

**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON YOUTH (CCJ)****11 October 2022**

English only

Statement of the Advisory Council on Youth on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the International Day of the Girl (IDG) | #DayOfTheGirl**11 October**

Despite the increased visibility of gender-based oppression and violence, and the positive, albeit fragile, gains made in the past, girls continue to suffer from gender-based discrimination in all areas of life, including the profession they should choose, how they express themselves, what they think, and how they live their lives. During the Covid-19, climate and economic crises, the rights of girls have been severely impacted, and progress in this area will likely remain endangered.

Roughly one in four girls does not participate in education, training, or employment. Girls represent the main population group that experiences different forms of violence throughout life. Femicides justified by traditional beliefs and norms, the gender gap as a result of the lack of women and girls in high positions within companies and institutions, the existence of harmful practices such as gender-based sex selection (abortion of girl children), early marriages, and incest continue to prevent Europe, and the world, from achieving gender equality.

The Advisory Council on Youth calls on the member states to take all necessary measures to implement the Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence and to urgently address the many challenges that girls face, ranging from access to education, physical and mental health to protection from sexual and other violence.

We remain committed to promoting gender equality and combating any form of gender-based discrimination and gender inequality, not least in the framework of the Youth for Democracy programme of the Council of Europe.

The opinions expressed in this statement are those of the Advisory Council on Youth and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Council of Europe or its member states.