



GEC(2025)11

15 May 2025

GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION (GEC)

27th meeting

13-15 May 2025

Abridged meeting report

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The Gender Equality Commission (GEC) held its 27th meeting in Strasbourg from 13 to 15 May 2025, with Sara Slana (Slovenia) as Chair.

The agenda of the meeting appears in Appendix 1.

List of items for decision by the Committee of Ministers

The GEC adopted the following text and decided to transmit it to the Committee of Ministers for information:

- Practical Guide for public authorities to support the implementation of the Council of Europe Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls.

List of items for information of the Committee of Ministers

The GEC:

- adopted a questionnaire and a list of indicators to report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029;

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

- took note of the information provided by the Secretariat and the representative of Malta on the preparation of the Annual GEC Conference “*Ending sexism and violence against women in politics: an essential step towards equal participation*” organised under the Maltese Presidency of the Committee of Ministers (Malta, 17-18 September 2025);
- took note of the information provided by Radan Šafařík (Czechia), Vice-Chair of the GEC/ADI-AI, on the outcomes of the 3rd meeting of the GEC/ADI-AI, and gave guidance to the GEC/ADI-AI on the preparation of the draft Recommendation on equality and artificial intelligence;
- took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the outcomes of the 2nd and 3rd meetings of the GEC/PC-eVIO and gave guidance to the GEC/PC-e-VIO on the preparation of the draft Recommendation on accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls;
- took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the outcomes of the 1st and 2nd meetings of the Working Group on reporting on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029;
- took note of the information provided by Kateryna Levchenko (Ukraine) on the outcomes of the 1st meeting of the Working Group on developing positive narratives in the context of anti-gender movements, as well as the presentations of the Secretariat and expert consultants on this topic;
- appointed Italy to take part in the Working Group on developing positive narratives in the context of anti-gender movements;
- held a Workshop on narrative-building and value-based framing as part of its work on developing positive narratives in the context of anti-gender movements;

- held an exchange of views with Nicole Ameline, Rapporteur on General Recommendation No. 40 on the equal and inclusive participation of women in decision-making systems of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);
- held an exchange of views with Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou, Chair of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO);
- held an exchange of views with Nina Grmuša, Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ);
- held an event on “Youth Engagement in Gender Equality: A Dialogue for Inclusive Action”, co-organised with members of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ);
- held an exchange with the Secretariat of the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI), Kätlin Sanders (Estonia, member of the CDADI) and an expert consultant, as part of the process of consulting the GEC on the ongoing work of the CDADI on a Feasibility study and possible draft Recommendation on preventing and combating intersectional discrimination;
- appointed Andreia Lourenço Marquez (Portugal) as rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and Radan Šafařík (Czechia) as focal point on the work of the Drafting Group on Human Rights and Drug Policies (DH-PDA);
- took note of the information provided by member States regarding national developments in relation to the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention;
- took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on co-operation projects undertaken in the fields of violence against women and domestic violence, and of women’s access to justice;
- took note of the document prepared by the Secretariat on good practices in the field of gender equality and the environment and of the information provided by the Secretariat in relation to the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment;
- took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on gender mainstreaming activities undertaken by the various structures and bodies of the Council of Europe;
- took note of the information provided by its representatives in other Council of Europe bodies on ongoing work related to equality and non-discrimination, in particular issues concerning Roma and Traveller women and girls, as well as on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics;
- held an exchange with the Secretariat of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) and an expert consultant on its work, in particular on the recently adopted Guidance Note on Safeguarding children from the risks of accessing online pornographic content and the ongoing preparation of a draft Recommendation on age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education to strengthen responses for *inter alia* preventing and combatting violence against children;
- held an exchange with Aoife Nolan (Ireland), Chair and Kristine Dupate (Latvia), General Rapporteur of the European Committee of Social Rights on its review focused on “Social rights and the cost-of-living crisis”, with a particular focus on the impact on women;

- took note of the information provided by the Secretariat and Ralph Kass (Luxembourg) about the side-event, organised by the Council of Europe and the Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations, during the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69), and by member States about the side-events they organised at the CSW69;
- took note of the information provided by the representatives of Luxembourg, Malta and the Republic of Moldova about the gender equality programmes of their presidencies of the Committee of Ministers;
- took note of information provided by the representatives of Hungary and Denmark regarding their gender equality agendas during their presidencies of the Council of the European Union;
- took note that its 28th meeting is taking place from 18 to 20 November 2025, as agreed at its 26th meeting;
- adopted the present abridged report of its 27th meeting.

Resource implications

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

Evaluation of completed activities

The GEC took note of the completion of the following deliverable: Practical Guide for public authorities to support the implementation of the Council of Europe Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls.

The GEC welcomed and underlined the quality of the new reporting methodology on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029, and noted with appreciation the active participation of member State representatives, along with GEC participants and observers, in the development of these tools.

Other observations

None.

APPENDIX I

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

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| GEC(2025)OJ1rev | Draft agenda |
| GEC(2025)OJ1ann rev | Draft annotated agenda and order of business |

2. Report from the Chair of the GEC

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| GEC-BU(2025)2 | Report of the 26th meeting of the Bureau |
| GEC-BU(2025)3 | Report of the 27th meeting of the Bureau |

3. Mandate and workplan of the GEC

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| CM(2023)131-addfinal | Terms of reference of the GEC |
| GEC(2025)1 | Workplan of the GEC |

4. Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029***4.1. Work of the Working Group on reporting on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029***

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| GEC(2024)6 | Workplan of the Working Group on reporting on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029 |
| GEC/WG-GES(2025)1rev2 | Draft questionnaire to report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029 |
| GEC/WG-GES(2025)2rev2 | Draft indicators to report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029 |
| GEC/WG-GES(2025)3 | Report of the 1st meeting of the Working Group |
| GEC/WG-GES(2025)4 | Report of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group |
| GE(2025)8 | Compilation of comments on the draft questionnaire on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029 |

5. Appointments

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| GEC(2025)2 | List of rapporteurs and focal points appointed by the GEC |
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6. Preventing and combating gender stereotypes and sexism***6.1. Work of the Committee of Experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI)***

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| GEC/ADI-AI(2024)7rev4 | Draft Recommendation on equality and artificial intelligence |
| GEC/ADI-AI(2024)7Addrev2 | Draft Explanatory Memorandum to the Recommendation on equality and artificial intelligence |
| GEC/ADI-AI(2025)3 | Report of the 3rd meeting of the GEC/ADI-AI |

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

7.1. Work of the Committee of Experts on combating technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (GEC/PC-eVIO)

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| GEC/PC-eVIO(2025)1rev3 | Draft Recommendation on accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls |
| GEC/PC-eVIO(2025)8rev | Draft Explanatory Memorandum to the Recommendation on accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls |
| GEC/PC-eVIO(2025)2 | Report of the 2nd meeting of the GEC/PC-eVIO |
| GEC/PC-eVIO(2025)9 | Report of the 3rd meeting of the GEC/PC-eVIO |

7.2. Exchange of views with Maria Andriani Kostopoulou, President of GREVIO

7.3. Implementation of the Istanbul Convention

7.4. Co-operation activities on violence against women and domestic violence

8. Ensuring equal access to justice for women and girls

8.1. Co-operation activities on women's access to justice

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

9.1. Exchange of views with Nicole Ameline, Rapporteur on CEDAW General Recommendation No. 40 on the equal and inclusive participation of women in decision-making systems

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

10.1. Developing positive narratives in the context of anti-gender movements

10.1.1. Work of the Working Group on developing positive narratives in the context of anti-gender movements

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| GEC(2024)7 | Workplan of the Working Group on developing positive narratives in the context of anti-gender movements |
| GEC/WG-PN(2025)1 | Report of the 1st meeting of the Working Group |

10.1.2. Workshop on narrative building and value-based framing

10.2. Gender equality and the environment

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| GEC(2024)8 | Background document on gender equality and the environment |
| GEC(2025)4 | Compilation of good practices in the field of gender equality and the environment |

10.3. Follow-up of Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)17 on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women girls

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| GEC(2025)5 | Draft Practical Guide for public authorities to support the implementation of the Council of Europe recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls |
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11. Achieving gender mainstreaming and including an intersectional approach in all policies and measures

11.1. Exchange of views with Nina Grmuša, Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth

11.2. Event on ‘Youth Engagement in Gender Equality: A Dialogue for Inclusive Action’

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| GEC(2025)6 | Concept note of the event on “Youth Engagement in Gender Equality: A Dialogue for Inclusive Action” |
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11.3. Gender mainstreaming in Council of Europe activities

11.4. Cooperation with other Council of Europe sectors

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| GEC(2025)7 | Discussion paper on the draft Study on preventing and combating intersectional discrimination under preparation by the Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) Background document concerning the draft Study on preventing and combating intersectional discrimination (prepared by the CDADI Secretariat) |
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12. Gender equality activities in multilateral settings

12.1. Gender equality activities of the Presidencies of the Committee of Ministers

12.2. United Nations - Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69)

12.3. Gender equality activities of the Presidencies of the Council of the European Union

13. Preparation of the next meeting

14. Other business

15. Adoption of the abridged report