



# SYNERGY FOR CHANGE

CIVIL SOCIETY RAISING AWARENESS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN A CONTEXT OF GLOBAL CHALLENGES

European Youth Centre, Budapest, 11-12 July 2024

## CONCEPT NOTE

### Background information

■ This conference is held within the framework of the Council of Europe [Ending violence against women: multi-country programme](#).

■ The conference focuses **on the role of civil society organisations (CSOs) in raising awareness and advocating to end violence against women and domestic violence and promote gender equality, especially in new and persisting challenges, such as digital dimension of violence against women (VAW), the gender backlash and other global challenges.**

■ Gender equality, including combating gender stereotypes and sexism, violence against women and domestic violence, ensuring equal access to justice and women's empowerment in relation to global and geopolitical challenges is an important policy goal of the Council of Europe. Priority areas are defined by the [Gender Equality Strategy - Gender Equality 2024-2029](#).

■ CSOs active in preventing and combating violence against women are major partners in promoting and monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, also known as “the Istanbul Convention”.

■ The Council of Europe's [Gender Equality Division](#), [Women Against Violence Europe Network \(WAVE\)](#) and [UN Women](#) have developed a [Methodology and advocacy resources and tools](#) to support CSOs in promoting the Istanbul Convention, generate positive narratives and dispel myths and misinformation regarding the Convention.

■ The methodology was piloted in 2021 in Czech Republic, Latvia and Poland. From 2022 to 2024, the Council of Europe has supported awareness-raising initiatives by CSOs from Armenia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania and Serbia.

■ In its First General Recommendation on the “digital dimension” of violence against women, the Council of Europe’s Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) outlined the problem of gender-based violence against women both committed online and facilitated by technological devices.

## Conference goals

■ Foster exchanges among civil society, experts, international organisations and experts across Europe.

■ Share best practices of the use of the CoE, UN Women and WAVE campaigning methodology and how it can be applied to other emerging issues/challenges.

■ Build the capacity of CSOs to promote the Istanbul Convention and combat myths and misconceptions around it.

■ Build the capacity of civil society to advocate to end violence against women and promote gender equality including on new topics and challenges.

■ Define the ways forward to join forces to advance gender equality in Europe and beyond: Call for action.

## Key areas of discussion

■ Role of CSOs in raising awareness and advocating in the following areas:

- ▶ Preventing and combating violence against women and girls and domestic violence including the digital dimension of such forms of violence.
- ▶ Preventing and combating gender stereotypes and sexism.
- ▶ Ensuring women’s equal access to justice.
- ▶ Ensuring women’s empowerment and gender equality in relation to global and geopolitical challenges.

## Targeted participants

■ Approximately 100 civil society representatives from different Council of Europe member states.

■ Representatives of the Council of Europe, Gender Equality Commission and GREVIO, WAVE Network, international CSOs, and experts.

## Format

■ Plenary sessions, workshops, world café.

## Side events

■ Tables are provided for participants to showcase and promote their organisations’ publications, visibility materials and relevant materials.

■ A networking reception organised in the evening of Day 1 (11 July).

## Duration: 1.5 days

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