

Partnership for Good Governance



HELP online course on Access to Justice for Women

Background

Achieving gender equality is a priority for the Council for Europe (CoE) and its member States. It is also central to achieving the organisation's mission: safeguarding human rights, upholding democracy and preserving the rule of law. Even if the legal status of women in Europe has improved during the recent decades, effective equality between women and men is far from being a reality.

The CoE and its member States have made specific commitments to improve women's access to justice and prevent and combat violence against women. The role of justice system professionals in ensuring and strengthening women's access to justice is essential in achieving substantive equality and guaranteeing equal rights to all in the society.

For this reason, the HELP course on [Access to Justice for Women](#) was developed to help legal professionals understand the legal and other barriers in accessing justice and apply a gender sensitive lens in their daily work.

The course provides a comprehensive overview of International and European women's rights and gender equality standards, case-law and good practices. It is the first HELP course to provide a single resource on gender equality and justice covering the extensive CoE standards, monitoring reports and soft-law instruments on the matter.



The topics are explored in a practical way, by using presentations, interactive screens, knowledge tests and reflective exercises.

It is primarily addressed to legal professionals (judges, prosecutors, lawyers), but can be also useful for the court staff, law enforcement, social workers, NHRIs, civil society organisations, media and other professionals working in the field of gender equality.

The course was finalised in **October 2018**.

Course outline

The course consists of the following six substantive modules:

- **Introduction to the concept of access to justice**
- **International and European legal framework**
- **Discrimination on the grounds of sex and gender**
- **Avoiding gender stereotyping**
- **Practical guidance to improve women's access to justice**
- **Gender sensitive approach to the practice of law**

Development of the course

This free on-line course is developed under the [Partnership for Good Governance](#) project "[Strengthening Access to Justice for Women Victims of Violence in the Six Eastern Partnership Countries](#)", jointly by the [Gender Equality Division](#) and the [HELP Programme](#) of the Council of Europe.

Access the free online course

To access the course, first you need to open yourself an account at HELP if you have not yet done so (<http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/login/>) (2 minutes) and then you click here to access the course directly: <http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/course/view.php?id=2595>.