

GEC(2026)15

17 July 2026

GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION
(GEC)

29th meeting

Strasbourg, 10-12 June 2026

Meeting report

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. The 29th meeting of the Gender Equality Commission (GEC) took place from 10-12 June 2026 in Strasbourg with Sara SLANA (Slovenia) as Chair. The Chair welcomed new members to the GEC from Slovakia and Spain and announced the departure of members from Bulgaria and Poland, thanking them for their contributions. The Chair expressed appreciation to members for their in-person attendance, highlighting the importance of meeting in person rather than online, where possible, to strengthen collaboration in an often challenging context and to ensure the quality of the GEC's deliverables and that they reflect the full range of member States' positions.

2. Irena GUIDIKOVA, Head of the Human Dignity and Gender Equality Department of the Council of Europe, delivered opening remarks stressing the importance of the GEC's work at a time when gender equality is facing growing backlash, including from anti-gender rhetoric and new and evolving forms of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls. The GEC's key role in protecting human rights and democracy by strengthening the implementation of existing standards, promoting gender mainstreaming, and advancing women's full participation in public and political life was highlighted, noting the GEC's numerous contributions to the New Democratic Pact for Europe. The importance of international cooperation, values-based communication, and practical action at national level were also underlined. Members were encouraged to use the meeting to share ideas, develop innovative solutions and continue their work in an open and constructive spirit, in particular during the discussion on the future terms of reference for 2028-2031.

3. The Chair reminded members that during this meeting they would be invited to agree to transmit two documents to the Committee of Ministers: the draft first biennial report (2024-2025) on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy (2024-2029) and the Joint statement of CDADI and GEC on the fundamental importance of equality, gender equality, diversity and inclusion for the New Democratic Pact for Europe, which was adopted by written procedure on 30 April.

4. Members adopted the agenda of the meeting as it appears in Appendix 1.

2. Report from the Chair and Bureau of the GEC

5. Members took note of information provided by the Chair regarding recent achievements of the GEC, notably the adoption of two Committee of Ministers recommendations on 4 March 2026: [CM/Rec\(2026\)1](#) on Equality and AI, and [CM/Rec\(2026\)2](#) on Accountability for Technology-facilitated violence against women and girls. The Secretariat gave an overview of presentations made to raise awareness of these standards both internally and externally, including: to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly; at a conference entitled [Challenging Hate: Protecting Human Rights and Strengthening Democracy](#) organised by the University of Limerick in association with the Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) of the Council of Europe in Limerick, Ireland; at the European Dialogue on Internet Governance ([EuroDIG](#)) in Brussels; and during a presentation given by Radan ŠAFAŘÍK (Czechia), former Vice-Chair of the Committee of Experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI), at a conference entitled [Human Rights in Immersive Realities \(XR\): Freedom of Expression, Justice, Children's Rights and Well-Being](#) in Strasbourg. The Chair also recalled that at the first meeting of 2026 of the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Human Rights (GR-H), the GR-H was informed of the adoption by the GEC of the Guidance document for the development of positive narratives to deflect anti-gender rhetoric. This had now been transformed into a new publication entitled [Advancing Gender Equality Through Values-Based Communication: A Practical Guide](#). The Chair encouraged all members to take a copy and raise awareness of the Guide in their member States and organisations.

6. The Chair expressed satisfaction with the GEC Annual Conference which had taken place on 9 June 2026, entitled “[Women forging lasting peace: Dismantling barriers to gender-inclusive conflict resolution and peacebuilding](#)”, under the Monegasque Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. The Chair expressed her appreciation to Monaco for their support for this event, including through the participation of Isabelle Berro-Amadeï, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. The conference had explored opportunities for implementation of the Council of Europe’s standard on the topic, [Recommendation \(2010\)10 of the Committee of Ministers on the role of women and men in conflict prevention and resolution and in peace building](#). The Chair noted that the conference had helped to identify concrete entry points for the Council of Europe within the broader women, peace and security agenda. Reference was made to the repeated observation that the sustainability of peace is strengthened when women participate in decision-making processes. It was further emphasised that women’s participation should be understood as grounded in women’s political rights and the right to participate in public life. In this regard, the Council of Europe’s added value as a human rights organisation was underlined. It was also noted that the discussions had provided concrete examples of possible action in Ukraine. These were considered relevant both to the forthcoming Action Plan on Ukraine and to broader efforts aimed at strengthening social cohesion in Europe. The conference was described as an important first step in advancing future work on this topic. Romania and Ukraine took the floor to share their appreciation for the conference and their national expertise on this topic, as well as to emphasise the need for effective coordination between the Council of Europe and international partners including the UN.

3. Mandate and workplan of the GEC

7. The Secretariat informed the GEC of recent and ongoing changes to improve the visibility of the GEC’s work on the [Gender Equality webpage](#) and invited members to re-post [news](#) items to reach a wider network, including on social media such as LinkedIn ([@CoE Women](#)). Caterina BOLOGNESE, Head of the Gender Equality Division, thanked members from Croatia, France and Germany for their new proposals to update the [Gender Equality Perpetual Calendar](#). The Chair encouraged members to write to the Secretariat through the Calendar’s dedicated form if they wished to include further milestones in gender equality history.

8. The Secretariat informed the GEC that the consultation phase for the [New Democratic Pact for Europe](#) would continue until the end of 2026, and that the Secretariat would ensure the GEC’s contributions are fully reflected in the work that follows. The GEC’s contributions to the New Democratic Pact for Europe for 2026-2027 include: the GEC annual conference, above; a toolkit for the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2026)2 on Accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, including a set of [infographics](#) designed to present the Recommendation’s key provisions and strategic importance in a clear, accessible and engaging way, helping to communicate its core messages to a wide range of audiences; a toolkit promoting positive narratives around gender equality, using the newly published [Advancing Gender Equality Through Values-Based Communication: A Practical Guide](#) together with facilitated training; the forthcoming study on equal participation of women in public and political decision-making, which would be examined by the GEC at its 30th plenary meeting; a summary of the exchange with invited experts on 12 June 2026 on women’s role in democracy; and, finally, the Joint statement of the Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) and GEC on the [fundamental importance of equality, gender equality, diversity and inclusion for the New Democratic Pact for Europe](#), adopted by written procedure on 30 April 2026. The Chair thanked the GEC Bureau (Lea SPÖRCKE, Germany) for participating in the online reflection group of CDADI which prepared this joint statement and thanked GEC members for their cooperative approach to collaboration. Wolfram BECHTEL, Secretary of CDADI, thanked GEC members for their excellent cooperation and expressed CDADI members’ motivation to continue to work with

GEC to ensure that their work on equality, gender equality, diversity and inclusion is reflected at the heart of the New Democratic Pact for Europe.

9. The GEC took note of the 2026-2027 workplan, as presented by the Secretariat. It would be regularly updated to reflect working group meetings and other important events.

4. Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029

4.1. Draft first biennial report (2024-2025) on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy (2024-2029)

10. The Chair recalled that a revised questionnaire for reporting on implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy had been adopted by the GEC at its 27th plenary meeting, with new questions designed to elicit clearer data on which standards of the GEC are known and used at national level. The GEC had requested that the report contain a greater focus on analysis and figures to facilitate tracking progress throughout the reporting period of the Strategy. The Chair expressed appreciation for the record number of responses received during the present reporting cycle, noting that thirty-seven submissions had been provided by members, participants and observers. It was further recalled that, given the biennial nature of the reporting process, the intervening non-reporting year could, as appropriate, be used to consider aspects of the responses in greater depth.

11. The GEC approved the proposed revisions to the first draft of the report, which had been prepared by the Secretariat based on written comments received from members, participants and observers. In the ensuing discussion, members observed that the current report, together with its appendices, was perhaps overly lengthy and agreed that more detailed material could be incorporated by hyperlink rather than included in full. The Bureau agreed to further consider how to enhance awareness of the less well-known and less frequently used standards at national level.

12. The European Network of Migrant Women delivered a statement which is included in full in Appendix IV to this meeting report.

5. Follow-up to existing GEC standards and future activities

5.1. Discussion of dissemination of existing standards produced by the GEC

13. The Chair recalled that, during the 28th plenary meeting in November, members had asked to discuss how to improve the dissemination of GEC standards and policy documents at national level. Following an exchange with the Bureau, the Secretariat developed a document (GEC(2026)7) to assist these discussions. The Chair underlined the importance of ensuring that work produced by the GEC is deployed effectively at national level. The Secretariat provided information on possible future activities to raise awareness of Committee of Ministers' Recommendations CM/Rec(2026)1 on Equality and Artificial Intelligence and CM/Rec(2026)2 on Accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, including the preparation of short overview documents, further infographics, or webinars, in collaboration with the other steering committees with whom these standards were jointly prepared (CDADI and CDPC, respectively).

14. In the subsequent exchange, members shared diverse practices from their national experiences. Many members shared that the ministry responsible for gender equality leads coordination with other ministries to ensure the dissemination of standards and to collect relevant contributions in advance of plenary meetings. Peer exchanges and practical seminars had been effective in supporting inter-ministry awareness and follow-up. Some members

shared that they had designated contact persons or formal networks of coordinators who ensure that GEC questionnaires and guidance are relayed to the relevant ministries. It was noted that the Gender Equality Strategy reporting process, including the production and use of questionnaires, provided valuable oversight of standards and enabled insight into all GEC tools at national level. Several members noted it is not always possible to send GEC questions or standards to the correct ministry contacts within the required time frame, due to complex administrative structures or limited resources. In some member States, coordination meetings to discuss transversal elements across all Council of Europe committees and to share information had proved very effective. Members outlined some challenges and solutions, such as informing GEC focal points in advance of requests for comment, so national political procedures can be properly coordinated. A recurring challenge is maintaining continuity and administrative “memory” due to staff turnover. In particular, older standards may already be incorporated into policy and thus become “invisible” to new staff or focal points. Members highlighted the importance of discussion in plenary to elicit cross-country insights. Translating Council of Europe documents into national languages was felt to be key. Communication materials (including flyers, infographics, awareness-raising, and webinars) were cited by many members as essential for practical uptake and for reaching local actors.

15. To improve dissemination at national level and implementation, the GEC requested the production of the following:

- a. A short up-to-date overview of GEC standards and tools which could be regularly updated and shared with all relevant ministries and decision-makers;
- b. A compilation of standards or factsheets summarising essential aspects of relevant tools;
- c. Infographics to explain more complex recommendations to a wider audience; and
- d. Webinars, training for national authorities or other stakeholders, and summary presentations tied to key themes.

16. The GEC requested the Secretariat to compile short written contributions supplementing the information provided during the meeting, which could be sent to the Secretariat until 15 September. The GEC would examine this document at its 30th plenary meeting.

5.2. *Event to launch CM/Rec(2026)2 on Accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls*

17. Together with members of the Council of Europe Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), members of the GEC attended a launch event for Recommendation CM/Rec(2026)2 on accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls. Entitled “[From Standards to Action: Making Accountability for Technology-Facilitated Violence against Women and Girls a Reality](#)”, the event examined how the new Recommendation can be translated into effective action across judicial proceedings, criminal investigations, support services, regulatory responses and the design of digital technologies.

18. A keynote address was delivered by Hera HUSSAIN, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of [Chayn](#), a global non-profit organisation that develops survivor-centered, trauma-informed digital resources and services for people affected by gender-based violence, including domestic abuse, sexual violence, and technology-facilitated abuse. Chayn’s work offers an illustration of how the principles set out in the Recommendation can be given practical effect, particularly in the areas of survivor support, prevention, digital literacy and the participation of civil society. The keynote address emphasised that accountability is ultimately about ensuring that victims are heard, protected and able to access effective remedies and justice. Venus MAHMOOD, Chair of the Committee of Experts on Combating Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women and Girls, presented the Recommendation. A panel

discussion then took place between María Rún BJARNADÓTTIR, GREVIO member, Catherine VAN DE HEYNING, Prosecutor and Professor of European fundamental rights, Belgium, David WRIGHT, CEO of SWGfL (South West Grid for Learning) and Elena JOVANOVSKA-BREZOSKA, Head of Co-operation Unit in the Council of Europe's Gender Equality Division, bringing together complementary perspectives from monitoring, criminal justice, online safety and international co-operation, and reflecting the range of actors involved in preventing and responding to technology-facilitated violence against women and girls. Speakers emphasised that ensuring accountability for technology-facilitated violence requires coordinated action across sectors and that the Recommendation provides a common framework to support those efforts and strengthen responses. At the event, copies were available of the new set of [infographics](#) which explain the key messages of the Recommendation. Participants were also encouraged to raise awareness of the [new online HELP course on technology-facilitated violence against women and girls](#) in their institutions and professional networks.

6. Preventing and combating gender stereotypes and sexism Thematic implementation review of Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)1 on preventing and combating sexism

19. The Chair recalled that the GEC had decided, during its 28th plenary meeting, to undertake a thematic implementation review of CM/Recommendation (2019)1 on preventing and combating sexism, focusing on the justice sector. For this purpose, the Secretariat, together with independent consultant Professor Shazia CHOUDHRY, developed a questionnaire which was shared with GEC members, participants and observers in January 2026 for consultation. The Chair thanked all those who had responded, noting with appreciation the high level of participation, reflected in thirty-five contributions from twenty-nine member States. The Chair extended particular thanks to the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE), which had received the request as a GEC participant and which had shared the questionnaire with its national contact points.

20. The GEC took note of a presentation given by Shazia CHOUDHRY of the outline of the thematic implementation review report, which would aim to inform policy, drawing on questionnaire responses, Council of Europe standards, monitoring findings, case law and other evidence, while avoiding duplication of existing monitoring exercises. Shazia CHOUDHRY presented the proposed structure of the report, including sections on context, scope, methodology, state of play, findings across the five justice-sector focus areas, cross-cutting themes, promising practices, gaps in evidence, conclusions and recommendations. The analysis would apply a cross-cutting lens, including intersectionality, digital environments, judicial independence, institutional diversity and the role of civil society and equality bodies, and the report would seek to identify both progress made and persistent challenges, while highlighting examples of promising practice. The report would assess the extent to which existing measures are systematic, coherent and capable of improving day-to-day justice practice, and would conclude with focused recommendations for member States and for future work by the Council of Europe.

21. The Secretariat briefly presented proposed modifications to the outline which took into account written comments received prior to the meeting from the European Network of Migrant Women, the Consultative Council of European Judges and the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors. The Secretariat explained that this feedback could also be incorporated more substantially in the full report. The modifications sought to include a more detailed exploration of the perspectives of migrant women, a stronger focus on custody and visitation rights and their impact on women's access to justice, as well as an emphasis on diversity and inclusion in the justice sector as a way to reduce sexism. As this information was not captured in the initial questionnaire, GEC members were invited to provide any further information relevant to these questions, which would be combined with desk research.

22. The GEC exchanged with Shazia CHOUDHRY about whether policies in the justice sector address sexism more often implicitly than explicitly and where there might be scope for a more targeted approach against sexism. Some member States shared that they have specific legislation concerning sexism which underpins the development of compulsory and specific training in the justice sector. Others mentioned that their national gender equality agency has a special assignment to assist institutions such as the judiciary, the police and crime prevention agencies, including mapping their existing knowledge of violence and discrimination. Many members emphasised that the report should present as many varied promising practices as possible, to assist cross-ministry outreach.

6.1. *Workshop to collect information on best practices from member States on the involvement of men and boys in gender equality policies*

23. The Chair recalled that in 2023, the GEC adopted [Guidelines on the place of men and boys in gender equality policies and in policies to combat violence against women](#) (the Guidelines). The Guidelines detail the range of measures member States should take to engage men and boys as agents of change, to counter resistance to gender equality, and to promote gender equality in care duties. The Guidelines also cover the importance of reducing the negative impact of sexism, social norms and gender stereotypes on men and boys; strengthening the role of men and boys in action to prevent and combat violence against women; and promoting scientific research and data on gender equality and women's rights. The Secretariat briefly presented the Guidelines.

24. Denmark presented recent national initiatives which aim to include men and boys in gender equality policies with a view to counteracting polarisation and strengthening support for gender equality. It was noted that these initiatives are informed by the understanding that gender stereotypes and prevailing social expectations may be linked to certain challenges experienced particularly by men, including shorter life expectancy, homelessness, crime and substance abuse, loneliness and isolation, and lower levels of education and higher school drop-out rates. The Danish initiatives include targeted legislation and activities in areas where men are overrepresented, for example, an action plan on suicide prevention, a national strategy to counter social isolation, and specific activities around gambling. The first ever Danish action plan on gender equality for men and boys is structured around four pillars: fathers, children and family; physical and mental health; vulnerability and social exclusion; and education and working life. Finally, a report on the manosphere in Denmark was imminent. Further details about it would be shared with the GEC during the 30th plenary meeting in November.

25. Members of the GEC participated in workshops facilitated by the Secretariat, structured around three questions set out in document GEC(2026)11, in summary, concerning: 1) national practices regarding the role and involvement of men and boys in gender equality policies and policies to combat violence against women; 2) how to build a shared understanding on the positive contribution that men and boys can bring in advancing gender equality policies and policies to combat violence against women; and 3) any efforts to map social media content which is either harmful to or supportive of gender equality policies or policies to combat violence against women.

26. The group discussions highlighted growing recognition across member states of the importance of involving men and boys in gender equality policies. In many cases, this work is embedded within broader gender equality, anti-violence, or social inclusion strategies rather than addressed through stand-alone frameworks. The most common areas of activity include prevention of violence against women, challenging gender stereotypes, promoting men's participation in care and parenting, and addressing men's somatic and mental health. Many states also reported school-based initiatives including awareness-raising activities around relationships and sexual education, activities grounded in sports, arts and culture, awareness-

raising campaigns, research projects, and cooperation with civil society and public institutions, with dedicated funding.

27. A significant theme across the discussions was the increasing urgency of addressing online misogyny, the manosphere, and the influence of harmful digital content on boys and young men. Several speakers referred to newer initiatives around data collection, social media analysis, digital literacy, and research on toxic masculinities and algorithmic influence. Participants also emphasised the importance of early intervention, positive role models, and involving men and boys directly in the co-creation of projects. At the same time, some groups noted tensions around how to frame the involvement of men and boys in gender equality work; as partners in effecting change, as persons affected by harmful norms, and in some contexts as perpetrators of violence.

28. Other challenges discussed included concern around increasingly conservative attitudes among some younger men, uncertainty over whether there is a shared understanding of men's positive role in advancing equality, and fears in some contexts that greater attention to men's issues could divert focus or funding from women's rights organisations. Participants generally underlined the need for cross-sector cooperation and further collection of promising practices.

29. The GEC agreed to set up a working group tasked with collecting promising practices, as set out in the abridged report.

7. Preventing and combating violence against women and girls and domestic violence - Co-operation activities on women's access to justice

7.1. Implementation of the Istanbul Convention

30. Members shared updates on recent developments, national experiences, and future priorities relating to the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and the use of GREVIO's monitoring findings to strengthen responses to violence against women.

31. Several members shared updates on legislative, institutional, and policy reforms. Estonia reported that the Parliament had very recently approved amendments in the Penal Code that make the legal definition of rape explicitly consent-based ("yes means yes"). Italy informed members that, following an internal restructuring of its Department for Equal Opportunities, female genital mutilation is now more clearly positioned within the policy framework on violence against women rather than human trafficking. Romania highlighted the nationwide extension of electronic monitoring in connection with protection orders, aimed at increasing victim safety and improving enforcement. Spain referred to progress made following GREVIO recommendations, including the adoption of its first strategic plan on preventing sexual violence and broader implementation of the Convention through legislative reform. Czechia, although not a State Party to the Convention, noted that it is drawing on GREVIO reports, in particular in connection to Article 16 of the Convention, to inform domestic reforms, including on rape, domestic violence, drink spiking, and perpetrator programmes. Ukraine stressed that Russia's war of aggression has exposed practical gaps in guidance on applying the Convention in conflict settings. It was noted that further reflection and possible guidance would be valuable.

32. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed GREVIO's baseline evaluation which had been very helpful in shaping reforms over recent years, while also pointing to implementation challenges. Questions were raised about how GREVIO follows up on recommendations not revisited in thematic evaluations. In response, it was explained that follow-up on urgent baseline recommendations is primarily carried forward through the Committee of the Parties, while GREVIO contributes through general recommendations, interpretative materials, horizontal reviews, and national seminars that help stakeholders address difficult implementation issues.

Bosnia and Herzegovina also expressed appreciation for a Council of Europe cooperation project on digital and sexual violence.

7.2. *Update from the Secretariat of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)*

33. Johanna Nelles, Executive Secretary to the Istanbul Convention's monitoring mechanisms, provided an update on recent developments in the monitoring of the Istanbul Convention and exchanged with GEC members. She informed the GEC that GREVIO's next activity report would be published in September and would include a focus section covering primary prevention. Substantial progress in GREVIO's monitoring work in 2025 included the publication of seven first thematic evaluation reports, one baseline report on the United Kingdom, and the completion of procedures concerning Ukraine and Latvia. GREVIO would shortly conduct an evaluation visit to the European Union. By the end of 2026, GREVIO will have published 24 reports in respect of over half of all Parties to the convention, and will have undertaken preparations to launch a second thematic evaluation round in the first half of 2027.

34. It was underlined that GREVIO's monitoring has helped drive visible progress across many States Parties, particularly in legislative reform, for example criminalising psychological violence, introducing consent-based definitions of rape, and addressing technology-facilitated violence against women. There have also been gradual improvements in specialised support services, funding, and inter-institutional cooperation, alongside growing recognition of violence against women as a human rights issue. To better demonstrate the impact of monitoring, GREVIO has introduced country-specific impact fact sheets and there is a new "impact and results" section on the Convention website. Progress was felt to be less visible in the area of prevention of violence against women. Prevention efforts frequently lack conceptual clarity, sustainable funding and rigorous evaluation. Effective prevention requires long-term, evidence-based strategies that address harmful gender stereotypes, unequal power relations, community norms and the structural causes of violence. It was noted that women's rights organisations rarely receive adequate, long-term funding, yet their expertise and community presence are essential to meaningful prevention work. Concerning trends identified in GREVIO's recent evaluations include the increasing impact of sexual violence on younger age groups, the influence of violent pornography, the normalisation of strangulation, and the rapid spread of technology-facilitated violence. Again, stronger preventive action is urgently needed.

35. Members emphasised the value of sharing national practices, strengthening cooperation between states and institutions, and ensuring that monitoring findings translate into concrete reforms.

7.3. *Co-operation activities on violence against women and domestic violence*

36. Caterina BOLOGNESE, together with Larissa KIREEVA and Danko RUNIC from the Cooperation Unit of the Gender Equality Division, presented the Council of Europe's current and planned cooperation programmes to support implementation of the Istanbul Convention, focusing on perpetrator programmes and data collection.

37. Regarding Recommendation CM/Rec(2026)2 on Accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, the new HELP course developed for legal professionals to support its implementation was currently being translated and adapted, with rollout envisaged from 2027 in Azerbaijan, Armenia, Moldova, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and potentially in other countries upon request. A second area of focus concerned drawing on the GEC's work on positive narratives to promote positive communication around the Istanbul Convention. Building on existing efforts to dispel persistent myths surrounding the Convention, NGOs with relevant experience would be consulted and, insofar as appropriate, the current

methodology for communication would be revised to ensure that future messaging places greater emphasis on constructive and positive narratives.

38. Regarding perpetrator programmes under Article 16 of the Istanbul Convention, there had been an increase in demand from partner countries over the past two years. Kosovo* was described as the most advanced example, with established curricula, trainer development, piloting programmes in prison, impact assessment, and expansion toward probation services. Armenia had recently begun legal gap analysis, study visits, curriculum development, and trainer training, while Moldova, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, and several countries supported through Norway Grants are also engaging with this work. To respond to widespread demand and recurring questions about effectiveness, evaluation, and a gender equality perspective, a major multi-country conference was held in [Budapest on 2–3 June](#). Conference materials and videos were available online.

39. Regarding data collection under Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention, cooperation projects were ongoing in the Eastern Partnership region, as well as in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova, supporting the development of methodologies, practical tools, and institutional dialogue. The GEC was informed of the newly [published Eastern Partnership guidelines on data collection for women's access to justice](#). These include 12 recommendations, focusing on collecting mandatory sex-disaggregated data, developing interoperable digital systems, and ensuring public reporting, sustainable funding, and data-sharing arrangements. The next phase will involve country-specific roundtables and national roadmaps, beginning with Armenia and extending across the region.

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

8.1. Equal participation in political and public decision-making

40. The Chair recalled that the GEC had been tasked by the Committee of Ministers with the preparation of a Study on the equal participation of women and men in political and public decision-making by the end of 2026. The Chair informed the GEC that the Bureau had examined and approved the outline document (GEC(2026)12) during its 29th meeting in March 2026.

41. Susana PAVLOU, independent consultant and President of the Women Against Violence Europe Network (WAVE), presented the analytical framework for the Study, explaining that its purpose is not to duplicate existing research but to synthesise current knowledge, support implementation of [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2003\)3](#), and identify practical, evidence-informed approaches to persistent and emerging barriers. The Study would adopt a broad understanding of political and public decision-making, looking beyond political institutions to examine participation in public administration or judicial or other bodies. The proposed framework would look to issues such as access, retention, career progression, influence, and the existence of safe and enabling institutional environments. Current trends and implementation gaps would be mapped, followed by the identification of a limited number of key challenges, and finally an examination of promising and evidence-informed practices to address them. Several members took the floor to welcome the approach of the study, particularly its attention to intersectional discrimination, and encouraged the inclusion of practical evidence from civil society, academia, youth organisations and member States. Susana PAVLOU clarified that “meaningful” participation would be understood as going beyond a numerical analysis and to establish whether women have a voice in key spheres of influence. Strong support was expressed for including hate speech and threats against political

* All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations' Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

representatives in the scope of the study. In particular, the study could detail obstacles faced by lesbian, younger/older and other women at risk of discrimination, including the increasing use of hate speech, misogyny, racism and LGBTI-phobic abuse by elected representatives during parliamentary debate. The study could also explore the efficacy of related sanctions and complaints procedures. Romania shared details of its new national plan on economic and political empowerment for women which sets out strategic priorities to increase women's participation in public, economic and political life. The Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly drew attention to [Resolution 2646 on violence and hate speech against politicians](#) and a report planned for 2027 on the road to parity in politics, specifically focusing on the situation of young women. Reference was also made to the work of the Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM) of the Council of Europe on Guidelines on enhancing participation in elections of women, girls and young persons, on which the GEC Bureau has been consulted. Furthermore, the Advisory Council on Youth informed the GEC of the programme entitled "Youth Revitalising Democracy" and an upcoming seminar.

8.2. Gender Equality Scorecard in Education, under preparation by the Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU)

42. The Chair recalled that the Scorecard, under preparation by the CDEDU, contributes to the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)13 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on gender mainstreaming in education. According to the GEC's Terms of Reference, the GEC should provide support for the implementation of this deliverable by the end of 2027, the modalities of which could be discussed at the 30th plenary meeting, in the light of progress made by then. Tryggvi HALLGRÍMSSON (Iceland) presented the state of play as regards preparation of the Scorecard by the Working Group.

43. The Working Group had agreed early on that the Scorecard should not duplicate existing instruments, but instead provide a practical, evidence-based tool grounded in Council of Europe standards to help advance gender equality in education. Early discussions highlighted the importance of addressing not only formal policy frameworks but also lived realities in schools, including classroom dynamics, stereotypes, misogyny, and the growing influence of online environments, while ensuring an intersectional approach throughout. It was emphasised that the Scorecard would be a voluntary self-assessment tool rather than a ranking between different countries. The Working Group had agreed to produce Scorecards at two levels: one for policymakers, especially Ministries of Education, and one for educational institutions. The institutional level Scorecards would later be adapted to different education settings, including general education, vocational education and training, early childhood education and care, and higher education. In March 2026, the Steering Committee on Education endorsed the concept developed so far by the Working Group, providing a clear mandate for the next phase of work. Since April 2026, work has focused on refining the Scorecard's substantive content, including its main domains, themes, and future indicators. A significant development has been the stronger integration of the digital dimension, recognising that gender equality in education must account for the online spaces in which children and young people learn, communicate, and form attitudes. The fourth meeting would take place at the end of June. The overall aim was for the Scorecard to be piloted prior to being launched.

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

9.1. Implementation of the Guidance for the development of positive narratives to deflect anti-gender rhetoric

44. The Chair recalled that the Practical Guide should be accompanied by training and capacity building to develop confidence among communicators when conveying gender

equality messages to a variety of audiences. Switzerland presented a workshop organised during an annual meeting with Swiss civil society. Later in the year, further training with LGBTI civil society organisations would be organised.

45. The Secretariat presented the steps taken to implement the Practical Guide. A three-hour training package had been developed by independent consultant Caroline HICKSON. The training was designed to equip participants to apply values-based communication techniques independently, beyond the specific scenarios set out in the Practical Guide. This training would be delivered to members of the Secretariat as well as during [No Hate Speech Week](#) in Strasbourg on the morning of 17 June, providing an opportunity for civil society, international organisations, member states, and other stakeholders to engage with the approach in a broader networking context. GEC members supported the proposal to pilot similar training for relevant national contacts of GEC members, including in an online webinar format. GEC members were invited to contact the Secretariat if they were interested in organising such training nationally, whether for national authorities, civil society organisations, or for a multistakeholder audience. Several GEC members announced that they were translating the Practical Guide and shared information about relevant activities, including roundtable discussions and the development of communication platforms for gender equality messaging. The connection of this tool to the New Democratic Pact for Europe was stressed.

10. Achieving gender mainstreaming and including an intersectional approach in all policies and measures

10.1. Gender mainstreaming in Council of Europe activities

46. Caterina BOLOGNESE gave an update on Council of Europe gender mainstreaming activities. Beyond the committees in which a GEC member takes part, the Gender Equality Division provides support to other committees of the Council of Europe, including, among others: the Steering Committee on Culture and Cultural Heritage (preparing a draft Recommendation on the role of culture and heritage in promoting equality and non-discrimination); the Steering Committee on Democracy (preparing Guidelines on enhancing participation in elections of women, girls and young persons and vulnerable groups); the European Committee on Organs, tissues and cells of the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and Healthcare (Recommendation CM(2026)84 on reducing sex- and gender-related inequities in organ donation and transplantation); the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (preparing a draft Recommendation on the rights of donor-conceived persons to know their origin); and the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The Secretariat was also closely following, among others, the work of the Council of Europe's Sports Division on anti-doping and safety and security at sports events, the work on Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference, the Migration coordination group, and the AI coordination group.

47. The annual training for Gender Equality Rapporteurs (GERs) had taken place in November 2025, followed by a stock-taking peer exchange meeting online in April 2026, where GERs provided an update on the progress they had made since the November training. The online HELP course on gender equality and gender mainstreaming was also highlighted. Taking approximately 2.5 hours to complete, the course is available in English, French, Arabic, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Belarusian, Georgian and Ukrainian, was expected to soon be available in Turkish. The course would soon become compulsory for new staff members taking up functions in Council of Europe field offices.

10.2. Gender mainstreaming in Council of Europe activities

48. Radan ŠAFÁŘIK (Czechia) reported on the work of the Drafting Committee on Human Rights and Drug Policies (DH-PDA), subordinate body of the Steering Committee for Human

Rights (CDDH). During its third meeting from 19-20 May 2026, the DH-PDA had undertaken a second reading of the draft Recommendation on human rights and drug policies and had strengthened references to gender equality in the text. The final meeting would take place on 20-22 October 2026 in Paris, where the explanatory memorandum would be considered.

Jeanne JEZIERSKI (France) reported on the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) and the Expert Committee on access to child-friendly justice through multidisciplinary and interagency services (ENF-JUS). At the CDENF's plenary meeting on 2-4 June the CDENF had approved a draft Recommendation on age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education to prevent and combat sexual violence against children. The CDENF had also identified gender equality as a priority for enhanced cooperation in the context of discussions on the future Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2028-2033) and held a thematic dialogue on social media and children's mental health in cooperation with the Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO). The ENF-JUS was developing a recommendation on multidisciplinary services for child friendly justice and had held its third meeting from 23-24 April.

Maria ELLUL (Malta) reported on the ADI-SOGIESC Working Group on the Study on the risks and impediments to full access to rights resulting from discrimination and violence on the ground of gender expression, as well as the EFPN and ADI-SOGIESC meetings which took place in Copenhagen. The IDAHOT+ Forum and ADI-SOGI meetings had provided a useful overview of the current European landscape on LGBTI equality, with a strong focus on the growing backlash against rights, the need for continued policy coordination, and the importance of practical responses at both national and European level.

Andreia MARQUES (Portugal), reported on recent activities of the CDADI. The working group preparing a Guide and checklist on equality mainstreaming had met three times between October 2025 and April 2026. The Guide now clearly stated that equality mainstreaming must be undertaken in close coordination with gender mainstreaming, not instead of it, including through the systematic requirement to disaggregate data by sex. Sandra LENGWILER (Switzerland) reported on CDADI's work on intersectional discrimination, which she had followed in her capacity as national expert on behalf of Switzerland. The working group had met in Paris on 16-17 April 2026 to discuss an outline of a draft Recommendation. The group agreed that the draft Recommendation should focus on the concepts of intersectionality and intersectional discrimination in policy rather than in legal frameworks, and that the Recommendation should refer to multiple discrimination as a more general terminology, within which intersectional discrimination could be defined as a specific type of discrimination.

49. The GEC took note of a presentation by Yanna Parnin, Head of the SOGIESC Unit, on the ongoing Study on the risks and impediments to full access to rights resulting from discrimination and violence based on gender expression, prepared by the ADI-SOGIESC and undertaken in close cooperation with the GEC. The study would approach gender expression as a concept related to, but distinct from, gender identity, and would examine how discrimination and violence on the basis of gender expression constitute hate speech or hate crime and occur across the areas of employment, education, healthcare, asylum and migration. GEC members were invited to share with the Secretariat, by 10 July 2026, relevant examples of promising practices, policy initiatives, monitoring mechanisms, equality data collection methods, case-law, and documented examples of discrimination, violence, hate speech or hate crime where gender expression has been a relevant factor. A first draft of the Study will be circulated to GEC members for feedback ahead of the 30th plenary meeting in November 2026, with the final version expected to be approved by the ADI-SOGIESC in May 2027 and adopted by the CDADI in June 2027.

50. Ina MAJKO, Gender Equality Rapporteur of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM), presented the outcome of the ADI-ROM thematic visit on inequalities faced by Roma women, hosted by Spain on 28-29 April 2026. Two crosscutting challenges were identified: the lack of disaggregated data by ethnicity and gender, and the

low level of trust in public institutions leading to underreporting of discrimination. Preliminary recommendations focus on moving towards more targeted and adequately resourced policies, strengthening Roma women's participation in decision-making, scaling up successful practices, improving data collection, and investing in education and desegregation. Oana TABĂ, Co-secretary to the ADI-ROM, and Marina VASIĆ, Roma and Travellers Division, updated the GEC on recent activities of the ADI-ROM. A new Strategy for Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2026–2030) had been adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 January 2026. Two forthcoming deliverables were also presented. The Handbook on democratic governance, representation and participation of Roma and Travellers in public and political life, guided by [CM/Rec\(2024\)1 on Equality of Roma and Traveller women and girls](#), will aim at promoting capacity-building, community engagement and institutional commitments through community-based strategies, dialogue and trust-building. The second deliverable will be a compilation of promising practices and tools for the implementation of CM/Rec(2024)1 at national level. It will be developed through a survey, monitoring body report reviews and a roundtable meeting. GEC members were invited to contact the Secretariat if they would like to contribute promising practices to this ADI-ROM deliverable.

11. Thematic debate on the role of women in democracy

51. Members participated in an exploratory discussion, moderated by Irena GUIDIKOVA, Head of the Human Dignity and Gender Equality Department of the Council of Europe, with invited speakers Mona Lena KROOK, Distinguished Professor at Rutgers University and author of [Elect Women for a Change: The Path to Gender Parity in Politics](#), Marjan ESHASSI, Director of FIDE North America and author of [Activated Citizenship: The Transformative Power of Citizens' Assemblies](#) and Irena FIKET, senior research associate at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory at the University of Belgrade and coordinator of [ActiveLab](#), the Laboratory for Active Citizenship and Democratic Innovations. The exchange took place in the context of the Council of Europe's preparation of a New Democratic Pact for Europe.

52. Members were invited to reflect on why women's meaningful participation in democratic institutions and public debate was not yet sufficiently advanced, despite recent reforms. The invited experts explored whether politics is accessible to diverse groups of women, including young and older women, women with disabilities, women from minority communities, Roma and Traveller women, and others facing intersecting barriers. They stressed that institutions must be designed in a gender-sensitive and accessible way, including reforms to working hours, care-related arrangements, campaign finance rules, and codes of conduct, to create political environments in which women can thrive. It was further underlined that by using random selection and structured deliberation, citizens' assemblies can bring a more representative cross-section of society into decision-making processes. Such processes can reduce barriers to entry, notably for women, by providing practical support such as stipends, childcare, and transport, while also helping participants build civic knowledge, confidence, and deliberative skills. Assemblies can empower women to develop longer-term engagement, including leadership and future candidacy for public office. While this has great potential, citizens' assemblies must be designed to avoid reproducing existing social inequalities. Facilitation methods and discussion formats affect how inclusive deliberation will become in practice.

53. Members explored both the possibilities and limitations of democratic innovations such as citizens' assemblies, while also discussing how values such as equal voice, respect, and inclusion could be improved in existing institutions. A recurring theme was the need for quota systems and related measures such as zipper systems to be carefully designed if they are to be effective in practice. It was underlined that progress depends not only on formal rules, but also on creating environments in which women are encouraged to remain in office, to develop influence, and to participate on equal terms. This includes addressing hostility, exclusionary practices, and cultures that may discourage women's continued engagement.

12. Terms of Reference 2028-2031

54. The Chair recalled that the GEC will be asked to formally approve a proposal for draft Terms of Reference for the years 2028-2031 by early 2027 and, to this end, a first draft Terms of Reference would be presented at the 30th plenary meeting in November. Building upon the discussion of work priorities which took place during the last plenary meeting, the Secretariat had developed a discussion paper GEC(2026)2 outlining possible activities for the GEC's 2028–2031 terms of reference. The Chair noted that the Bureau had discussed an early version of this discussion paper in March and their feedback was incorporated.

55. The Secretariat presented the document, inviting the GEC to have in mind that its future work should be based on the Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029 and, in line with the advice of the Bureau, respond to emerging threats to gender equality, particularly those linked to technology, anti-gender backlash, and shrinking civic space, while also continuing to address longstanding unresolved inequalities. The GEC agreed that its mandate should maintain a balance between developing new standards and strengthening the implementation of existing ones. Members stressed that the draft should have sufficient flexibility to adapt to developments linked to the New Democratic Pact for Europe, which may influence future priorities and programming of the Council of Europe. The next quadrennium would also see the preparation of the next Gender Equality Strategy for 2030 onwards. Several members expressed their support for the ideas developed in the background document, in particular for the preparation of a practical guide on intersectionality, and in general members favoured working transversally with other committees where appropriate. Members were invited to provide any further reflections in advance of the next Bureau meeting on 19 August.

13. Gender equality activities in multilateral settings

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

56. The Republic of Moldova informed the GEC that gender equality was a strategic priority throughout their Presidency, with a special focus on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. The Republic of Moldova had pursued a series of national and international initiatives promoting gender equality: a Parliamentary Dialogue on the Istanbul Convention (20–21 November 2025); a 16 Days of Activism campaign with national events (25 November – 10 December 2025); an international conference on “Femicide – the most severe form of violence against women,” co-organised by the Women’s Law Centre and Moldova State University (28 November 2025); and the ‘Platform on Gender-Based Violence’ conference (9 -10 March 2026). The Republic of Moldova also co-organised, with the Council of Europe, a side-event during the 70th meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), on 11 March 2026.

57. Monaco informed the GEC that priorities for its Presidency include combating violence against women, especially in the context of the 15th anniversary of the Istanbul Convention in 2026. They included a thematic debate with the Committee of Parties to the Istanbul Convention and the Committee of Ministers on 2 June 2026; the GEC Annual Conference on 9 June 2026 and participation in the 39th GREVIO meeting. Monaco had also included in its Presidency programme a thematic debate of the Committee of Ministers, on 3 June 2026, with the Monegasque Minister of Social Affairs and Health, on women and children’s rights and to combat violence against women. Monaco had also made a voluntary contribution of €50 000 to Council of Europe programmes to combat violence against women and domestic violence in Morocco and Tunisia.

13.2. United Nations - Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70)

58. The Chair expressed appreciation for the high-level side-event, entitled [Policing the Pixel: Gender, Tech, and Justice](#), co-organised during the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 70) in New York by the Council of Europe with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations, under the Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. The event highlighted that effective action against technology-facilitated violence requires stronger and more harmonised legal and policy frameworks, together with closer cooperation between judicial authorities, law enforcement, regulators, online platforms, and civil society. The discussions underlined the importance of ensuring that responses form part of a coherent and coordinated global approach to accountability and protection. Several promising practices from different regions and institutions were presented, including regulatory action to hold technology platforms accountable for failing to protect women and girls online, legal requirements to remove non-consensual intimate images rapidly after notification, and international networking initiatives on gender-responsive policing and practical guidance for police forces dealing with technology-facilitated violence.

13.3. Discussion on developments regarding gender equality in international settings

59. The GEC decided to postpone this discussion and asked the Bureau to further reflect on how the exchange should be structured and facilitated.

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

60. Cyprus underlined that one of the highest priorities of its presidency was to tackle cyberviolence against girls, with the aim of ensuring that girls can engage with the digital world with confidence, safety and dignity. EU Presidency events had included: the meeting of the High-Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming (16-17 February); a dedicated event to launch the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030 (5 March); the high-level stakeholders' conference (28 April) and the Informal Meeting of EU Ministers of Shipping (29 April) towards the drafting of the Nicosia Declaration on the welfare and education of seafarers and the promotion of gender equality and gender balance in the shipping industry; and the Conference on preventing and combating all forms of cyberviolence against girls (18-19 May).

61. Ireland's Presidency, beginning on 1 July, would align with the EU's broader priorities of values, competitiveness, and security, while placing particular emphasis on the link between equality, including gender equality, and competitiveness. The gender equality agenda will focus on women in leadership and decision-making, the care economy, and the labour market impacts of digitalisation and artificial intelligence, with the aim of presenting gender equality as a driver of economic reform, growth, innovation, and social cohesion. Key initiatives will include Council conclusions on equality and competitiveness, preparation of a policy brief on care and competitiveness, and the signing of the Trio Declaration on gender equality. Major events planned during the Presidency include the meeting of the High-Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming on 7-8 September, a High-Level Conference on Equality and Competitiveness in Dublin on 9 September, a round table on equality data on 30 September and 1 October, and an informal Equality EPSCO meeting in Tralee on 23 November.

62. During its Presidency, Lithuania would promote its commitment to build a gender-equal, future-ready workforce and to address demographic challenges from a gender perspective, as well as continue its support for implementation of EU Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030. EIGE would prepare a report during the Presidency on the topic "Breaking Barriers, Building Resilience in the EU, Gender Equality for a Future Ready Workforce". Lithuania would host a meeting of the High-Level Group on Gender-Mainstreaming in Vilnius, from 8-9 February 2027. A half-day thematic event on gender equality and a future-ready workforce is planned to accompany this meeting. There would also be an informal EPSCO Council Meeting in

Vilnius on 14-15 April 2027, and finally, Council Conclusions on the objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action (on gender equality for a future-ready workforce) would be prepared in the context of the Working Party on Social Questions.

14. Requests for Observer Status

63. The GEC admitted Osez le Féminisme and the Feminist Collective of Romani Gender Experts as observers to the GEC.

15. Preparation of future meetings

64. The Chair reminded members that the 30th meeting of the GEC will take place from 17 to 19 November 2026 in Strasbourg. The GEC approved the proposed dates of 1-3 June 2027 and 16-18 November 2027 for the 31st and 32nd meetings of the GEC which would also take place in Strasbourg;

16. Other business

65. None.

17. Adoption of the abridged report

66. The GEC adopted 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

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

GEC(2026)OJ1	Draft agenda
GEC(2026)OJ1ann	Draft annotated agenda and order of business

Report from the Chair of the GEC

GEC-BU(2026)1	Report of the 29th meeting of the Bureau
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Mandate and workplan of the GEC

CM(2023)131-addfinal	Terms of reference of the GEC
GEC(2025)1rev	Workplan of the GEC
GEC(2026)13	Joint statement of CDADI and GEC on the fundamental importance of equality, gender equality, diversity and inclusion for the New Democratic Pact for Europe

Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029

Draft first biennial report (2024-2025) on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy (2024-2029)

GEC(2025)9rev	Questionnaire on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy (2024-2029)
GEC(2026)4	Draft first biennial report (2024-2025) on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy (2024-2029)
GEC(2026)6	Compilation of comments received from members, participants and observers of the GEC on the draft first biennial report (2024-2025) on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy (2024-2029)
GEC(2026)4rev	Revised draft biennial report (2024-2029) on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy (2024-2029)

Follow-up to existing GEC standards and future activities

Discussion of dissemination of existing standards produced by the GEC

GEC(2026)7	Background document on dissemination at national level of existing standards and policy work produced by the GEC
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Event to launch CM/Rec(2026)2 on Accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls

GEC(2026)8	Concept note and programme for the event to launch CM/Rec(2026)2 on Accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls
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Preventing and combating gender stereotypes and sexism

Thematic implementation review of Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)1 on preventing and combating sexism

GEC(2026)1	Questionnaire on the implementation of Section II.F of Recommendation CM/Rec (2019)1: preventing and combating sexism within the justice sector
GEC(2026)9	Compilation of responses received from members, participants and observers of the GEC to the Questionnaire
GEC(2026)10	Draft Outline of the thematic implementation review of Section II.F of Recommendation CM/Rec (2019)1: preventing and combating sexism within the justice sector

Workshop to collect information on best practices from member States on the involvement of men and boys in gender equality policies and more specifically in promoting and following up to the Guidelines on the place of men and boys in gender equality policies and in policies to combat violence against women

GEC(2026)11	Background paper on the involvement of men and boys in gender equality policies, promoting and implementing the 2023 Guidelines on the place of men and boys in gender equality policies and in policies to combat violence against women
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Preventing and combating violence against women and girls and domestic violence

Implementation of the Istanbul Convention

Update from the Secretariat of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)

Co-operation activities on violence against women and domestic violence

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

Equal participation in political and public decision-making

GEC(2026)12	Outline of a study on equal participation of women in political and public decision-making
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Analysis of good practices on gender equality and gender mainstreaming in education, contributing to implementation of the Gender Equality Scoreboard in Education under preparation by the Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU)

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

Implementation of the Guidance for the development of positive narratives to deflect anti-gender rhetoric

Publication	Advancing gender equality through values-based communication: A practical guide for authorities, communicators, and civil society to deflect anti-gender rhetoric
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Gender mainstreaming and including an intersectional approach in all policies and measures

Gender mainstreaming in Council of Europe activities

Cooperation with other Council of Europe sectors

Thematic debate on the role of women in democracy

GEC(2026)3	Background document for an exchange on women's role in democracy and their participation in democratic debate and institutions
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Terms of Reference 2028-2031

GEC(2025)17	Evaluation of activities 2024-2025
GEC(2026)2rev	Background paper on the Terms of Reference of the Gender Equality Commission 2028-2031

Gender equality activities in multilateral settings

Gender equality activities of the Presidencies of the Committee of Ministers

United Nations - Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70)

Discussion on developments regarding gender equality in international settings

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

Requests for Observer status

GEC(2026)5	Requests for observer status
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Preparation of future meetings

Other business

Adoption of the abridged report

APPENDIX II

Abridged report

Gender Equality Commission (GEC)Abridged report of the 29th meeting**Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

The Gender Equality Commission (GEC) held its 29th meeting in Strasbourg from 10-12 June 2026, with Sara SLANA (Slovenia) as Chair.

The agenda of the meeting is contained in Appendix 1. The full report of the meeting including the list of participants and other appendices, is available [here](#).

List of items for decision by the Committee of Ministers

The GEC agreed to submit to the Committee of Ministers the [joint statement](#) of the GEC and the Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) on the fundamental importance of equality, gender equality, diversity and inclusion for the New Democratic Pact for Europe, for the Committee of Ministers to take note of it.

List of items for information of the Committee of Ministers

The GEC:

- approved the revised first biennial report (2024-2025) on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy (2024-2029) and agreed to submit it to the Committee of Ministers for information;
- together with members, participants and observers of the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), held an event to launch Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2026)2 on Accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, and exchanged with Hera HUSSAIN, CEO of Chayn, among others;

Commission pour l'égalité de genre (GEC)Rapport abrégé de la 29^e réunion**Ouverture de la réunion et adoption de l'ordre du jour**

La Commission pour l'égalité de genre (GEC) tient sa 29^e réunion à Strasbourg, du 10 au 12 juin 2026, sous la présidence de Sara SLANA (Slovénie).

L'ordre du jour de la réunion figure à l'Annexe 1. Le rapport complet de la réunion, y compris la liste des participant·es et les autres annexes, est disponible [ici](#).

Points pour décision du Comité des Ministres

Lors de cette réunion, la GEC décide de soumettre au Comité des Ministres [la déclaration conjointe](#) de la GEC et du Comité directeur sur l'anti-discrimination, la diversité et l'inclusion (CDADI) sur l'importance fondamentale de l'égalité, de l'égalité de genre, de la diversité et de l'inclusion pour le Nouveau Pacte Démocratique pour l'Europe, afin que le Comité des Ministres en prenne note.

Liste des points pour information du Comité des Ministres

La GEC :

- approuve le premier rapport biennal révisé (2024-2025) sur la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie pour l'égalité de genre (2024-2029) et décide de le transmettre au Comité des ministres pour information ;
- assiste à un événement en compagnie des membres, des participant·es et des observateurs et observatrices du Comité européen sur les problèmes criminels (CDPC), pour lancer la Recommandation CM/Rec(2026)2 du Comité des Ministres sur l'obligation de rendre des comptes en matière de violences à l'égard des femmes et des filles facilitées par la technologie, et échange avec Hera HUSSAIN, PDG de Chayn, entre autres ;

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • took part in a thematic exchange on the role of women in democracy and their participation in democratic debate and institutions and heard from invited speakers Mona Lena KROOK, (Rutgers University), Marjan EHSASSI (Federation for Innovation in Democracy in North America) and Irena FIKET (University of Belgrade); • took note of the presentation delivered by Professor Shazia CHOUDHRY, University of Oxford, of an outline prepared for the thematic implementation review of Section II.F of Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)1 on preventing and combating sexism, focusing on the justice sector, approved the outline, and provided guidance to the Secretariat and independent consultant for the preparation of the review report. The GEC held a short discussion on a specific set of questions concerning sexism in the justice sector which will inform further work on this report; • participated in a workshop on the place of men and boys in gender equality policies and in policies to combat violence against women, thereby contributing to a collection of promising practices, to which the GEC can further contribute in writing until 15 August 2026; • agreed to establish a working group to prepare a collection of promising practices on the place of men and boys in gender equality policies (as per the GEC Terms of Reference for 2027), and nominated Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway, and Spain as members of the working group, as well as the Advisory Council on Youth as a participant, and the United Kingdom reserved the right to make a nomination at a later stage; • took note of a presentation, by independent consultant Susana PAVLOU, President, Women Against Violence Europe Network (WAVE) of the outline of a study on equal participation of women in political and public decision-making, and provided guidance for further work on the study, which would be presented to the GEC for adoption during the 30th plenary meeting in November 2026; • took note of a presentation by Tryggvi HALLGRÍMSSON (Iceland) on the ongoing contributions made to the implementation of the Gender Equality Scorecard in Education, under preparation by the Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU); • took note of presentations by the secretariat and by the Vice-Chair of the GEC (Switzerland) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participe à un échange thématique sur le rôle des femmes dans la démocratie et leur participation au débat et aux institutions démocratiques, et entend les interventions des invitées Mona Lena KROOK (Université Rutgers), Marjan EHSASSI (Fédération pour l'innovation démocratique en Amérique du Nord) et Irena FIKET (Université de Belgrade) ; • prend note de la présentation de la Professeure Shazia CHOUDHRY, de l'université d'Oxford, du résumé élaboré en vue de l'examen thématique de la mise en œuvre de la section II.F de la Recommandation CM/Rec(2019)1 sur la prévention et la lutte contre le sexisme, axé sur le secteur de la justice, approuve ce résumé et donne des orientations au Secrétariat et à la consultante indépendante pour la préparation du rapport d'examen. La GEC tient une brève discussion sur une série de questions spécifiques concernant le sexisme dans le secteur de la justice, qui servira de base aux travaux ultérieurs sur ce rapport ; • participe à un atelier sur la place des hommes et des garçons dans les politiques d'égalité de genre et de lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes, contribuant ainsi à un recueil de bonnes pratiques, auquel la GEC peut encore apporter une contribution écrite jusqu'au 15 août 2026 ; • convient de créer un groupe de travail chargé d'élaborer un recueil de bonnes pratiques concernant la place des hommes et des garçons aux politiques en matière d'égalité de genre (conformément au mandat de la GEC pour 2027), et désigne la Bosnie-Herzégovine, la Tchéquie, le Danemark, l'Allemagne, le Luxembourg, la Norvège et l'Espagne comme membres de ce groupe de travail, ainsi que le Conseil consultatif sur la jeunesse en tant que participant ; le Royaume-Uni se réserve le droit de proposer une candidature à un stade ultérieur ; • prend connaissance de la présentation, par la consultante indépendante Susana PAVLOU, présidente du réseau Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE), des grandes lignes d'une étude sur la participation égale des femmes à la prise de décision politique et publique, et donne des orientations pour la poursuite des travaux sur cette étude, qui sera soumise à la GEC en vue de son adoption lors de la 30^e réunion plénière en novembre 2026 ; • prend note de la présentation de Tryggvi HALLGRÍMSSON (Islande) portant sur les contributions actuelles à la mise en œuvre du tableau de bord sur l'égalité de genre dans l'éducation, en cours d'élaboration par le Comité directeur pour l'éducation (CDEDU) ; • prend note de l'information fournie par le Secrétariat et de la présentation de la Vice-présidente de la GEC |
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regarding the implementation of the Guidance for the development of positive narratives to deflect anti-gender rhetoric, adopted by the GEC at its 28th plenary meeting in November 2025, and exchanged on further opportunities to raise awareness of this publication;

- held a first discussion on the future Terms of Reference of the GEC for 2028-2031 and instructed the secretariat to prepare draft Terms of Reference for examination by the GEC with a view to their approval during the 30th plenary meeting in November 2026; and
- admitted Osez le Féminisme and the Feminist Collective of Romani Gender Experts as observers to the GEC.

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

- took note of opening remarks by Irena GUIDIKOVA, Head of the Human Dignity and Gender Equality Department of the Council of Europe, who underlined the important contribution of the GEC's work to overcoming current challenges to gender equality, including anti-gender rhetoric, backlash and new technologies, and stressed that, as gender equality is a core component of effective democracy, the GEC's ongoing work is an essential contribution to the Council of Europe's New Democratic Pact for Europe;
- took note of information provided by the Chair and Bureau members on their activities since the 28th GEC plenary meeting and the report of the 29th meeting of the Bureau, held on 26 March 2026;
- took note of the updated work plan of the GEC for 2026-2027;
- took note of information relating to the GEC's website, updates to the perpetual calendar and other initiatives to improve the visibility of the GEC's work;
- provided guidance to the secretariat for future biennial reporting on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy, noting in particular that during the intervening year, further and more in-depth analysis of responses to the questionnaire should be undertaken;
- took note of information provided by the Secretariat on how to raise awareness of the recently adopted Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers to member States prepared by the GEC, CM/Rec(2026)1 on Equality and artificial intelligence and

(Suisse) sur la mise en œuvre du « Guide pratique pour répondre à la rhétorique anti-genre », adoptées par la GEC lors de sa 28^e réunion plénière en novembre 2025, et échange sur les possibilités d'accroître la visibilité de cette publication ;

- tient une première discussion sur le futur mandat de la GEC pour la période 2028-2031 et charge le Secrétariat de préparer un projet de mandat qui sera examiné par la GEC en vue de son adoption lors de la 30e session plénière en novembre 2026 ; et
- admet Osez le Féminisme et le Collectif féministe d'expertes roms en matière de genre en qualité d'observateur auprès de la GEC

Concernant les autres points à l'ordre du jour, la GEC :

- prend note de l'allocution de bienvenue d'Irena GUIDIKOVA, Cheffe du Service de la dignité humaine et de l'égalité de genre du Conseil de l'Europe, qui souligne l'importante contribution des travaux de la GEC à la résolution des défis actuels en matière d'égalité de genre, notamment la rhétorique anti-genre, le recul en matière de genre et les nouvelles technologies, et qui rappelle que l'égalité de genre étant un élément central d'une démocratie efficace, les travaux en cours de la GEC constituent une contribution essentielle au Nouveau pacte démocratique pour l'Europe du Conseil de l'Europe ;
- prend note des informations fournies par la Présidente et les membres du Bureau concernant leurs activités depuis la 28e séance plénière de la GEC, ainsi que du rapport de la 29e réunion du Bureau, qui s'est tenue le 26 mars 2026 ;
- prend note du plan de travail actualisé pour 2026 à 2027 ;
- prend note des informations concernant le site web de la GEC, des mises à jour apportées au calendrier perpétuel et d'autres initiatives visant à améliorer la visibilité des travaux de la GEC ;
- fournit des orientations au Secrétariat en vue des futurs rapports biennaux sur la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie pour l'égalité de genre, soulignant en particulier que, dans l'intervalle, il conviendrait de procéder à une analyse plus approfondie des réponses au questionnaire ;
- prend note des informations fournies par le Secrétariat sur les moyens de sensibiliser les États membres aux recommandations récemment adoptées par le Comité des Ministres à l'intention des États membres, élaborées par la GEC, CM/Rec(2026)1 sur l'égalité et l'intelligence artificielle et

CM/Rec(2026)2 on Accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, and discussed and provided guidance on how to improve the dissemination of Council of Europe recommendations and relevant policy work produced by the GEC, which can be supplemented in writing until 15 September;

- took note of the information provided by member States regarding national developments in relation to the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention;
- held an exchange with Johanna NELLES, Executive Secretary to the Istanbul Convention's monitoring mechanisms, on GREVIO's recent activities;
- held an exchange with Caterina BOLOGNESE, Larissa KIREEVA and Danko RUNIC from the secretariat of the Gender Equality Division, on cooperation projects undertaken by the Gender Equality Division to combat violence against women and domestic violence, in particular, Programmes for perpetrators of violence against women and data collection;
- held an exchange with Yanna PARNIN, Secretary of the Committee of Experts on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics (ADI-SOGIESC), on the Study on the risks and impediments to full access to rights resulting from discrimination and violence on the ground of gender expression;
- held an exchange of views with Ina MAJKO, Gender Equality Rapporteur of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM), Oana TABĂ, Co-Secretary of the ADI-ROM and Marina VASIĆ, Administrator, Roma and Travellers Division, on the new Strategy for Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2026–30), adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 January 2026 and upcoming activities including the preparation of a collection of promising practices on the implementation of Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)1 on Equality for Roma and Traveller women and girls, to which the GEC was invited to contribute;
- 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;

CM/Rec(2026)2 sur l'obligation de rendre des comptes en matière de violences à l'égard des femmes et des filles facilitées par la technologie, et débatten et apporte des orientations sur comment améliorer la diffusion des recommandations du Conseil de l'Europe et des politiques pertinentes élaborées par la GEC, auxquelles il est possible d'apporter des compléments par écrit jusqu'au 15 septembre ;

- prend note des informations fournies par les États membres concernant les développements nationaux relatifs à la ratification et à la mise en œuvre de la Convention d'Istanbul ;
- tient un échange avec Johanna NELLES, Secrétaire exécutive des mécanismes de suivi de la Convention d'Istanbul, au sujet des récentes activités du GREVIO;
- tient un échange avec Caterina BOLOGNESE, Larissa KIREEVA and Danko RUNIC, du Secrétariat de la Division de l'égalité de genre, sur les projets de coopération menés par cette division pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes et la violence domestique, notamment les programmes destinés aux auteurs de violences à l'égard des femmes et la collecte de données ;
- tient un échange avec Yanna PARNIN, Secrétaire du Comité d'expert-es sur l'orientation sexuelle, l'identité et l'expression de genre, et les caractéristiques sexuelles (ADI-SOGIESC), concernant l'étude sur les risques et obstacles à l'accès total aux droits résultant de la discrimination et de la violence fondées sur l'expression de genre.
- tient un échange avec Ina MAJKO, rapporteure pour l'égalité de genre au sein du Comité d'expert-es sur les questions relatives aux Roms et aux Gens du voyage (ADI-ROM), Oana TABĂ, Co-secrétaire de l'ADI-ROM, et Marina VASIĆ, administratrice, Division des Roms et des Gens du voyage, sur la nouvelle Stratégie pour l'inclusion des Roms et des Gens du voyage (2026-2030), adoptée par le Comité des Ministres le 21 janvier 2026, et sur les activités à venir, notamment la préparation d'un recueil de bonnes pratiques concernant la mise en œuvre de la Recommandation CM/Rec(2024)1 du Comité des Ministres sur l'égalité pour les femmes et les filles roms et de la communauté des Gens du voyage, à laquelle la GEC est invitée à contribuer ;
- prend note de l'information donnée par le Secrétariat sur les activités menées au sein du Conseil de l'Europe en matière d'approche intégrée de l'égalité de genre ;

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • took note of the information provided by its representatives in the meetings and activities of other Council of Europe intergovernmental bodies; • took note of information provided by the representatives of the Republic of Moldova (November 2025 - May 2026) and Monaco (May-November 2026) regarding the gender equality agendas of their respective presidencies of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe; • took note of information provided by the Secretariat on the side-event organised by the Council of Europe under the Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers and shared information about other side-events organised during the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 70) 2026; • Postponed the planned exchange regarding developments concerning gender equality in international settings, including CSW, to a future plenary meeting and asked the Bureau to prepare this discussion at its next meeting; • took note of presentations by the representatives of Cyprus, Ireland and Lithuania regarding the gender equality activities during their respective presidencies of the Council of the European Union; • approved the proposed dates of 1-3 June 2027 and 16-18 November 2027 for the 31st and 32nd meetings of the GEC which would take place in Strasbourg; • adopted the present abridged meeting report. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prend note des informations fournies par ses représentant·es sur leur participation aux activités d'autres comités intergouvernementaux ; • prend note des informations fournies par les représentantes et représentants de la République de Moldova (novembre 2025-mai 2026), et de Monaco (mai-novembre 2026) concernant les agendas en matière d'égalité de genre au cours de leurs présidences respectives du Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe. • prend note des informations fournies par le Secrétariat sur l'événement parallèle organisé à la CSW70 par le Conseil de l'Europe sous la Présidence de la République de Moldova et partage des informations sur d'autres événements parallèles organisés durant la Commission pour la condition de la femme (CSW 70) 2026. • Reporte à une prochaine séance plénière l'échange prévu sur les tendances en matière d'égalité de genre dans les contextes internationaux, notamment au sein de la CSW, et demande au Bureau de préparer cette discussion lors de sa prochaine réunion ; • prend note des présentations des représentantes de Chypre, Irlande et Lituanie sur leurs activités en matière d'égalité de genre durant leurs présidences respectives du Conseil de l'Union européenne ; • convient des dates proposées pour la 31^e réunion de la GEC (1-3 juin 2027) et la 32^e réunion de la GEC (16-18 novembre 2027) qui se tiendront à Strasbourg ; • adopte le présent rapport abrégé de la réunion. |
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One observer made a statement to the approval of the revised first biennial report (2024-2025) on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy (2024-2029) which is included in the full meeting report.

Resource implications

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

Evaluation of completed activities

The GEC expressed its satisfaction with the ongoing work and with the first biennial report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy which improved upon previous reporting. The GEC shared

Un observateur fait une déclaration concernant l'approbation du premier rapport biennal révisé (2024-2025) sur la mise en œuvre de la stratégie pour l'égalité de genre (2024-2029), qui figure dans le rapport complet de la réunion.

Ressources nécessaires

Le financement des activités décrites dans ce rapport est assuré.

Évaluation des activités menées à bien

La GEC exprime sa satisfaction quant aux travaux en cours et au premier rapport biennal sur la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie pour l'égalité de genre, qui apporte une contribution plus aboutie que les

its appreciation for the Annual Conference organised under the Monegasque Presidency of the Committee of Ministers (Strasbourg, 9 June 2026) on the topic of *Women forging lasting peace: Dismantling barriers to gender-inclusive conflict resolution and peacebuilding* as well as the event to launch the new Committee of Ministers Recommendation on Accountability for Technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (Strasbourg, 10 June 2026).

Other observations

None.

rapports précédents. La GEC salue l'organisation, sous la présidence monégasque du Comité des Ministres, de la Conférence annuelle (Strasbourg, 9 juin 2026) sur le thème « *Les femmes, architectes d'une paix durable : lever les obstacles pour que la résolution des conflits et la consolidation de la paix soient inclusives en matière de genre* » ainsi que de l'événement marquant le lancement de la nouvelle recommandation du Comité des Ministres sur l'obligation de rendre des comptes en matière de violences à l'égard des femmes et des filles facilitée par la technologie (Strasbourg, 10 juin 2026).

Autres observations

Néant.

APPENDIX III

List of participants

Albania Albanie	Etleva Sheshi Director of Gender Equality Ministry of Health and Social Welfare <i>Directrice de l'égalité de genre</i> <i>Ministère de la santé et de la protection sociale</i> Ina Majko - online Deputy Minister Ministry of Health and Social Welfare Gender equality rapporteur of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM) <i>Ministère adjointe</i> <i>Ministère de la santé et de la protection sociale</i> <i>Rapporteuse sur l'égalité de genre du Comité d'expert·es sur les questions relatives aux Roms et aux Gens du voyage (ADI-ROM)</i>
Andorra Andorre	Mireia Agulló Farré Advisor Social Affairs Department Ministry of Social Affairs, Justice and Interior <i>Conseillère</i> <i>Département des Affaires Sociales</i> <i>Ministère des Affaires Sociales, de la Justice et de l'Intérieur</i>
Austria Autriche	Eva Fehringer Director Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy <i>Directrice</i> <i>Ministère fédéral du travail et de l'économie</i>
Azerbaijan/ Azerbaïdjan	Rahimova Sadagat Leading advisor Women's and Gender Affairs Department State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs <i>Conseillère principale</i> <i>Département des questions relatives aux femmes et au genre</i> <i>Comité d'État chargé des affaires de la famille, des femmes et des enfants</i>
Belgium Belgique	Carine Joly Adviser Institute for Gender Equality <i>Conseillère</i> <i>Institut pour l'égalité des femmes et des hommes</i>

Bosnia and Herzegovina <i>Bosnie-Herzégovine</i>	Josko Mandić <i>Expert Advisor/ Conseiller</i>
Bulgaria <i>Bulgarie</i>	New member to be appointed <i>Nouveau·elle membre à être nommé·e</i>
Czechia <i>Tchéquie</i>	Radan Šafařík Director Gender Equality Department <i>Directeur</i> <i>Département de l'égalité de genre</i>
Croatia <i>Croatie</i>	Irena Sarta – online Acting Director Office for Gender Equality <i>Directrice par intérim</i> <i>Bureau pour l'égalité de genre</i>
Cyprus <i>Chypre</i>	Niovi Georgiade - online Officer Office of Commissioner for Gender Equality <i>Chargée d'affaires</i> <i>Bureau de la Commissaire de l'égalité de genre</i>
Denmark <i>Danemark</i>	Jeppe Andersen Holm - online Special Consultant Department for Gender Equality Ministry of Environment and Gender Equality <i>Conseiller spécial Département de l'égalité de genre</i> <i>Ministère de l'environnement et de l'égalité de genre</i> Kira Uitterdijk Appel - online Special Consultant Department for Gender Equality Ministry of Environment and Gender Equality <i>Conseillère spéciale Département de l'égalité de genre</i> <i>Ministère de l'environnement et de l'égalité de genre</i>
Estonia <i>Estonie</i>	Lee Maripuu Head of Gender Equality Policy Ministry of Social Affairs <i>Chef de la politique d'égalité de genre</i> <i>Ministère des affaires sociales</i>
Finland <i>Finlande</i>	Anttoni Saarinen – (excused) Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Department for Work and Gender Equality <i>Ministère des Affaires sociales et de la santé, Direction du travail et de l'égalité de genre</i>

France	Stefania Chiru Head of the Office for European and international Affairs General Directorate for Social Cohesion Ministry of Solidarity/Ministry with responsibility for equality between women and men <i>Cheffe du Bureau des affaires européennes et internationales Direction générale de la cohésion sociale Ministère des solidarités/Ministère délégué chargé de l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes</i>
Georgia Géorgie	Lika Abesadze Chief Specialist, Human Rights Department, Administration of the Government of Georgia <i>Spécialiste principale, Département des droits humains Administration du gouvernement de Géorgie</i>
Germany Allemagne	Lea Spörcke (Bureau member/membre du Bureau) Policy Officer Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth <i>Chargée de politique Ministère fédéral de la famille, des personnes âgées, des femmes et de la jeunesse</i>
Greece Grèce	Christina Agoritsa - online Policy Officer, Independent Department of European and International Co-operation General Secretariat for Demography, Family and Gender Equality, Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family <i>Chargée de politique, Département indépendant de la coopération européenne et internationale Secrétariat général à la démographie, à la famille et à l'égalité de genre, ministère de la cohésion sociale et de la famille</i>
Hungary Hongrie	András Mozsolits Deputy Permanent Representative of Hungary to the Council of Europe <i>Représentant permanent adjoint de la Hongrie auprès du Conseil de l'Europe</i>
Iceland Islande	Tryggvi Hallgrímsson Special Adviser Directorate of Equality Department of Equality and Human Rights, Prime Minister's Office <i>Conseiller spécial Direction de l'Égalité Département de l'égalité et des droits humains Bureau de la Première Ministre</i>

Ireland Irlande	Hughes Lisa - online Assistant Principal Officer Equality & Gender Equality Unit Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth <i>Responsable administratif adjointe Unité de l'égalité et de l'égalité de genre Département de l'enfance, de l'égalité, du handicap, de l'intégration et de la jeunesse</i>
Italy Italie	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>
Lithuania Lituanie	Ramunė Vitartaitė Advisor Equal Opportunities and Women and Men Equality Group Ministry of Social Security and Labour <i>Conseillère Groupe Egalité des Chances et Egalité femmes/hommes Ministère de la sécurité sociale et du travail</i>
Luxembourg	Ralph Kass – (excused) Senior Advisor Ministry of Gender Equality and Diversity Conseiller de Direction Ministère de l'Égalité des genres et de la Diversité Christopher Witry - online Advisor Ministry of Gender Equality and Diversity <i>Conseiller de Direction Ministère de l'Égalité des genres et de la Diversité</i> Danièle Siebenaler – online Advisor Ministry of Gender Equality and Diversity <i>Conseillère de Direction Ministère de l'Égalité des genres et de la Diversité</i>
Malta Malte	Maria Ellul - online Head - Gender Mainstreaming Unit Human Rights Directorate Office of the Prime Minister - European Funds, Equality, Reforms & Social Dialogue <i>Cheffe - Unité sur l'approche intégrée de l'égalité de genre Direction des droits humains Bureau du Premier Ministre – Fonds européen, égalité, réformes & dialogue social</i>

Monaco	Florian Botto First Secretary Department of External Relations and Cooperation <i>Premier Secrétaire</i> <i>Département des Relations Extérieures et de la Coopération</i> 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>
The Netherlands Pays-Bas	Lisanne Post Senior Policy Officer Directorate for gender equality and LGBTI equality Ministry of Education, Culture and Science <i>Agente principale des questions politiques</i> <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>
North Macedonia Macédoine du Nord	Svetlana Cvetkovska Head of Department for Equal Opportunity Ministry of Labour and Social Policy <i>Cheffe de département pour l'égalité des chances</i> <i>Ministère du Travail et de la Politique sociale</i>
Norway Norvège	Tori Loven Kirkebø 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'Egalité</i> <i>Service de l'égalité, de la non-discrimination et des affaires internationales</i>
Portugal	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>
Republic of Moldova République de Moldova	Aurelia Bulat Head of Gender Equality Department <i>Cheffe du département de l'égalité de genre</i>
Romania Roumanie	Gianina Cristina Valentina Dimitrescu ANES - National Agency for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men <i>ANES - Agence nationale pour l'égalité des chances entre les femmes et les hommes</i>

Slovak Republic République Slovaque	Adriána Kurucová - online Principal State Advisor Department of Gender Equality and Equality of Opportunities Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family <i>Conseillère d'état principale Département de l'égalité de genre et de l'égalité des chances Ministère du travail, des affaires sociales et de la famille</i>
Slovenia Slovénie	Sara Slana (Chair / Présidente) Secretary Equal Opportunities Department Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities <i>Secrétaire Service de l'égalité des chances Ministère du travail, de la famille, des affaires sociales et de l'égalité des chances</i> Jasna Jeram Undersecretary Equal Opportunities Department Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities <i>Sous-secrétaire Service de l'égalité des chances Ministère du travail, de la famille, des affaires sociales et de l'égalité des chances</i>
Spain Espagne	Cristina Yunta Bernal Senior Adviser Director's Support Unit Institute of Women State Secretariat for Equality and against Gender Violence, Ministry of Equality <i>Conseillère principale Unité de soutien à la direction Institut de la femme Secrétariat d'État à l'égalité et à la lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes, Ministère de l'égalité</i>

Sweden Suède	Ewa Wiberg Deputy Director Division for Gender Equality Ministry of Employment <i>Directrice adjointe</i> <i>Division de l'égalité de genre</i> <i>Ministère du travail</i> Anna Collins-Falk International Coordinator Swedish Gender Equality Agency <i>Coordinatrice internationale</i> <i>Agence suédoise pour l'égalité de genre</i>
Switzerland Suisse	Sandra Lengwiler (Vice-Chair, Vice-présidente) Head of International Affairs Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA, Federal Office for Gender Equality FOGE <i>Responsable des affaires internationales</i> <i>Département fédéral de l'intérieur (FDI), Bureau fédéral de l'égalité</i> <i>entre femmes et hommes (BFEG)</i>
Türkiye	Onur Dinçer – online Expert, General Directorate on the Status of Women Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Affairs Ministry of Family and Social Services <i>Expert</i> <i>Direction générale sur le statut de la femme</i> <i>Ministère de la Famille et des Services sociaux</i> Ipek Cicekdag Ayhan – online Karakuş Hatice – online
Ukraine	Kateryna Levchenko Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy <i>Commissaire du gouvernement pour la politique d'égalité de genre</i> Natalia Bohdanova - online <i>Deputy Head of Department/ Cheffe adjointe de département</i> <i>Ministry of Social Policy, Family and Unity/ Ministère de la Politique</i> <i>sociale, de la Famille et de l'Unité</i>

United Kingdom Royaume-Uni	Georgia Wolff <i>Head, International Policy</i> <i>Government Equalities Office</i> <i>Cheffe de la politique internationale</i> <i>Bureau gouvernemental pour l'égalité</i> Shalewah (Shelly) Dowrich <i>Senior International Gender Equality Policy Advisor</i> <i>Office for Equality and Opportunity, Cabinet Office</i> <i>Conseillère principale en matière de politique internationale d'égalité de genre</i> <i>Bureau pour l'égalité et l'égalité des chances, Secrétariat du Premier ministre</i>
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APPENDIX IV

European Network of Migrant Women statement on terminology

We welcome the important work undertaken under the Gender Equality Strategy, particularly regarding violence against women, access to justice and the protection of migrant and refugee women.

At the same time, we would like to stress the importance of maintaining clarity and consistency in the terminology used throughout the Strategy and related documents.

In particular, we have concerns regarding formulations such as “women and men, girls and boys in all their diversity”, “gender sensitive”, “anti-gender narratives”, “inclusion” etc. From our perspective, gender equality work should remain firmly grounded in the protection of the rights of women and girls on the basis of sex, as recognised in longstanding international human rights standards, including CEDAW.

We also believe that the concept of intersectional discrimination should be clearly defined and applied in a way that strengthens protections for women and girls facing multiple forms of discrimination, including migrant, refugee, minority, disabled and economically vulnerable women.

Clear sex-based language is essential for effectively addressing structural discrimination, male violence against women, trafficking, sexual exploitation, and barriers to justice faced by women and girls, including migrant and displaced women.

We also encourage continued support for independent women-led civil society organisations working with women.