



EUROPEAN CONVENTION
ON **HUMAN RIGHTS**
CONVENTION EUROPÉENNE
DES **DROITS DE L'HOMME**
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

GEC-BU(2025)2

14 February 2025

**Gender Equality Commission
(GEC)**

**Bureau
(GEC/BU)**

26st meeting

29 January 2025

Meeting report

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of agenda

1. The Bureau of the Gender Equality Commission held its 26th meeting online on 29 January 2025. The meeting was chaired by Sara SLANA (Slovenia).
2. The Bureau adopted the agenda of the meeting.

2. Information from the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat

3. The Bureau was informed by the Secretariat that, at its meeting on 23 January 2025, the Committee of Ministers Rapporteur Group on Human Rights (GR-H) proposed, in line with the GEC's request in its 26th meeting report (document GEC(2024)10), extending the GEC's terms of reference until 30 June 2025 to complete the awareness-raising tool for Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)17 on the rights of migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking women and girls. This decision is scheduled for adoption by the Committee of Ministers at its 1518th meeting on 5 February 2025.

3. Preparation of the GEC 27th plenary meeting (13-15 May 2025)

4. The Bureau examined the draft agenda of the 27th plenary meeting of the GEC (13-15 May 2025).
5. As regards the workplan of the GEC, the Secretariat informed the Bureau of recent developments regarding the organisation of the 2025 Annual Conference of the GEC (17-18 September, Malta).
6. Regarding the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029, the Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat in relation to the preparation of the 1st meeting of the Working Group on reporting on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029, to be held on 25 February 2025.
7. In relation to the work of the Committee of Experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI), the Bureau was informed by the Secretariat that the 3rd meeting of the GEC/ADI-AI is scheduled for 26-27 February 2025, during which a revised version of the draft Recommendation on equality and artificial intelligence, as well as the first draft of its explanatory memorandum, will be discussed. A key issue remains the coordination with the EU, which was discussed by the GEC at its 26th meeting, and further clarity is expected after the GEC/ADI-AI meeting, when a new draft of the Recommendation will be circulated.
8. The Bureau took note of the results of the 2nd meeting of the Committee of Experts on combating technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (GEC/PC-eVIO) (22-23 January 2025). The Bureau was informed that a revised version of the draft Recommendation and the draft Explanatory Memorandum will be discussed during the 27th meeting of the GEC.
9. Regarding the work of the GEC on developing positive narratives in the context of anti-gender movements, the Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat in relation to the preparation of the 1st meeting of the Working Group on developing positive narratives in the context of anti-gender movements, to be held on 11 February 2025, and to the finalisation of the Mapping Study on anti-gender movements. Once translated, the Study will be distributed for information to the GEC before its 27th meeting. The Secretariat also proposed organising an interactive workshop on how to frame value-based narratives during

the 27th meeting, facilitated by the team of experts supporting the Working Group. The Bureau agreed to include this as an agenda item.

10. In relation to gender equality and the environment, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that the Secretariat is preparing a compilation of good practices in the field of gender equality and the environment, to be discussed at the 27th meeting of the GEC.

11. As regards the follow-up of Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)17 on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women girls, the Secretariat recalled that the GEC is expected to adopt the 'Practical Guide for policy makers to support the implementation of the Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls' at its 27th meeting. The document will be circulated three weeks prior to the meeting, providing GEC members with an opportunity to raise any outstanding concerns. The Bureau agreed that such concerns should not affect the content or wording of, in particular, the checklists included in the Guide, which are based on the text of the Recommendation itself but may address other aspects such as clarity or presentation.

12. Regarding the GEC's cooperation with the youth sector, the Secretariat proposed organising an exchange of views with youth delegates at the 27th meeting of the GEC, in a World-Café style interactive format, following the GEC's decision during its 26th meeting to explore ways to strengthen collaboration with the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ). The Bureau agreed to include this as an agenda item.

13. In relation to the agenda item on cooperation with other Council of Europe sectors, the Bureau asked the Secretariat to further explore the possibility of organising a short presentation by the Secretariat of the Steering Committee on the Rights of the Child (CDENF) and the consultants involved in recent deliverables. This would include a presentation on the Guidance Note on Safeguarding Children from the Risks of Accessing Online Pornographic Content, which is currently in the process of being adopted by the CDENF through written procedure and will be final by the time of the GEC plenary meeting. Additionally, the presentation would cover the draft Recommendation on age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education, which is being prepared by the Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Violence (ENF-VAE), a subordinate body of the CDENF.

14. The Bureau was informed by the Secretariat of the latest developments regarding the organisation of the side event to the CSW69, which will focus on "Threats and Opportunities of Digital Technologies: Women in the Public Eye." More detailed information will be shared with the GEC as soon as available. It was also noted that GEC members were invited to share information about their own side events, which the Secretariat will then circulate to the GEC.

15. The Secretariat also informed the Bureau of the progress made in organising the two exchanges of views requested by the GEC at its 26th meeting (19-21 November 2024) and asked the Secretariat to organise a third exchange of views with Maria Andriani KOSTOPOULOU, President of GREVIO.

4. GEC rapporteurs on mainstreamed perspectives and focal points

16. The Secretariat recalled that there are five mainstreamed perspectives at the Council of Europe: gender equality, children's rights, the rights of persons with disabilities, Roma and Traveller Issues and youth. It is recommended that all steering committees appoint rapporteurs on each of these perspectives. These roles ensure the perspectives are reflected in the work of the GEC. The GEC is expected to appoint two rapporteurs (children's rights and rights of persons with disabilities) at its 27th meeting.

17. The GEC also appoints focal points for relevant activities of other committees, a common practice among intergovernmental bodies. Focal points are not required to attend all meetings but should participate at key stages and report back to the GEC. This approach supports the implementation of the GEC's main task ix, as set out in its terms of reference: *"promote gender equality as a visible priority for the Organisation (internally and externally) and, to this end, support the committees and bodies of the Organisation in integrating and implementing gender mainstreaming in their activities."* Currently, three focal points are appointed (see document GEC-BU(2025)1). The Bureau agreed that one additional focal point is needed for the newly established Drafting Group on Human Rights and Drug Policies (DH-PDA), which is preparing a Recommendation on human rights in drug and addiction policies, to ensure that the GEC is represented and the inclusion of a gender equality perspective in the future Recommendation.

5. Any other business

18. The Bureau held a preliminary discussion on the organisation of the 28th meeting of the GEC (18-20 November 2025), focusing in particular on the logistical aspects related to the finalisation of three deliverables, including the joint approval of two draft Committee of Ministers recommendations with two other steering committees (CDPC and CDADI).

6. Proposed date of the next Bureau meeting

19. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting online on 27 March 2025.

Participants:

Bureau: Sara SLANA (Slovenia), Chair of the GEC; Sandra LENGWILER (Switzerland), Vice-Chair of the GEC; and Radan ŠAFARIK, Bureau member (Czechia).

Secretariat: Caterina BOLOGNESE (Head of the Gender Equality Division); Felicia COJOCARU (Administrative Assistant); Flurina FREI (Policy Adviser); Cécile GREBOVAL (Senior Gender Equality Adviser); and Yanna PARNIN (Head of the Gender Equality Policy Unit and Secretary to the GEC).