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
9:30 – 10:45 am  Opening Session

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

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

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 – 1st 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

**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
François 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

**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)
Meglena 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
Concluding remarks

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

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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