

Committee of the Parties

Council of Europe Convention
on preventing and combating violence
against women and domestic violence
(Istanbul Convention)



Report of the 19th meeting

Strasbourg, 11 December 2025

IC-CP(2025)RAP19

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Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. The Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (hereinafter referred to, respectively, as “the Committee” and “the convention”) held its 19th meeting on 11 December 2025 in Strasbourg. It adopted the draft agenda of the meeting as it appears in document IC-CP(2025)OJ19rev2 prov, which is set out in Appendix I.
2. The Chair welcomed the members of the Committee, thanking the Vice-Chair for the support and successful collaboration during the mandate. The Chair further highlighted the election of the new Bureau and the planned thematic discussion on preventing and combatting gender-related killings/femicide, on the agenda.
3. Furthermore, the Chair recalled that the meeting report of the Committee’s 18th meeting as set out in document IC-CP(2025)RAP18 had been adopted through written procedure which ended on 30 October 2025.

Agenda item 2. Administrative and budgetary information

4. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that the 2025 budget had been fully executed. All GREVIO evaluation visits scheduled for the year had taken place, amounting to a total of nine visits, including two baseline evaluation visits (Latvia and Ukraine). She also drew the Committee’s attention to the new country impact sheets which the Secretariat had prepared to communicate about the progress made by parties to the convention throughout the multi-annual baseline evaluation procedure. These had been prepared and shared on social media as part of the Council of Europe’s contribution to the 16 Days of Activism on Gender-based Violence.
5. Updating the Committee on a new development regarding GREVIO, the Executive Secretary informed the Committee of the Parties that GREVIO had been elected to preside over the Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence against Women (EDVAW Platform) starting in January 2026. Bringing together seven United Nations and regional independent expert mechanisms dedicated to combatting discrimination and violence against women and girls, it was an excellent opportunity to showcase GREVIO’s leadership and connect with Parties to the Istanbul Convention around the upcoming UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70).
6. Last, the Executive Secretary informed the Committee of a recent addition to the Secretariat, thanking the Portuguese authorities for having seconded Vera Fonseca.

Agenda item 3. State of signatures and ratifications of the Istanbul Convention*c) Declarations and reservations*

7. As regards reservations, the Executive Secretary informed the Committee that since its last meeting Slovenia renewed its set of reservations in June, covering compensation, territorial jurisdiction issues, ex officio prosecution for minor offences, questions of the statute of limitations and article 59, residence permits for women victims of domestic violence who separate from their abuser they are dependent on for their status in the country.

Agenda item 4. Elections of the Bureau members

8. The Executive Secretary chaired this agenda item and informed the Committee that three nominations to the Bureau were received for each of the available posts: Mr Vebjørn Heines, Ambassador of Norway for Chair; Ms Berta Mrak, Ambassador of Slovenia and Ms Rosa Velázquez Álvarez, Ambassador of Spain, for Vice-Chairs. The new Bureau was elected by acclamation. They

will take up their posts from 1 January 2026 for a duration of 12 months. The Executive Secretary congratulated the incoming Bureau members on their election.

Agenda item 5. Recommendations on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention

9. The Chair introduced the draft recommendations of the Committee of the Parties on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in respect of the United Kingdom (baseline evaluation) and Andorra, Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Serbia (first thematic evaluation).
10. On the basis of the proposed model recommendation agreed by the Committee of the Parties in January 2018 (and contained in document IC-CP(2018)6), the Committee adopted its recommendations under the first (baseline) evaluation round addressed to the Government of the United Kingdom. The recommendations are set out in document IC-CP(2025)22.
11. On the basis of the proposed model recommendation agreed by the Committee of the Parties in December 2024 (and contained in document IC-CP(2024)10), the Committee adopted its recommendations under the first thematic evaluation round addressed to the Governments of Andorra, Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Serbia. The recommendations are set out in documents IC-CP(2025)23, IC-CP(2025)24, IC-CP(2025)25, IC-CP(2025)26, IC-CP(2025)27, IC-CP(2025)28 and IC-CP(2025)29.
12. Representatives of each of the eight Parties took the floor to thank GREVIO for the findings contained in the respective thematic evaluation reports, and to reflect on the recommendations proposed. They expressed the intention to implement the recommendations and gave examples of current efforts to advance compliance with the requirements of the Istanbul Convention in their national contexts. The recommendations in respect of the United Kingdom, Andorra, Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Serbia were subsequently adopted by the Committee, with a deadline set for these parties to report back by 8 December 2028.

Agenda item 6. Supervising the implementation of recommendations issued by the Committee of the Parties

13. On the basis of the framework for supervising the implementation of recommendations addressed to parties under the baseline evaluation procedure as set out in document IC-CP(2021)2, the Chair presented to the Committee the draft conclusions in respect of Poland.
14. Following statement by the Polish state representative on progress made and remaining challenges in preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence - welcoming the measures listed and pledging continued implementation - the Committee adopted conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Poland as set out in document IC-CP(2025)30.

Agenda item 7. Requests for authorisation from civil society to attend Committee meetings as observers

15. The Chair recalled that a request had been made by an NGO (University Women of Europe) to participate in the meetings of the Committee as an observer, represented by its president, Ms Anne Bergheim-Negre. The Committee had decided to elaborate criteria for NGO participation, on the basis of document IC-CP(2025)12, which the Committee discussed at its last meeting.
16. Since then, several amendments had been made to the document, bringing it in line with practices of other monitoring bodies, as per the request of the Committee members expressed at its previous meeting. For example, the Committee had considered it necessary for any decision on NGO admission to be taken by the Committee itself, possibly through a silent procedure, based on criteria to be fully defined at this meeting. Clarification had been sought, in the form of legal advice, regarding

the meaning of the term “ad hoc,” as used in the CoP Rules of Procedure. The Secretariat had clarified that this amounted to temporary admission linked to a specific meeting or to a specific agenda item spanning more than one meeting of the Committee. It was also clarified that NGO participation would only be possible in person, and that there was no defrayal of expenses.

17. In the discussion that ensued several members took the floor, re-iterating the essential role of civil society - especially women’s rights organisations - in promoting accession to and implementation of the Istanbul Convention. Based on the amended proposal as set out in document IC-CP(2025)31, the Committee members agreed that no difference was to be made between nationally and internationally operating NGOs in terms of their ability to participate, but that any request to do so shall be duly reasoned and timely. Moreover, it was agreed that admission of NGOs, following such a request, would be handled by a silent or written procedure initiated by the Secretariat ahead of a meeting. Should any member of the Committee raise any objections, these would need to be reasoned.
18. It was agreed that these criteria were to be added to those already indicated in IC-CP(2025)31 for adoption by written procedure to be launched in January 2026.

Agenda item 8. Thematic discussion on preventing and combating gender related killings/femicide

19. The Chair welcomed Ms Patsili Toledo Vásquez, Adjunct Lecturer in Gender and Criminal Justice Systems at the University Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona and member of the UN CEDAW Committee. Ms Toledo Vásquez provided an overview of the relevant concepts and definitions, including their evolution and legal conceptualisations. This presentation was followed by a brief discussion and two interventions by Committee members. Marijke Weerwauters (Belgium) presented the Belgian Law on the Prevention of Femicide as an example of framework legislation, while Sandra Batlak (Croatia) outlined the Croatian approach, which focused on the criminalisation of femicide as a specific offence. Subsequently, Committee members were divided into smaller groups discussing the advantages and disadvantages of both approaches. Each group then reported back to the plenary with a number of key points for further discussion.

Agenda item 9. Appointment of a Gender Equality Rapporteur

20. The Chair informed the Committee that no candidatures had been received for the position of Gender Equality Rapporteur. Following a brief presentation by the Executive Secretariat of the role and importance of this appointment, Committee members were encouraged to reflect on this information and to put forward candidatures by the next meeting.

Agenda item 10. Date of next meeting

21. The Committee decided to hold its 20th meeting on 2 June 2026.

Agenda item 11. Other business

22. The Executive Secretary expressed the Committee’s deep appreciation to Ambassadors Tanja Gonggrijp and Daniela Cujbă for their dedicated service and valuable contributions to the Committee over the past two years. The same thanks were also extended, in absentia, to Ambassador Gilberto Jerónimo, who had served as Vice-Chair until the end of his posting in Strasbourg.

Agenda item 12. Adoption of the list of decisions taken

23. The Committee adopted the list of decisions as set out in document IC-CP(2025)LD19.

Appendix I: Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda (9:30 am)
2. Administrative and budgetary information
3. State of signatures and ratifications of the Istanbul Convention
 - a) Action taken by member States of the Council of Europe towards ratification of the Istanbul Convention: tour de table
 - b) Action taken by non-member States of the Council of Europe to accede to the Istanbul Convention
 - c) Declarations and reservations
4. Elections of Bureau members
5. Recommendations on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention

Baseline evaluation round

- United Kingdom [IC-CP(2025)22prov]

First thematic evaluation round

- Andorra [IC-CP(2025)23prov]
- Belgium [IC-CP(2025)24rev prov]
- France [IC-CP(2025)25prov]
- Italy [IC-CP(2025)26prov]
- Netherlands [IC-CP(2025)27prov]
- Portugal [IC-CP(2025)28prov]
- Serbia [IC-CP(2025)29prov]

6. Supervising the implementation of recommendations issued by the Committee of the Parties

Conclusions

- Poland
 - Draft conclusions [IC-CP(2025)30prov]
 - Reporting form submitted by the Government [IC-CP/Inf(2025)08]
 - Additional submissions from:
 - Amnesty International
 - Dr hab. Magdalena Grzyb
 - Federacja Mamy Prawo Fundacja Mokosz
7. Requests for authorisation from civil society to attend Committee meetings as observers [IC-CP(2025)31]
 8. Thematic discussion on preventing and combating gender related killings/femicide
 9. Appointment of a Gender Equality Rapporteur

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10. Date of the next meeting
 11. Other business
 12. Adoption of the list of decisions taken

Appendix II: List of Participants

19th CoP meeting

BUREAU

11 December 2025

Ms Tanja GONGGRIJP
Chair
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Council of Europe

Ms Daniela CUJBĂ
Vice-Chair
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of The Republic of Moldova to the Council of Europe

MEMBERS / MEMBRES

ALBANIA / ALBANIE

Ms Brunilda KOÇO
Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Representation of Albania to the Council of Europe

ANDORRA / ANDORRE

Ms Olimpia TORRES BARROS
Deputy Permanent Representative of Andorra to the Council of Europe

AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE

Ms Verena WEHMEYER
Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research
Directorate General for Women and Equality
Department III/4 - Prevention of and Protection from Violence and
National Coordination Body for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention

BELGIUM / BELGIQUE

Ms Marijke WEEWAUTERS
Senior strategic policy advisor
Institute for Equality between Women and Men

CROATIA / CROATIE

Ms Sandra BATLAK
Head of Service for Childrens and Family Policies, Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy

Ms Gordana KUČAN ŠARFI
Senior adviser in Service for Children and Family Policies

Mr Ivan BUŠIĆ
Deputy to the Permanent Representative
Permanent Representation of Croatia to the Council of Europe

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

Mr Aristos TSIARTAS

Headperson of the National Coordinating Body for the Prevention and Combating of Violence Against Women
and Head of the Human Rights Directorate of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order

Mr John HUNTER

Deputy Permanent Representative

Permanent Representation of Cyprus to the Council of Europe

ESTONIA / ESTONIE

Ms Anne KRUUSEMENT

Adviser

Criminal Policy Department

Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs

EUROPEAN UNION / UNION EUROPEENNE

Ms Katja LENZING

Deputy Head of Unit - Gender Equality

European Commission

Directorate General Justice and Consumers

Ms Lisa COLSTE

Legal officer – Gender Equality Unit

European Commission

Directorate General Justice and Consumers

Mr Killian PERNET

Legal Trainee

Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

FINLAND / FINLANDE

Ms Marjatta HIEKKA

Legal Counsellor

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

FRANCE

Mme Stefania CHIRU

Bureau des affaires européennes et internationales

Ministères des Solidarités / Egalité F-H / Handicap / Enfance

Mr Robin CABALLERO

Conseiller politique

Adjoint au Représentant permanent

Représentation permanente de la France auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

GEORGIA / GEORGIE

Ms Eliso SHONIA

Deputy Head of the Human Rights Department

Administration of Government of Georgia

GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE

Ms Katharina WIATR
Coordination unit under the Istanbul Convention
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

GREECE / GRÈCE

Mr Georgios KOUMPOURAS
Deputy Head of Department for Legal Documentation and Process Support
General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights
Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs

IRELAND / IRLANDE

Ms Lisa DOHERTY
Principal Officer | Criminal Justice – Victims of Crime Policy
The Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration

ITALY / ITALIE

Ms Elena PALLONI
Department for Equal Opportunities
Office for International Affairs
Presidency of the Council of Ministers

LATVIA / LETTONIE

Ms Ilze BĒRZINA
Senior expert
Children and Family Policy Department
Ministry of Welfare

LIECHTENSTEIN

Ms Ute MAYER
Diplomatic Officer
Office for Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Liechtenstein

LUXEMBOURG

Mme Isabelle SCHROEDER
Juriste
Département Lutte contre les discriminations

MALTA / MALTE

Ms Justine CUSCHIERI
Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Representation of Malta to the Council of Europe

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA

Ms Veronica PASTELA
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External Assistance and Project Management Service
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MONACO

M. Gabriel REVEL
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Représentant Permanent de Monaco auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

Mme Marie THOUVENIN-RAPPAIRE
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MONTENEGRO

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NETHERLANDS / PAYS-BAS

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Senior policy advisor
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports

NORTH MACEDONIA / MACEDOINE DU NORD

Mr Nazim RECHI
Deputy to the Permanent Representative
Permanent Representation of North Macedonia to the Council of Europe

NORWAY / NORVEGE

Mr Vebjørn HEINES
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

Ms Hilde Marit KNOTTEN
Senior Advisor
Ministry of Justice and Public Security
Police Department

POLAND / POLOGNE

Ms Iwona MARCZYK-STEPNIEWSKA
Deputy to the Permanent Representative
Permanent Representation of Poland to the Council of Europe

PORTUGAL

Ms Marta SILVA
Head of the Domestic and Gender Violence Unit at the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality

Ms Mme Natália CAMPBELL
Deputy to the Permanent Representative
Permanent Representation of Portugal to the Council of Europe

ROMANIA / ROUMANIE

Ms Carmen NICULESCU
Senior Adviser
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Ms Ramona Maria CIUCĂ
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SAN MARINO / SAINT-MARIN

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Permanent Representative of San Marino to the Council of Europe

Mr Filippo PANZAVOLTA
Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Representation of San Marino to the Council of Europe

SERBIA / SERBIE

Mr Miodrag PANTOVIĆ
Head of the Cabinet of the Minister without Portfolio for Gender Equality
Combating Violence against Women and Economic and Political Empowerment of Women

Ms Jovana STANAR VUKOVIĆ
Advisor
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Combating Violence against Women and Economic and Political Empowerment of Women

SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE

Ms Berta MRAK
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the Council of Europe

Mr Matija VIDMAR
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Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the Council of Europe

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

Ms Rosa VELÁZQUEZ ÁLVAREZ
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Permanent Representative of Spain to the Council of Europe

Ms Paula ROCHE PAREDES
Senior Advisor at the Cabinet
Government Delegation againsts Gender Violence
Ministry of Equality

SWEDEN / SUÈDE

Ms Frida HANSSON
Deputy Director

Division for Gender Equality
Ministry of Employment
Government Offices of Sweden

SWITZERLAND / SUISSE

Mme Sandra LENGWILER
Collaboratrice scientifique auprès du Bureau fédéral de l'égalité entre femmes et hommes, Domaine affaire internationales

UKRAINE

Ms Nataliia BOHDANOVA
State expert of the expert group on combatting human trafficking, home violence and gender equality
Directorate of Social Services Development of this Ministry

UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI

Ms Caroline WELLING
International and Devolution Lead
Interpersonal Abuse Unit
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OTHER

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Danish Ministry of Justice

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Adjunct lecturer of Gender and Criminal Justice Systems
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Director, Directorate of Equal Rights and Dignity

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Ms Johanna NELLES
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Head of the Violence against Women Division / Cheffe de la Division Violence à l'égard des femmes

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Administrator

Ms Francesca MONTAGNA
Administrator

Ms Elif SARIAYDIN
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Principal administrative assistant

Ms Joanna SZELEZNIAK
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Ms Zsuzsanna MOLNAR
Management support assistant

Ms Daphne BEST
Trainee

INTERPRETERS / INTERPRETES

Ms Remy JAIN
Ms Bettina LUDEWIG QUAINÉ
Mr Nicolas GUITTONNEAU