



*Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers
of the Council of Europe
(17 November 2021 – 20 May 2022)*

Main themes of the Presidency

- ✓ Recommitting to our shared principles and values
- ✓ Enhancing women's empowerment and the rights of children and adolescents, promoting youth policies while fighting discrimination
- ✓ Building a people-centered future

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During lockdowns and restricted movement measures, cases of domestic violence and gender abuse have risen dramatically, while the participation of women in the labour market declined more rapidly than that of men.

This is why the protection and promotion of women's fundamental rights must be at the heart of our joint efforts.

- ✓ Enhancing women's empowerment and the rights of children and adolescents, promoting youth policies while fighting discrimination

Women's participation in the labour market, family support services and the promotion of leadership roles for women in the economy and society must be priority themes in recovery programs, which must be devised with the full involvement of women in the decision-making process.

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Women's empowerment is also directly linked to the **prevention of violence against women, including "economic violence"**.

We consider the **Istanbul Convention** as the most advanced instrument at multilateral level to fight violence against women and domestic violence and that is why we want to encourage additional signatures and ratifications.

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It is also essential to continue to work on **reconciling professional and private life** to ensure that women are not obliged to choose between family and work, giving up, in many cases, their own financial independence.

This will be the theme of a **high-level event** to be organised by Italy, **12 April 2021**, paving the way to a broader discussion at the Council of Europe. Violence against women will also be the focus of a meeting of the Pompidou Group's Permanent Correspondents, to be held in Italy, which will partly cover sexual violence and the use of date-rape drugs.

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On the occasion of the International day for the elimination of violence against women, 25 November 2021 will see the participation of the Minister for equal opportunities and family Prof. Elena Bonetti at the high level panel of the Gender equality commission (GEC) of the Council of Europe together with the Secretary general of the Council of Europe Marija Pejčinović Burić and the President of the GREVIO Committee Iris Luarasi.

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On the occasion of the 66th meeting of the Commission on the status of women - CSW - which will take place in New York from 14 to 25 March 2022 - the Department for equal opportunities will organise in collaboration with the Council of Europe a side event (date yet to be decided) inspired by the CSW priority theme "Achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes".

The side event is expected to focus on STEM education for girls and the empowerment of women in leadership roles including in the environmental, climate and technology sector, themes that are widely shared by the Council of Europe's Secretariat.

Thank you for your attention

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