

CINGO Committee Report for the General Assembly (required format)

Version: Autumn Session 2023

Committee Chairs are advised to read the Guidance for CINGO Committees to assist in completing this report for the General Assembly.

Committee name: “NGOs as advocates for gender equality and women’s rights”.

Date of report: 14/09/2023

Report author name and contact details: Anita Schnetzer-Spranger, Bettina Hahne

Date committee was approved by CINGO General Assembly: October 2021

N.B. If this committee was approved in Autumn 2021 it will come to the end of its mandate at the 2023 Autumn Session of the General Assembly and you must complete section 7 if you wish the committee to continue for another half year.

*To encourage members to read all the committee reports and to share information effectively, please keep your free text sections **short and focused on priorities activities and actions.***

1. Committee Chair/Vice Chair name/s and contact emails

Bettina Hahne, bettina.hahne@fastmail.fm

Anita Schnetzer-Spranger, schnetzer-spranger@gmx.de

2. Which INGOs are represented on the committee?

Soroptimist International of Europe (SIE), Zonta International (ZI), European Council of Doctoral Cand. and Junior Researchers (Eurodoc), Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women (EFECW), Femmes Chefs d’Entreprises Mondiale (FCEM), European Women Lawyers Association (EWLA), Federation of Catholic Family Associations in Europe (FAFCE), International Alliance of Women (IAW), EN-RE, European Centre of the International Council of Women (ECICW), European Buddhist Union (EBU), European Parliamentary Forum (EPF), Parents International (IPA), International Alliance of Women (IAW), International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW), Civilscape.

3. Which Council of Europe committees and other activities is this committee mainly involved in?

- Gender Equality Commission: as GER of the Conference of INGO online and in presence participation at the GEC meeting November 2022 and May 2023
- Gender Equality Division in cooperation with UN Women and WAVE: Combating VAW and DV, 14 Sept. 2022, and digital meeting 6 Dec. on cyberviolence
- GREVIO, Istanbul Convention Secretariat: Organizing a webinar on the monitoring mechanism, 31 Jan. 2023, with the expert Mihail Stojanoski from the Istanbul Convention Secretariat, monitoring mechanism
- INGO SC and Cure: Preparation draft for Reykjavik Summit
- CoE World Forum of Democracy 2022: Attending (remotely) opening session and

some of the labs sessions

4. How has this committee linked with other CINGO committees in the last year?

- Action for Social Rights Committee: Webinars on The Revised Social Charter (March, June 2022); examples of NGO projects provided.
- Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence Com: HR and artificial intelligence (Jan. 2022)
- Civil Society Com. on the Rights of the Child: Parental Separation (June 2022)
- Migration Committee “Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers. Access to fundamental rights.” The committee participated in the survey set up by this committee and could suggest some relevant additions referring to the needs of women and girls
- Interreligious and interconvictional Committee: Discussion on women’s rights in religions
- Action for Social Rights Committee: Webinar 6 July 2023 on the Collective Complaints

5. How can new members join the committee (please provide email address for expression of interest)?

The committee is focused on gender equality and women’s rights. INGOs with an interest in these objectives, be it priority or be it through cross cutting topics, are very welcome.

The Committee’s webpage provides an overlook on the Committee’s goals and objectives: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/ngos-as-advocates-for-gender-equality-and-women-s-rights>

Contact addresses: bettina.hahne@fastmail.fm, schnetzer-spranger@gmx.de, sara.pilia@eurodoc.net

6. What else could CINGO Standing Committee and Secretariat do to support the work of the committee and the communications between your committee, other members of CINGO and other parts of CoE?

Continue with the networking between the Committees prior to the GAs

Develop a format which allows the Committees to present their work to the other INGOs in a meaningful, concise way.

More regular Zoom meetings by the Standing Committee with the INGO Committees as an “open forum”, allowing INGOs to find partners for cross cutting actions (if needed).

Involvement and information on CoE bodies relevant for the work of the GE-Committee like contact to GREVIO, Committee of the Parties, Committee on Equality and Non Discrimination, Gender Equality Commission. The GE Committee recognizes the difficulties to attend sessions of the above-mentioned committee in times of the pandemic crisis. However, it would be of great help, if the committee would have access to the outcome of meetings/sessions to get a better overview on the status of the topics relevant for the INGO GE-Committee.

7. If your committee is at the end of its two-year mandate at the 2023 Autumn Session of the General Assembly, please answer the following questions:

- a. Does the committee wish to continue its mandate for another year? Yes
- b. Please explain why the extension of mandate for another year is being requested and describe what objectives this committee will be pursuing over the next 6 months up to Spring 2024 (no more than 250 words). (Please also send a work plan for 2024/24 with this form if available).
 - Gender Equality is a transversal topic affecting all INGO Committees in their work and an important ongoing policy goal of the Council of Europe. With the mandate coming to an end it is time to take stock evaluating how gender equality is being observed in the work of the Conference of INGOs.
 - To draft a strategy, based on the information and results of the roundtable discussion with the INGO Committees on 9 Oct. 23, how to best implement gender equality as a cross cutting topic in the work of the Conference of INGOs as a permanent concern of the CoE.
 - To intensify the cooperation with the other INGO Committees on the cross cutting topic Gender Equality.
 - To fulfil the final goal coming up with an analysis and report on the possibilities how the NGOs can be instrumental in promoting and implementing ground-breaking conventions like the Istanbul Convention, Anti-Trafficking Convention and the Revised Social Charter. The Committee has learned in the past two years that there is no “one size fits all” solution and customized tools should be favoured.
- c. Has the committee decided to continue with the same Chair or appoint a new one?

If a new Chair is being proposed, please give their name.

The two Co-Chairs have agreed to continue their work for another half year.

8. Activity and Outcomes Report – please choose up to 6 main topics. Please add links to any online resources/publications/reports (etc) your committee has created and published in the last 12 months.

Topic	Summary of progress/impact in last 6 months	Current key issues/concerns	Plans for next 6 – 12 months
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<p>1a Train committee members on the most relevant CoE standards/conventions on women's rights and violence against women, monitoring mechanism</p>	<p>Organizing the Webinar: "NGOs and the Monitoring of the Istanbul Convention - how, as an NGO, can we assist the monitoring body, GREVIO, by reporting non-compliance."</p> <p>150 participants of NGOs from all over Europe</p> <p>Recording: https://vimeo.com/794820900</p> <p>Presentation by the expert Mihail Stojanoski: https://rm.coe.int/cin-go-gender-equality-presentation-istanbul-convention-m-stojanoski-v-/1680aa0813</p>	<p>VAW, DV, Trafficking, women's rights and the legal basis of Gender Equality in the European Social Charter</p>	<p>Ongoing training and observing of situations in light of GE, Women's rights, Violence against Women and women in leadership, to strengthen Committee members' knowledge and encourage them to disseminate information to their NGO</p>
<p>1b Make INGOs aware of the relevant convention, like the Istanbul Convention, to disseminate the legal instrument to inform citizens about their rights</p>	<p>Organization of the Webinar: "NGOs and the Monitoring of the Istanbul Convention"</p> <p>150 participants of NGOs from all over Europe.</p> <p>After the webinar, the IC secretariat received several requests and observations from NGOs concerning the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.</p> <p>https://vimeo.com/794820900</p> <p>https://rm.coe.int/cin-go-gender-equality-presentation-istanbul-convention-m-stojanoski-v-/1680aa0813</p>	<p>Ongoing training on issues concerning VAW and DV/GREVIO reports</p>	<p>Ongoing, to strengthen INGO's knowledge and encourage them to disseminate information to their NGO and civil society,</p> <p>Possibly webinars on other CoE conventions together with other committees</p>

	go-gender-equality-presentation-istanbul-convention-m-stojanoski-v-/1680aa0813		
2 Sharing best practice and existing successful projects of committee members' NGOs with CINGOs.	"A module on Gender Equality to eliminate gender stereotypes and clichés – for children between 12 and 14 years old" (IPA)	Finding cooperation between Committee members' NGOs and reaching out to other INGOs interested in these topics for potential cross cutting topics	Intensify search for potential and meaningful co-operation with other CINGO Committees
3 In May/June 2023 supervision of a SciencesPo intern, Giulia Alesse.	Intern searched the Mid-term Horizontal Review of GREVIO's Baseline Reports and the country by country monitoring – work for NGO contributions.		Internship terminated in June
4 Statements and position papers on situations that are critical for women	<p>A statement on "The situation of women in Ukraine" (SI and ZI)</p> <p>https://rm.coe.int/statement-on-ukraine-committee-ngos-as-advocates-for-gender-equality-a/1680a5c5e8</p> <p>A statement on "The Right of Women and Girls" (SI)</p> <p>https://rm.coe.int/ngos-as-advocates-for-gender-equality-and-women-s-rights-statement-on-/1680a90c20</p>	Raising awareness on the situation of refugee women and the risk of sexual and gender-based violence. Call for women's full and meaningful inclusion in peace talks and humanitarian processes.	Observing the situation on Ukrainian refugee women and to call for their wellbeing.

	<p>A statement on “Covid-19 Impacts on Women” (FCEM)</p> <p>https://rm.coe.int/ngo-s-as-advocates-for-gender-equality-and-women-s-rights-statement-on-/1680a8ddc4</p>	<p>The consequences of the COVID pandemic, its restrictions and impact specifically on women and gender equality.</p>	<p>Observing critical situations for women and girls under the gender perspective.</p>
<p>5 Analysis of opportunities and difficulties of project work on implementing gender equality, raise awareness of the unbalance between women and men in society and combating VAWG</p>	<p>Several successful and not so successful projects by our NGOs were presented and discussed. Weak points and strong points were identified, which depended on the structure of the NGO.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>This study will be continued, as it is one of the objectives of this committee to provide a summary/compilation of different projects, conducted by committee members, serving as examples for other INGOs' advocacy efforts.</p>
<p>6 Implementing gender equality in the permanent work of the Conference of INGOs</p>	<p>Observing gender mainstreaming in the INGO Committees.</p>	<p>Initiating a roundtable prior to the GA Autumn session 2023 to discuss GE as a transversal topic with the other INGO Committees.</p>	<p>Developing a strategy how to best implement GE in the work of the Conference of INGOs.</p>

Is there anything else you would like to share with CINGO members and/or the CINGO Standing Committee?

This committee is different from other INGO committees, most of which are contributing with recommendations and suggestions on specific topics to the essential work of the CoE.

This Committee is directed inwards in support of the members of the Conference: Its purpose is to enable INGOs to fulfil their participatory tasks as members of the Conference in promoting the Council of Europe's ground-breaking international treaties in their NGOs and in civil society. And in doing so, contributing to the substantial work of the Council of Europe as advocates for human rights.

It seeks to elaborate concrete ways how NGOs can be instrumental for a full implementation of the Council of Europe's conventions in their own countries.

Thank you for establishing the Guidelines. They are a useful tool for CINGO Committees. Please

add a short chapter on the visualisation of CINGO's brand identity (e.g. logo, color palette, typography, other images etc.), examples of letter head, template for PPT, etc. What is allowed and not allowed, like using the CoE blue logo for any CINGO Committees papers and invitations. It may not be known to all Committees.

Our committee would appreciate a closer contact to the SC. We don't feel well integrated into the work of the INGO Conference. It would help to discuss our approach with experienced members of the SC to become more efficient and gain more background knowledge.