

DIGITAL GENDER GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

FOSTERING EQUAL PARTICIPATION AND ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN A CONNECTED AGE

A CSW65 high-level side event organised by the German Presidency of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, the Council of Europe and the National Council of German women's organisations

Date/time: 17/03/2021, 9 am EST (USA time) – 2 pm CET (France time)

Duration: 1 h 30

Platform:

- ▶ BlueJeans via Council of Europe

Registration via:

- ▶ Istanbul Convention Website: www.coe.int/conventionviolence

Words of Welcome:

- ▶ **Juliane Seifert**, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany
- ▶ **Mona Küppers**, President of the [National Council of German Women's Organizations](#)

Keynote speaker:

- ▶ **Seyi Akiwowo**, Women's Rights Advocate and Founder of [GLITCH](#), a non-profit campaigning organisation to end online abuse, United Kingdom/Nigeria

Panellists:

- ▶ **Emily Yiolitis**, Minister of Justice and Public Order, Cyprus
- ▶ **Helena Dalli**, Commissioner for Equality, European Union
- ▶ **Dr. Marceline Naudi**, President of the Council of Europe's Group of experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)
- ▶ **Dr. Aysel Yollu-Tok**, Chair Expert of the Commission of the [Third Gender Equality Report](#), Germany
- ▶ **Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen**, Chief Executive Officer at Plan International, United Kingdom
- ▶ **Rayan Al Zahab**, Founder, CEO BambooGeeks and Google Developer Expert

Moderator:

- ▶ **Abby Kuhathasan**, Correspondent and Anchor for CTV News and Deutsche Welle News



Permanent Mission of the
Federal Republic of Germany
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Presidency of **Germany**
Council of Europe
November 2020 - May 2021
Présidence de l'**Allemagne**
Conseil de l'Europe





■ In many parts of the world, the digital transformation is generating new opportunities for women's empowerment through access to knowledge and resources. At the same time, the digital gender divide and discrimination against women are exacerbating. Discriminatory factors range from unequal access to digital technologies, lack of training or education to barriers for women in digital technology industries. Especially, online and technology-facilitated violence constitute a systematic threat, which has spread during COVID-19 and the "shadow pandemic" of violence against women and girls.

■ The digital gender divide is widening and women who are active in the digital sphere continue to face negative stereotypes and gender-based violence, which in turn prevents them from fully taking advantage of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and participating as digital users and innovators. This holds especially true for women and girls who suffer from intersecting forms of discrimination, e.g. regarding their migration status, sexual orientation or disabilities. Encouraged by anonymity and automation, online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence, including sexual harassment and sexist hate speech against women are pervasive and reduce their online participation. Thus, while ICT and digital literacy offer innovative ways to respond to entrenched gender inequalities, sound policies are needed to ensure that the benefits of digitalisation are equitably shared by all.

■ Bringing together representatives from governments, international organisations and civil society, this side event organised by Germany's Presidency of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, the Council of Europe and the National Council of German Women's Organisations will present initiatives and strategies to achieve women's equal digital participation, to end online violence against women and to promote women's empowerment via digital technologies. It will draw upon promising research, policies and initiatives across Europe and worldwide. It will also explore the added value of the Council of Europe's legal instruments: the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) and the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation on preventing and combating sexism.