FACTSHEET

RECOMMENDATION CM/REC(2008)1 OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER STATES ON THE INCLUSION OF GENDER DIFFERENCES IN HEALTH POLICY

Adopted by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers on 30 January 2008, **Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)1 on the inclusion of gender differences in health policy** urges member States to take gender-based differences into account in the design and delivery of all aspects of health policy. This standard recognises that differences and inequalities in women's and men's health can be shaped by social, cultural and economic factors, including income, employment, education and living and working conditions. Exposure to violence may also affect health. The Recommendation encourages health policies and services to respond to differing needs while promoting equality and respect for human rights and dignity, as well as improving access to and the quality of health services.

The Recommendation calls on member States to take action in different areas:

Gender-responsive health policies

- Make gender equality a priority in health policies and strategies, including through gender mainstreaming in the health sector.
- Promote gender equality in each sector and function of the health-care system.
- Monitor and evaluate progress on gender mainstreaming and measures addressing gender-based health inequalities.

Data, research and evidence

- Systematically collect health data disaggregated by sex and analyse them using a gender perspective.
- Produce regular gender-based health reports and use gender-sensitive indicators, taking account of social determinants that interact with gender.
- Promote gender-sensitive research programmes to support evidence-based public policies.

Access and quality of care

- Consider issues related to access to and the quality of health services in relation to the specific and differing needs and situations of women and men.

Awareness and capacity building

- Promote gender awareness and competency in the health sector.
- Integrate gender aspects of health into the initial and continuing education of health and social professionals and policy makers.
- Promote training on the health-related consequences of domestic and other forms of violence, as well as on the needs that affect the health of groups in vulnerable situations.

Equal participation

- Ensure balanced participation of women and men in health-related decision-making.
- Ensure gender-balanced representation in decision-making positions.

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Gender Equality

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