

# Women's Rights at the Crossroads: Strengthening International Co-operation to Close the Gap between Legal Frameworks and their Implementation

Conference organised by the Council of Europe  
in co-operation with the United Nations Special Rapporteur  
on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences,  
and with the French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers

## PROGRAMME

Council of Europe  
Room G03, AGORA building  
strasbourg, France  
24 May 2019



UNITED NATIONS  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
**SPECIAL PROCEDURES**

SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS, INDEPENDENT EXPERTS & WORKING GROUPS

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur  
on Violence against Women,  
its Causes and Consequences



PRÉSIDENTIE FRANÇAISE  
Conseil de l'Europe  
MAY - NOVEMBRE 2019  
FRENCH PRESIDENCY  
Council of Europe  
MAY - NOVEMBER 2019



9:30 – 10:45 am      **Opening Session**

**Moderator: Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe**

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**Thorbjørn Jagland**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

**Marlène Schiappa**, Minister of State for Gender Equality and the Fight against Discrimination, France

**Dunja Mijatović**, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe

**Dubravka Šimonović**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences

**Feride Acar**, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)

**10:45 – 11:00 am      *Coffee break/Networking***

**11:00 – 12:30 pm      **Session 1 - Strengthening international co-operation between United Nations and independent international and regional mechanisms on violence against women and women’s human rights to close the gap between legal frameworks and their implementation including feedback from the meeting of international and regional mechanisms to combat violence against women****

**Moderator: Elisabeth Walaas, Chair of the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention**

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**Presentation of the Platform of independent international and regional mechanisms on violence against women and women’s human rights**

**Dubravka Šimonović**, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences

**Hilary Gbedemah**, Chair of Committee for the elimination of discrimination against women (CEDAW)

**Feride Acar**, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence of the Council of Europe (GREVIO)

**Sylvia Mesa Peluffo**, President of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI)

**Lucy Asuagbor**, Special Rapporteur on the rights of women in Africa, African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights

**Ivana Radačić**, Chair of the Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice of the United Nations

**Margarette May Macaulay**, former Judge at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Rapporteur on women’s rights, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

**Discussion and questions**

**12:30 – 2:00 pm      *Lunch offered by the French authorities  
Parliamentarians Bar – 1<sup>st</sup> floor – Palais de l’Europe***

**2.00 – 3.30 pm**      **Session 2 - Putting victims' safety first: Child custody and domestic violence in national and international jurisprudence**

**Moderator: Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou**, Chair of the Council of Europe Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child

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**Keynote speaker: Ruth Halperin-Kaddari**, Council of Europe expert, Bar-Ilan University, former member of the Committee for the elimination of discrimination against women (CEDAW)

**Marko Bošnjak**, Judge of the European Court of Human Rights

**Margarette May Macaulay**, former Judge at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Rapporteur on women's rights, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

**Françoise Brié**, member of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)

**Carmen Comas-Mata Mira**, Head of International Affairs, Office of the Spanish Ombudsman

**Discussion and questions**

**3:30 – 3:45 pm**      *Coffee break and networking*

**3:45 – 5:15 pm**      **Session 3 - Ending violence against women and girls: a condition and accelerator towards the achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda**

**Moderator: Charles Ramsden**, Chair of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Commission

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**Keynote speaker: Bianca Pomeranzi**, Council of Europe expert, former member of the Committee for the elimination of discrimination against women (CEDAW)

**Nicole Ameline**, Vice Chairperson, Committee for the elimination of discrimination against women (CEDAW)

**Meglana Kuneva**, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Council of Europe

**Alia El-Yassir**, Regional Director, UN Women, Europe and Central Asia

**Katarzyna Wolska-Wrona**, Seconded National Expert, Gender-based violence, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

**Jacqui Hunt**, Director Europe and Eurasia office, Equality Now

**Discussion and questions**

**5:15 – 5:30 pm**      **Concluding remarks**

**Moderator: Claudia Luciani**, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance, Council of Europe

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**Dubravka Šimonović**, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences

**Feride Acar**, President of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)



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