

**Informal exchange of views with representatives of civil society
organised on the initiative of the Chair of the GR-H**

“Promoting ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention”

Strasbourg, 20 November 2024, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Committee of Ministers Room

AGENDA

Opening

- Ambassador Helge Seland, Chair of the GR-H

Introduction

- Ambassador Tanja Gonggrijp, President of the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention
- Johanna Nelles, Executive Secretary to the Istanbul Convention

Thematic session: 10 years of the Istanbul Convention: the role of civil society in advocating for ratification and implementation

The Council of Europe [Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence](#) (Istanbul Convention) entered into force ten years ago. Ratified by 38 member States of the Council of Europe and the European Union, it is the most far-reaching legal instrument for the protection of women and girls from their experiences of violence. The monitoring mechanism of the Istanbul Convention (GREVIO and the Committee of the Parties) has revealed much progress in the treaty's implementation over the past decade. Civil society, in particular women's rights organisations, play a crucial role in advocating for the convention's ratification as well as its implementation, and this is recognised in Article 9 of the convention itself. The findings from the monitoring show how this role is being encouraged and supported, but also where shortcomings persist in involving women's rights organisations and civil society actors in the design and implementation of national responses to violence against women. This thematic session will draw attention to the role and situation of women's rights NGOs in advocating for the implementation and ratification of the Istanbul Convention, as well as the contribution they make in providing specialist support services and counselling to women and girls exposed to the different forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention.

Speakers

- *Advocating for ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention – the perspective of women's specialist support services* - Anca Ciupa, Women against Violence Europe (WAVE Network)
- *The Istanbul Convention as an advocacy tool for women with disabilities* - Luisa Bosisio, European Disability Forum Women's Committee

- *The Istanbul Convention as an advocacy tool in Europe and beyond* - Marianne Nguena Kana, End FGM European Network

Discussion

Concluding remarks

- Ambassador Helge Seland, Chair of the GR-H