 30 November – 1 December 2023. She attended the plenary session as well as workshops. The conference was very successful and provided the opportunity for Roma and Traveller women to address, in an international forum, the issues affecting their own and their families' lives. It also provided a space where Roma women could exchange experiences and inform one another of issues concerning them.

64. Andreia Lourenco Marques (Portugal) participated in the 8th plenary meeting of the Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) in Strasbourg, France on 5-7 December 2023. She informed the GEC notably about the adoption of Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on equality of Roma and Traveller women and girls and about an exchange of views with the Secretary General's Special Representative on Migration.

65. Onur Dinçer (Türkyie) reported about his participation in the conference "Cooperation on Cybercrime & Electronic Evidence: Octopus Conference" on 13-15 December 2023 in Bucharest, Romania, in particular in a workshop on synergies between Council of Europe conventions for a safer cyberspace. The conference was very interesting in examining evolving threats in cyberspace security in relation to human rights. He regretted that the gender equality and women's rights dimension has been completely left out of the event.

66. The Secretariat, together with, or in replacement, of Radan Šafařík (Czechia), participated in the Committee of Artificial Intelligence (CAI) meetings of 5-8 December 2023, 25-26 January 2024 and 11-14 March 2024. The Framework Convention was finalised and includes an article on equality and non-discrimination, another on non-discrimination, and a reference to gender equality. It would be officially adopted on 17 May by the Committee of Ministers and opened for signature later in 2024.

67. The Secretariat participated in the Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Violence (ENF-VAE) meeting on 11-12 March 2024 in Strasbourg, France (substituting Sara Slana (Slovenia)). The main point of interest was the finalisation of the “Feasibility study on age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education to strengthen responses for - inter alia - preventing and combating violence, including risky or harmful sexual behaviour by children”, which integrates a gender equality perspective and generally corresponds to the position of the GEC on sexuality education. In addition, the Secretariat informed the GEC about an exchange of views within the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child on the impact of pornography on children scheduled on 29 May 2024 and which interested members would be welcome to follow online.

68. The GEC Chair thanked the members for their availability and involvement. This work is valued by the other committees and is key to ensure the inclusion of a gender perspective in all relevant areas.

6. Co-operation with other Council of Europe sectors and international / regional organisations

- **Council of the European Union - presidencies’ gender equality agendas**

69. The GEC took note of the information provided by representatives of Spain, Belgium and Hungary about the gender equality programme of their respective presidencies of the Council of the European Union

7. Current and future activities at national and international levels

- **68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 68) (New-York, 11-22 March 2024)**

70. The GEC took note of the report on the side-event “Catalysts for change: breaking down gender stereotypes in media and advertising” organised under the aegis of the Liechtenstein Committee of Ministers Presidency. The topic promoted the recently adopted Guidelines on the place of men and boys in gender equality policies and in policies to combat violence against women, the 2019 Recommendation on preventing and combating sexism and the 2013 Recommendation on gender equality and media. The event was attended by over 350 people in person and around 200 people online. The quality of the panelists and the unusually strong involvement of men was praised by many participants. Private industry and advertising specialists provided compelling examples of concrete measures taken to fight gender stereotypes in advertising. The feedback on social media and other digital platforms was very positive.

71. The GEC took note of the reports from member states having organised other side-events at CSW 68: State Audit Office of North Macedonia, State Audit Office of Republic of Serbia, SIDA and UN Women: Supreme audit institutions as agents for increasing accountability toward financing for gender equality; Spain: Parity democracy and social justice; France: Feminist financing for sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender equality: policies, partnerships & practices; and Ukraine: Ukraine’s post-war recovery - gender mainstreaming for women’s empowerment.

- **Gender equality agendas of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Presidencies:**

72. The GEC took note of the information provided by representatives of Lithuania and Luxembourg about the gender equality programme of their respective forthcoming presidencies of the Committee of Ministers. The members looked forward to the participation of Yuriko Backes, Minister of Defence, Mobility and Public Works and Gender Equality and Diversity of Luxembourg at the 26th GEC plenary session on 19-21 November 2024, and proposed a thematic discussion on women in defence. The GEC also noted that the priorities of the Luxembourg Presidency would be rule of law, living together and culture.

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

73. Members were invited to make proposals for the agenda of the next GEC meeting.

74. The GEC took note of the proposals to include in its meeting agenda: a session to discuss the format of the GEC deliverable to deflect anti-gender narratives; exchanges of views with Yuriko Backes, Minister of Defence, Mobility and Public Works and Gender Equality and Diversity of Luxembourg, with Mariia Mezentseva, President of the PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, with Michael O’Flaherty, the new Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, and with youth representatives. Other proposals included a presentation from the Sports sector of their project “All in Plus: Promoting gender equality in sport” and the presentation of promising practices on measures to combat sexism, included or not in the Report on the review of the implementation of Recommendation (2019)1 on preventing and combating sexism (GEC(2023)4).

9. Other business

75. No other point was raised.

10. Dates of forthcoming meetings

76. The GEC agreed on the dates of the 26th GEC meeting (19-21 November 2024) and the 27th GEC meeting (13-15 May 2025) both to be held in Strasbourg.

11. Adoption of the abridged report of the 25th GEC meeting (16-18 April 2024)

77. The GEC 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

1. **Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**
- *Draft agenda* *GEC(2024)OJ1*
2. **Report from the Chair of the GEC**
3. **GEC terms of reference 2024-2027 and 2024 workplan** *CM(2023)131addfinal
and GEC(2024)1rev*
4. **Elections / appointments** *GEC(2023)INF1*
5. **Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality**
 - 5.1 **Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023:** 2023 annual report on the implementation of the Strategy (final report) - presentation and discussion of the draft document *GEC(2024)2*
 - 5.2 **Draft Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029**
 - Update by the Secretariat *GEC(2024)3*
 - Quadrennial table of activities
 - 2024 annual conference: launch of the Strategy (30 May 2024, Strasbourg) *GEC(2024)INF1*
 - 5.3 **Thematic work**
 - a. Preventing and combating gender stereotypes and sexism
 - Report of the 1st meeting of the Committee of Experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI) *GEC/ADI-AI(2024)5*
 - Presentation of promising practices from member States on measures to prevent and combat sexism followed by an exchange *CM(2024)18*
 - b. Preventing and combating violence against women and girls and domestic violence
 - Sharing experiences by States Parties on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and information from member States on further ratifications
 - Presentation by the Secretariat of specific cooperation activities
 - Draft Recommendation on combating technology-facilitated violence against women and girls – update on the development of the GEC/PC-eVIO *GEC(2023)INF3rev*
 - Presentation by the OECD on G7 related indicators on tech-facilitated Gender Based Violence

- c. Ensuring equal access to justice for women and girls
 - Update by Secretariat on co-operation projects on women's access to justice
- d. Achieving balanced participation of women and men in political, public, social and economic life
 - Exchange of views with Yulia Netesova, Chief of Democratic Governance and Gender Unit, and Saša Gavrić, Associate Gender Officer, ODIHR/OSCE on gender equality in politics
 - Exchange of views with Ana Peláez Narvaez, CEDAW Chair on General Recommendation 40 on Equal and Inclusive Representation of Women in Decision-Making Systems
- e. Ensuring women's empowerment and gender equality in relation to global and geopolitical challenges
 - Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)17 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls –update on translations, dissemination, promotion (tools) and cooperation activities
 - Awareness-raising campaign deflecting anti-gender rhetoric and creating a new narrative – preparatory steps
- f. Achieving gender mainstreaming and including an intersectional approach in all policies and measures
 - Exchange of views with Bertil Cottier, Chair of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)
 - Gender mainstreaming in Council of Europe activities – update on HELP course and activities from other sectors
 - Reports from members of the GEC, experts and Secretariat who have participated in meetings of Council of Europe bodies
 - 9th International Roma and Traveller Women Conference (30 November – 1 December 2023, Skopje, North Macedonia)
 - 8th meeting of the Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) (5 – 7 December 2023, Strasbourg, France)
 - Cooperation on Cybercrime & Electronic Evidence: Octopus Conference (13 – 15 December 2023, Bucharest, Romania)
 - Committee of Artificial Intelligence (CAI) meetings of 5 – 8 December 2023, 25 – 26 January 2024 and 11 – 14 March 2024
 - Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Violence (ENF-VAE) meeting (11 – 12 March 2024)

6. Co-operation with other Council of Europe sectors and international/ regional organisations

- a. Other Council of Europe sectors
- b. International/ regional organisations
 - Council of the European Union – gender equality agenda:
 - o Spain Presidency (July - December 2023)
 - o Belgium Presidency (January -June 2024)
 - o Hungary Presidency (July – December 2024)

7. Current and future activities at national and international level

- CSW68 – Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 11-22 March 2024)
 - Side-event on “Catalysts for change: breaking down gender stereotypes in media and advertising”, organised by the Council of Europe and the Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations, during the Liechtenstein Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (New York, 11 March 2024) and other events and meetings
 - Report from member states about CSW events
- Gender equality agendas of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Presidencies:
 - o Liechtenstein (November 2023 – May 2024)
 - o Lithuania (May - November 2024)
 - o Luxembourg (November 2024 – May 2025)

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

9. Other business

10. Dates of forthcoming meetings

- 26th meeting of the Gender Equality Commission (GEC): Strasbourg, 19-21 November 2024

11. Adoption of the abridged report of the 25th GEC meeting (16-18 April 2024)

APPENDIX II

List of participants

Members/Membres

<p>Andorra <i>Andorre</i></p>	<p>Mireia Porras García Head of the Equality Policies Department, Ministry of Social Affairs <i>Cheffe du Département de Politiques pour l'Égalité, du ministère des Affaires Sociales</i></p> <p>Mireia Agulló Equality Policies Department, Ministry of Social Affairs <i>Département de Politiques pour l'Égalité, du ministère des Affaires Sociales</i></p>
<p>Austria <i>Autriche</i></p>	<p>Martina Schwaiger European and International Social Policy in Labour Law Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy <i>Politique sociale européenne et internationale en droit du travail</i> <i>Ministère fédéral du travail et de l'économie</i></p>
<p>Belgium <i>Belgique</i></p>	<p>Carine Joly (excused/excusee) Adviser Institute for Gender Equality <i>Conseillère</i> <i>Institut pour l'égalité des femmes et des hommes</i></p> <p>Sarah Van Buggenhout Deputy Permanent Representative <i>Adjointe au Représentant Permanent</i></p>
<p>Bosnia and Herzegovina <i>Bosnie – Herzégovine</i></p>	<p>Petrović Sanja Programme Coordinator Agency for Gender Equality Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees <i>Coordinatrice de programme</i> <i>Agence pour l'égalité de genre</i> <i>Ministère des droits humains et des réfugiés</i></p>
<p>Bulgaria <i>Bulgarie</i></p>	<p>Irina Ivanova Head of Unit Equal Opportunities, Antidiscrimination and Social Assistance Benefits Ministry of Labour and Social Policy <i>Cheffe d'unité</i> <i>Égalité des chances, lutte contre la discrimination et prestations d'assistance sociale</i> <i>Ministère du travail et de la politique sociale</i></p>
<p>Croatia <i>Croatie</i></p>	<p>Maja Sporiš Adviser, Government Office for Gender Equality <i>Conseillère, Bureau gouvernemental pour l'égalité de genre</i></p>
<p>Cyprus <i>Chypre</i></p>	<p>Niovi Georgiade Officer, Office of Commissioner for Gender Equality <i>Agente, Bureau de la Commissaire de l'égalité de genre</i></p>
<p>Czechia <i>Tchéquie</i></p>	<p>Ondrej Medal Senior Governmental Officer Government Council for Gender Equality <i>Haut fonctionnaire</i> <i>Conseil gouvernemental pour l'égalité de genre</i></p> <p>Monika Samova Head of the Secretariat of the Government Council for Gender Equality <i>Cheffe du Secrétariat du Conseil gouvernemental pour l'égalité de genre</i></p>

<p>Denmark <i>Danemark</i></p>	<p>Kira Appel Deputy Head of Department/Chief Consultant Department for Gender Equality Ministry of Digital Government and Gender Equality <i>Cheffe de service adjointe/ Consultante en chef</i> <i>Département de l'égalité de genre</i> <i>Ministère du gouvernement numérique et de l'égalité de genre</i></p>
<p>Estonia <i>Estonie</i></p>	<p>Lee Maripuu Head of Gender Equality Policy Ministry of Social Affairs <i>Responsable de la politique d'égalité de genre</i> <i>Ministère des affaires sociales</i></p>
<p>France</p>	<p>Anaïs Kintgen Policy Officer on International Affairs, Parliamentary Monitoring and Impact Studies <i>Chargée de mission sur les affaires internationales, la veille parlementaire et les études d'impact</i> European and International Affairs Office Directorate General of Social Cohesion Ministry of Solidarity/Ministry Delegate for Gender Equality <i>Bureau des affaires européennes et internationales</i> <i>Direction générale de la cohésion sociale</i> <i>Ministère des solidarités/Ministère délégué chargé de l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes</i></p>
<p>Finland <i>Finlande</i></p>	<p>Päivi Yli-Pietilä (excused/excusée) Ministerial Adviser Gender Equality Unit Ministry of Social Affairs and Health Conseillère ministérielle Unité de l'égalité de genre Ministère des affaires sociales et de la santé</p>
<p>Germany <i>Allemagne</i></p>	<p>Alexander Sopp Senior Legal Officer Division for European and International Gender Equality Policy Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Woman and Youth <i>Conseiller juridique principal</i> <i>Division de la politique européenne et internationale en matière d'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes</i> <i>Ministère fédéral de la famille, des personnes âgées, des femmes et de la jeunesse</i></p>
<p>Greece <i>Grèce</i></p>	<p>Georgia Papageorgiou Head of the Independent Department of European and International Co-operation General Secretariat for Demography, Family and Gender Equality, Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family <i>Cheffe du département indépendant de la coopération européenne et internationale</i> <i>Secrétariat général à la démographie, à la famille et à l'égalité de genre, ministère de la cohésion sociale et de la famille</i></p>
<p>Hungary <i>Hongrie</i></p>	<p>Ágnes Bordács Women's Policy Officer Ministry of Culture and Innovation <i>Chargée de la politique de la femme</i> <i>Ministère de la Culture et de l'Innovation</i></p>

<p>Iceland <i>Islande</i></p>	<p>Tryggvi Hallgrímsson (excused/excuse) Special Adviser Directorate of Equality Department of Equality and Human Rights, Prime Minister's Office <i>Conseiller spécial</i> <i>Direction de l'Égalité</i> <i>Département de l'égalité et des droits humains</i> <i>Bureau de la Première Ministre</i></p>
<p>Italy <i>Italie</i></p>	<p>Elena Palloni Senior officer of the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Presidency of Council of Ministers <i>Haut fonctionnaire du département de l'égalité des chances de la présidence du Conseil des ministres</i></p>
<p>Latvia <i>Lettonie</i></p>	<p>Agnese Gaile Senior Expert Department of Social Policy Planning and Development Ministry of Welfare <i>Experte principale</i> <i>Département de la planification et du développement de la politique sociale</i> <i>Ministère de l'aide sociale</i></p>
<p>Lithuania <i>Lituanie</i></p>	<p>Ramunė Vitartaitė Equal Opportunities and Women and Men Equality Group Ministry of Social Security and Labour <i>Groupe Égalité des Chances et Égalité femmes/hommes</i> <i>Ministère de la sécurité sociale et du travail</i></p>
<p>Luxembourg</p>	<p>Ralph Kass (Chair / Président) Senior Advisor 1st Class Ministry of Gender Equality and Diversity <i>Conseiller de Direction 1e Classe</i> <i>Ministère de l'Égalité des genres et de la Diversité</i> Danièle Siebenaler Minister of Gender Equality and Diversity <i>Ministère de l'Égalité des genres et de la Diversité</i></p>
<p>Malta <i>Malte</i></p>	<p>Maria Ellul Head - Gender Mainstreaming Unit Human Rights Directorate Ministry for Justice, Equality and Governance <i>Cheffe- Unité sur l'approche intégrée de l'égalité de genre</i> <i>Direction des droits humains</i> <i>Ministère de la justice, de l'égalité et de la gouvernance</i></p>
<p>Republic of Moldova <i>République de Moldova</i></p>	<p>Victor Lăpușneanu Head of the Multilateral Cooperation Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Chef de la Direction de la Coopération Multilatérale, ministère des Affaires Étrangères</i></p>
<p>Monaco</p>	<p>Margaux Girardin Third Secretary of the Permanent Representation of Monaco to the Council of Europe <i>Troisième Secrétaire à la Représentation Permanente de Monaco auprès du Conseil de l'Europe</i></p>
<p>The Netherlands <i>Pays-Bas</i></p>	<p>Lisanne Post Senior Policy Officer/Agente principale des questions politiques Directorate for gender equality and LGBTI equality Ministry of Education, Culture and Science <i>Direction de l'égalité de genre et de l'égalité LGBTI</i> <i>Ministère de l'éducation, de la culture et des sciences</i></p>

<p>North Macedonia <i>Macédoine du Nord</i></p>	<p>Elena Grozdanova State Counsellor for Equal Opportunity Ministry of Labour and Social Policy <i>Conseillère d'État pour l'égalité des chances</i> <i>Ministère du Travail et de la Politique sociale</i></p>
<p>Norway <i>Norvège</i></p>	<p>Petter Sørlien Senior Adviser Ministry of Culture and Equality Department for Equality, Non-discrimination and International Affairs <i>Conseillère principale</i> <i>Ministère de la Culture et de l'Égalité</i> <i>Service de l'égalité, de la non-discrimination et des affaires internationales</i></p>
<p>Poland <i>Pologne</i></p>	<p>Pawel Kosmulski Head of the Equal Treatment and Human Rights Unit Ministry of Family and Social Policy <i>Chef d'unité Égalité de traitement et droits humains</i> <i>Ministère de la famille et de la politique sociale</i></p>
<p>Portugal</p>	<p>Andreia Lourenço Marques International Relations Adviser Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality <i>Conseillère en relations internationales</i> <i>Commission pour la citoyenneté et l'égalité de genre</i></p>
<p>Serbia <i>Serbie</i></p>	<p>Gordana Predic Special Advisor to the Vice Prime Minister and the Minister of Culture <i>Conseillère spéciale du vice-premier ministre et du ministre de la culture</i></p>
<p>Slovak Republic <i>République slovaque</i></p>	<p>Roxana Maliti (excused/excusée) Department of Gender Equality and Equality of Opportunities Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic <i>Département de l'égalité de genre et de l'égalité des chances</i> <i>Ministère du travail, des affaires sociales et de la famille de la République slovaque</i></p>
<p>Slovenia <i>Slovénie</i></p>	<p>Sara Slana Secretary Equal Opportunities Department Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities <i>Secrétaire</i> <i>Service de l'égalité des chances</i> <i>Ministère du travail, de la famille, des affaires sociales et de l'égalité des chances</i></p>
<p>Spain <i>Espagne</i></p>	<p>Lara Ferguson Vázquez de Parga Senior Adviser Director's Support Unit Institute of Women State Secretariat for Equality and against Gender Violence, Ministry of Equality <i>Conseillère principale</i> <i>Unité de soutien à la direction</i> <i>Institut de la femme</i> <i>Secrétariat d'État à l'égalité et à la lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes, ministère de l'Égalité</i></p>
<p>Sweden <i>Suède</i></p>	<p>Elisabeth White Deputy Director Ministry of Employment, Division for Gender Equality <i>Directrice adjointe</i> <i>Ministère de l'Emploi, Division de l'égalité de genre</i></p>

Switzerland Suisse	Sandra Lengwiler International Affairs Officer Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA, Federal Office for Gender Equality FOGE <i>Agente des affaires internationales</i> <i>Département fédéral de l'intérieur (FDI), Bureau fédéral de l'égalité entre femmes et hommes (BFEG)</i>
Türkiye	Onur Dinçer Expert on Family and Social Policy <i>Expert en politique familiale et sociale</i> Belgin Deryalar Assistant Expert <i>Assistante Experte</i> General Directorate on the Status of Women <i>Direction générale de la condition féminine</i> Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Affairs <i>Ministère de la famille, du travail et des affaires sociales</i>
Ukraine	Kateryna Levchenko Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy <i>Commissaire du gouvernement pour la politique d'égalité de genre</i> Olga Dunebabina Communication manager, La Strada-Ukraine <i>Chargée de communication, La Strada-Ukraine</i>
United Kingdom Royaume-Uni	Charles Ramsden Head, International Policy Government Equalities Office <i>Chef de la politique internationale</i> <i>Bureau gouvernemental pour l'égalité</i>

Participants/Participant-es

Conference on INGOs Conference des OINGs	Bettina Hahne Rapporteur/Rapporteure
European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) Institut Européen pour l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes	Maruša Gortnar Head of Research and Policy Support Unit <i>Cheffe de l'unité de recherche et de soutien politique</i>
Holy See Saint-Siège	Anne-Julie Kerhuel (excused/excusee) Section for Relations with States Secretariat of State <i>Relations avec les Etats</i> <i>Secrétariat d'Etat</i>
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Bureau des institutions démocratiques et des droits de l'homme (BIDDH)	Saša Gavrić Associate Gender Officer/ <i>Chargé de mission pour l'égalité de genre</i> Yulia Netesova Chief of Democratic Governance and Gender Unit <i>Cheffe de l'Unité de la Gouvernance démocratique et du Genre</i>

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) <i>Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques (OCDE)</i>	Pinar Guven Head of Gender Mainstreaming Unit Public Governance Directorate <i>Cheffe d'Unité sur l'approche intégrée de l'égalité de genre</i> <i>Direction de la gouvernance publique</i>
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Observers/Observateurs

Morocco <i>Maroc</i>	Fatima Barkan Adviser to the Private Office of the Minister of Justice Ministry of Justice <i>Conseillère au Cabinet du ministre de la justice</i> <i>Ministère de la justice</i>
WAVE Network (Women Against Violence Europe) <i>Réseau WAVE (Femmes contre la violence Europe)</i>	Anca Ciupa Senior Manager, <i>Gestionnaire principale</i>
University Women Europe (UWE)	Anne Nègre President <i>Présidente</i>

Speakers/Intervenant-es

European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) <i>Commission européenne contre le racisme et l'intolérance (ECRI)</i>	Bertil Cottier Chair/Président
U.N. Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) <i>Comité des Nations unies pour l'élimination de la discrimination à l'égard des femmes (CEDAW)</i>	Ana Peláez Narváez Chair/Présidente

Secretariat/Secrétariat

Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law/ *Direction générale droits humains et Etat de droit*

Justice and Human Rights training/ Justice et formation droits humains	Ana-Maria Telbis Head of Division/ <i>Cheffe de division a.i.</i> Malika Smaali Project officer (Council)/ <i>Chargée de projet au Bureau du Conseil de l'Europe à Maroc</i> Stephanie Denton Assistant/ <i>Assistante</i>
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Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity/*Direction générale de la démocratie et de la dignité humaine*

<p>Directorate of Equal Rights and Dignity <i>Direction de l'égalité en droits et en dignité</i></p>	<p>Jeroen Schokkenbroek Director of Equal Rights and Dignity/<i>Directeur de l'égalité en droits et en égalité</i></p>
<p>Human Dignity and Gender Equality Department <i>Service de la dignité humaine et de l'égalité de genre</i></p>	<p>Roberto Olla Head of Department / <i>Chef de service</i></p>
<p>Gender Equality Division <i>Division de l'égalité de genre</i></p>	<p>Caterina Bolognese Head of Division/<i>Cheffe de division</i></p> <p>Camille Gangloff Head of Unit/ Secretary to the GEC <i>Cheffe d'unité/Secrétaire de la GEC</i></p> <p>Valerie Poppe Principal Administrative Assistant/Co-Secretary to the GEC <i>Assistante administrative principale/Co-secrétaire de la GEC</i></p> <p>Cécile Gréboval Programme Manager, Senior Gender Equality Adviser/<i>Responsable de programme, conseillère principale en matière d'égalité de genre</i></p> <p>Evrydiki Tseliou Administrative Assistant/<i>Assistante administrative</i></p> <p>Roza Cseby Trainee/<i>Stagiaire</i></p>
<p>Gender Equality Division <i>Division de l'égalité de genre</i></p>	<p>Stella Chignac Division Assistant/<i>Assistante de division</i></p> <p>Co-operation Unit/Unité de coopération</p> <p>Arezo Banafsheh Project Manager/<i>Responsable de projet</i></p> <p>Larissa Kireeva Project Manager/ <i>Responsable de projet</i></p> <p>Anca Sandescu Project Manager/<i>Responsable de projet</i></p>
<p>Violence Against Women Division <i>Division sur la violence à l'égard des femmes (GREVIO)</i></p>	<p>Sabrina Wittmann Administrator/<i>Administratrice</i></p>
<p>European Commission Against Racism <i>Commission européenne contre le racisme et l'intolérance (ECRI)</i></p>	<p>Johan Friestedt Executive Secretary/Head of Division <i>Secrétaire Exécutif /Chef de Division</i></p> <p>Laura-Maria Alexandriou Administrator/<i>Administratrice</i></p>

Parliamentary Assembly (PACE)/Assemblée Parlementaire (ACPE)

Committee on Equality and Non- Discrimination Commission sur l'égalité et sur la non- discrimination	Carolina Lásen Diaz Secretary/ <i>Secrétaire</i> Marianne Polge de Combret Trainee/ <i>Stagiaire</i>
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Directorate General of Administration/Direction Générale de l'administration

Interpretation, Travel, Events and Multimedia Interprétation, Déplacements, Événements et Multimédia	Jean-Jacques Pedussaud Lucie Deburlet-Suter Nicolas Guittonneau
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ABRIDGED REPORT**Opening of the meeting and adoption of the Agenda**

The Gender Equality Commission (GEC) held its 25th meeting in Strasbourg from 16 to 18 April 2024, with Ralph Kass (Luxembourg) as Chair.

The agenda of the meeting is contained in Appendix 1.

Items for decision of the Committee of Ministers

At this meeting, the GEC:

- approved the 2023 Annual Report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023 and instructed the Secretariat to transmit it to the Committee of Ministers for information.

Items for information of the Committee of Ministers

The GEC:

- appointed Ralph Kass (Luxembourg) as Focal point on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) issues and Maria Ellul (Malta) as substitute focal point.

As regards the other items on its agenda, the GEC:

- took note of the developments since the 24th GEC meeting on 14-16 November 2023 presented by the Secretariat, including the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Programme and Budget 2024-2027 of the Organisation, of the Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029 and of Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)1 on equality of Roma and Traveller women and girls;
- took note of the Bureau's activities since the 24th GEC meeting;
- took note of the terms of reference of the GEC for 2024-2027, including those of its subordinate bodies, the Committee of experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI) and the Committee of Experts on combating technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (GEC/PC-eVIO), as well as of its revised workplan for 2024;

RAPPORT ABRÉGÉ**Ouverture de la réunion et adoption de l'ordre du jour**

La Commission pour l'égalité de genre (GEC) a tenu sa 25^{ème} réunion à Strasbourg du 16 au 18 avril 2024, sous la présidence de Ralph Kass (Luxembourg).

L'ordre du jour de la réunion figure à l'annexe 1

Points pour décision du Comité des Ministres

Lors de cette réunion, la GEC :

- approuve le Rapport annuel 2023 sur la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie pour l'égalité de genre 2018-2023 et charge le Secrétariat de le transmettre au Comité des Ministres pour information.

Points pour information du Comité des Ministres

La GEC :

- nomme Ralph Kass (Luxembourg) à la fonction de point focal sur les questions liées à l'orientation sexuelle et l'identité de genre et Maria Ellul (Malte) comme suppléante.

En ce qui concerne les autres points à l'ordre du jour, la GEC :

- prend note des développements depuis la 24^{ème} réunion de la GEC du 14 au 16 novembre 2023, présentés par le Secrétariat, y compris l'adoption par le Comité des Ministres du Programme et Budget de l'Organisation pour 2024-2027, de la Stratégie pour l'égalité de genre 2024-2029 et de la Recommandation CM/Rec (2024)1 sur l'égalité pour les femmes et les filles roms et de la communauté des Gens du voyage ;
- prend note des activités du Bureau depuis sa 24^{ème} réunion;
- prend note du mandat de la GEC pour 2024-2027, y compris ceux de ses organes subordonnés, le Comité d'expert-es sur l'intelligence artificielle, l'égalité et la discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI) et le Comité d'expert-es sur la lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes et des filles facilitée par la technologie (GEC/PC-eVIO), ainsi que du plan de travail 2024 révisé ;

- took note of the proposal by the Secretariat to carry out a survey among the members and agreed to establish a Working Group on the review of the data collection method and the format of future biennial reports on implementation of the new Strategy;
- took note of the quadrennial table of activities accompanying the Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029 and of the information regarding the official launch of the Strategy during the GEC annual conference "United around gender equality: making space for women and girls" organised on 30 May in Strasbourg under the Lithuanian presidency of the Committee of Ministers;
- took note of the report of the 1st meeting of the GEC/ADI-AI, held on 20 and 21 February 2024 in Strasbourg;
- took note of the presentation by the representatives of Cyprus, Denmark and France of promising practices in preventing and combating sexism;
- agreed to organise similar exchanges of promising practices at future meetings, on preventing and combating sexism or on another chosen theme;
- took note of the information put forward by member states regarding national developments and experiences regarding the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention;
- took note of information from the Secretariat about the co-operation projects undertaken in the fields of violence against women and domestic violence, including digital violence, and of women's access to justice;
- took note of the updated timeline for the work of the GEC/PC-eVIO;
- took note of the information provided by Pinar GUVEN, Policy Analyst, OECD, on the technology-facilitated gender-based violence indicators currently being developed for G7 countries;
- held an exchange of views with Ana PELÁEZ NARVÁEZ, the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), on the on-going work of the Committee, with a particular focus on equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems – in both the public and private sectors;
- prend note de la proposition du Secrétariat de réaliser un sondage auprès des membres et convient de mettre en place un groupe de travail pour examiner la méthode de collecte des données et le format des futurs rapports biennaux sur la mise en œuvre de la nouvelle Stratégie ;
- prend note du tableau quadriennal d'activités qui accompagne la Stratégie pour l'égalité de genre 2024-2029 et de l'information concernant le lancement officiel de la Stratégie lors de la conférence annuelle de la GEC « Uni-es pour l'égalité de genre : de l'espace pour les femmes et les filles » organisée le 30 mai à Strasbourg sous la présidence lituanienne du Comité des Ministres;
- prend note du rapport de la 1^{ère} réunion du GEC/ADI-AI, qui a eu lieu les 20 et 21 février 2024 à Strasbourg ;
- prend note des pratiques prometteuses sur la prévention et la lutte contre le sexisme présentées par les représentantes de Chypre, du Danemark et de la France;
- convient d'organiser des échanges similaires de pratiques prometteuses lors de ses prochaines réunions, sur la prévention et la lutte contre le sexisme ou sur une autre thématique;
- prend note des informations communiquées par les États membres concernant les développements et les expériences nationales en matière de ratification et de mise en œuvre de la Convention d'Istanbul ;
- prend note des informations fournies par le Secrétariat concernant les projets de coopération entrepris dans les domaines de la violence à l'égard des femmes et la violence domestique, y compris ses formes numériques, et de l'accès des femmes à la justice ;
- prend note du calendrier de travail révisé du GEC/PC-eVIO ;
- prend note de l'information présentée par Pinar GUVEN, analyste politique à l'OCDE, sur les indicateurs sur la violence à l'égard des femmes et des filles facilitée par la technologie, en cours d'élaboration pour les pays du G7;
- procède à un échange de vues avec Ana PELÁEZ NARVÁEZ, Présidente du Comité pour l'élimination de la discrimination à l'égard des femmes (CEDAW), sur les travaux en cours du comité, avec un accent particulier sur la représentation paritaire et inclusive des femmes dans les systèmes

- took note of the invitation by CEDAW Chair to present the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2024–2029 to the CEDAW committee;
- held an exchange of views with Saša Gavrić, Associate Gender Officer, and Yulia Netesova, Chief of Democratic Governance and Gender Unit, ODIHR/OSCE, on gender equality in politics;
- took note of the information from the Secretariat about activities implemented to protect the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls;
- agreed to prepare awareness-raising tools on the basis of the guide developed in the framework of the co-operation project in Ukraine and to develop an action page to disseminate information about Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)17 on the protection of the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls;
- held a preliminary discussion on the awareness-raising campaign deflecting anti-gender rhetoric and creating a new narrative to be prepared by the end of 2025 and agreed with the working methods and timeline proposed by the Secretariat, including the preparation of a mapping of existing materials and initiatives with the support of one or more experts, to inform a more in-depth discussion during its next plenary;
- held an exchange of views with Bertil Cottier, Chair of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) with a particular focus on intersectionality, in light of the Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029 which strengthened its approach in this regard to ensure a gender-equal Europe for all;
- took note of the presentation by the Secretariat of the recently launched HELP course on gender equality and gender mainstreaming and invited its members to disseminate it broadly at national level;
- welcomed the Guidelines for the use of language as a driver of inclusivity adopted by the Secretary General to be used within the Secretariat;
- took note of information about gender mainstreaming activities being undertaken within the various structures and bodies of the Council of Europe;
- took note of information provided by the GEC representatives on the ongoing work in the areas of anti-discrimination, including hate speech, hate crime and the décisionnels, tant dans le secteur public que dans le secteur privé ;
- prend note de l'invitation de la présidente du CEDAW à présenter au comité la Stratégie pour l'égalité de genre 2024-2029 du Conseil de l'Europe;
- procède a un échange de vues avec Saša Gavrić, Chargé de mission pour l'égalité de genre, et Yulia Netesova, Cheffe de l'Unité pour la gouvernance démocratique et l'égalité de genre, du BIDDH/OSCE, sur l'égalité de genre en politique ;
- prend note des informations fournies par le Secrétariat sur les activités mises en œuvre pour protéger les droits des femmes et des filles migrantes, réfugiées et demandeuses d'asile ;
- convient de préparer des outils de sensibilisation sur la base du guide élaboré dans le cadre du projet de coopération en Ukraine et de développer une page d'action pour diffuser des informations sur la Recommandation CM/Rec(2022)17 sur la protection des droits des femmes et des filles migrantes, réfugiées et demandeuses d'asile;
- tient une discussion préliminaire sur la campagne de sensibilisation visant à détourner la rhétorique anti-genre et à créer un nouveau discours à préparer pour fin 2025 et convient de procéder selon les méthodes de travail et le calendrier proposés par le Secrétariat, y compris la préparation d'une cartographie du matériel et des initiatives existants, avec le soutien d'une ou de plusieurs expert-es, en vue d'une discussion plus approfondie lors de sa prochaine plénière ;
- procède à un échange de vues avec Bertil Cottier, Président de la Commission européenne contre le racisme et l'intolérance (ECRI), en mettant l'accent sur l'intersectionnalité, à la lumière de la Stratégie pour l'égalité de genre 2024-2029, qui a renforcé son approche à cet égard afin de garantir une Europe égale pour toutes et tous ;
- prend note de la présentation par le Secrétariat du cours HELP récemment lancé sur l'égalité de genre et l'approche intégrée de l'égalité, et invite ses membres à le diffuser largement au niveau national ;
- se félicite de l'adoption par la Secrétaire Générale des Lignes directrices pour l'utilisation d'un langage vecteur d'inclusivité au sein du Secrétariat ;
- prend note des informations concernant les activités d'intégration de la dimension de

- rights of Roma and Traveller women and girls, cybercrime, and comprehensive sexuality education;
- took note of information regarding the gender equality agendas of Spain, Belgium and Hungary during their respective Presidencies of the Council of the European Union;
 - took note of the report by the Secretariat about the side-event on "Catalysts for change: breaking down gender stereotypes in media and advertising", organised by the Council of Europe and the Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations, during the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) (11 March 2024);
 - took note of the information provided by GEC members who attended the CSW about the other side-events;
 - took note of the information provided by the representatives of Lithuania and Luxembourg about the gender equality programmes of their respective presidencies of the Committee of Ministers;
 - took note of the thematic discussions proposed for the next plenary and agreed that the GEC Bureau would decide which ones to include in the agenda;
 - agreed to re-convene for its 26th meeting from 19 to 21 November 2024 and for its 27th meeting from 13 to 15 May 2025;
 - adopted the present abridged report of its 25th meeting.

Resource implications

The financing of the activities described in this report is assured.

Evaluation of completed activities

The GEC underlined the quality of the 2023 draft Annual Report on the Implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023 and its appendices and its completion within the expected deadline.

- genre entreprises au sein des différents organes et structures du Conseil de l'Europe;
- prend note des informations fournies par les représentant·es de la GEC sur les travaux en cours dans les domaines de la lutte contre la discrimination, y compris le discours de haine, les crimes de haine et les droits des femmes et des filles roms et issues des communautés des Gens du voyage, la cybercriminalité, et l'éducation complète à la sexualité ;
 - prend note des informations concernant les programmes de l'Espagne, de la Belgique et de la Hongrie en matière d'égalité de genre au cours de leurs présidences respectives du Conseil de l'Union européenne ;
 - prend note du rapport du Secrétariat sur l'événement parallèle intitulé « Déclencheurs du changement: briser les stéréotypes de genre dans les médias et la publicité », organisé par le Conseil de l'Europe et la Mission permanente du Liechtenstein auprès des Nations Unies, lors de la 68e session de la Commission de la condition de la femme (CSW68) (11 mars 2024) ;
 - prend note des informations fournies par les membres de la GEC qui ont assisté à la Commission de la condition de la femme au sujet des autres événements parallèles;
 - prend note des informations fournies par les représentant·es de la Lituanie et du Luxembourg concernant le programme en matière d'égalité de genre de leurs présidences respectives du Comité des Ministres ;
 - prend note des discussions thématiques proposées pour la prochaine session plénière et convient que le Bureau de la GEC décidera de celles à inscrire à l'ordre du jour;
 - convient de tenir sa 26^{ème} réunion du 19 au 21 novembre 2024 et sa 27^{ème} réunion du 13 au 15 mai 2025 ;
 - adopte le présent rapport abrégé de sa 25^{ème} réunion.

Ressources nécessaires

Le financement des activités décrites dans ce rapport est assuré.

Évaluation des activités menées à bien

La GEC souligne la qualité du projet de rapport annuel 2023 sur la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie pour l'égalité de genre 2018-2023 et de ses annexes, ainsi que son achèvement dans les délais prévus.

