



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Terms of reference of a Committee – proposal form

INGOs wishing to propose the creation of a committee to the Conference of INGOs are invited to transmit the following information, together with the requested documents, no later than 21 March to NGO-Unit@coe.int

1. Proposed Title

NGOs as advocates for gender equality and women's rights

2. Background and links with the priorities of the Conference of INGOs and the Council of Europe (please indicate also the specific documents / legal / institutional instruments you wish to refer to) (500 words max)

a) Bodies and institutions at the CoE focusing on combating violence against women and on gender equality:

- Committee of the Parties (Istanbul Convention):
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/committee-of-the-parties>
- GREVIO: Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention):
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/grevio>
- Parliamentary Assembly: Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence:
<https://pace.coe.int/en/pages/network-violence-women>
- Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and Sub-Committees:
<https://pace.coe.int/en/pages/committee-29/committee-on-equality-and-non-discrimination>
- Gender Equality Division: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/>
- Gender Equality Commission:
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/gender-equality-commission>
- GRETA: Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings:
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/anti-human-trafficking/greta>

b) Literature, documents

- Participatory Status-Resolution CM/Res(2016)3:
https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=090000168068824c
- Declaration of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe on the place and role of civil society in safeguarding human rights, democracy and the rule of law, adopted 16 Oct. 2020: CONF/PLE(2020)DEC1
- European Social Charter: <https://rm.coe.int/168006b642>
- European Social Charter at a Glance: <https://edoc.coe.int/en/european-social-charter/7428-the-european-social-charter-at-a-glance.html>
- Recommendation of support for the Istanbul Convention, adopted 15 Oct. 2020: CONF/PLE(2020)REC2
- Istanbul Convention: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/home>

- CoE treaty series No. 210: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/rms/090000168008482e>
- Publications on the Istanbul Convention: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/publications>
- 10 Years of the Istanbul Convention: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/10th-anniversary>
- Handbook for Parliamentarians of the CoE: <http://www.assembly.coe.int/LifeRay/EGA/WomenFFViolence/2019/2019-HandbookIstanbulConvention-EN.pdf>
- The Istanbul Convention – Q&A (the term “gender”, page 4ff): <https://rm.coe.int/istanbul-convention-questions-and-answers/16808f0b80>
- INGO Recommendation of support for the IC, adopted 15 October 2020 (CONF/PLE(2020)REC2)
- Committee of the Parties: Declaration, adopted 20 April 2020 <https://rm.coe.int/declaration-committee-of-the-parties-to-ic-covid-/16809e33c6>
- Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/gender-equality-strategy>
- Secretary General Report 2020 (pages 32-34 Equality, Fighting VAW): <https://www.coe.int/en/web/secretary-general/report-2020#page-0>
- Secretary General Report 2021 (page 96ff Human Dignity): <https://rm.coe.int/annual-report-sg-2021/1680a264a2>
- Volume of Decisions, 129th –session of the Committee of Ministers Helsinki, 17 May 2019): Recalling also the Committee of Ministers’ Resolution [CM/Res\(2016\)3](#) and recognising the important role of the Conference of INGOs as the representative body of all of the INGOs enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe;

3. Committee’s purpose(s)

The overall topic of the Committee is gender equality and women’s rights.

The Committee’s purpose is to enable INGOs to fulfil their participatory tasks as members of the Conference of INGOs in promoting the Council of Europe’s ground-breaking international treaties in their NGO and civil society, contributing to the substantial work of the CoE as advocates for human rights. (e.g. Istanbul Convention, Anti Trafficking Convention, Social Charter)

The committee seeks to elaborate concrete ways how NGOs can be instrumental for a full implementation of the conventions of the Council of Europe.

The Corona pandemic has made it clear, that the required implementations of the international standards are of utmost importance to tackle the specific impact of the pandemic crisis on human rights, and specifically on women’s rights.

4. Its specific objective(s)

The Committee will train members on the CoE’s standards and will provide easy-to-use material which can be utilized for the INGO’s concrete advocacy action targeted to their respective civil society groups and grass root organizations they are representing at the Conference.

The objective is to present concrete means to be used by NGOs for the promotion and implementation of the Istanbul Convention and possibly also other conventions

5. Planned activities, working methods and timetable

- Offering webinars to train committee members on the most relevant CoE standards/conventions and the monitoring mechanisms. (Could be extended to the plenary).
- seeking advice and cooperation with experts on special issues of concern to develop precise measures
- the committee members will scrutinize the functioning of their own NGOs concerning the possibilities to reach out to their members on one hand and to civil society on the other hand
- the committee members will seek specific requirements in specific conventions to work on (e.g. NGO participation in women's shelters, Istanbul Convention; or glass ceiling, Social Charter)
- Already existent material of the CoE will be evaluated for its usefulness and new material will be proposed if applicable
- Already existing best practices will be evaluated concerning their applicability by other NGOs
- Cooperation with the Gender Equality Unit of the CoE will be sought
- The committee will regularly meet in order to exchange experience and advancement.
- Finally, an analysis will be made on the possibilities of NGOs to respond to the call for being partners in the implementation of the conventions of the CoE.

6. Expected outputs and their indicators

Compilation of best practices with concrete examples on how NGOs can be (and have already been) instrumental in the implementation of the conventions (Istanbul; Social Charter; Anti-Trafficking) of the CoE.

Enabling NGOs to effectively use the developed advocacy tools towards their own NGO and civil society in their country.

A critical assessment of the possibilities of NGOs to respond to the call by the Council of Europe for being partners in the implementation of the conventions

7. Names, contact details, expertise and experiences of the Heads of the INGO delegations supporting the creation of the Committee (at least 5)

1. **Bettina Hahne**, Soroptimist International of Europe (SIE), bettina.hahne@fastmail.fm
(8 years head of delegation of SIE, former chair of the INGO working group "Gender Perspectives in Political Processes" and coordinator of the Gender Equality Rapporteurs of the INGO Conference; 8 years' experience in the advocacy team of SIE; now chair of SIE advocacy)

2. **Anita Schnetzer-Spranger**, Zonta International (ZI), schnetzer-spranger@gmx.de
ZI is a global network of professionals, empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. The non-partisan NGO campaigns for gender equality and the rights of women and girls with service projects, educational programs and impactful advocacy activities, that benefit women in their local communities and around the world.

Position in Zonta: Zonta member since 1982. Past International Director of the ZI Board and the ZI Foundation Board.

Expertise in advocating for women's rights and gender equality.

Since 2016 ZI CoE Committee Chair: Actively promoting human rights standards and legal instruments amongst Zonta members. Education and training at all levels of Zonta on the structure and relevance of the CoE and its international standards for impactful advocacy actions.

Position at the INGO: Since 2016 Head of Delegation of ZI, member of the INGO working group "Gender Perspectives in Political Processes".

3. **Marina Davidashvili** (EPF) marina@epfweb.org: The European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights is a network of Members of Parliament throughout Europe who are committed to protecting the sexual and reproductive rights (SRHR) of the world's most vulnerable people, both at home and overseas. The Secretariat is based in Brussels.

Marina is in charge of international advocacy and partnerships for the European region, focusing on Central and Eastern Europe, leading the comparative research projects such as the European Contraception Policies Atlas. She is also EPF representative at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, advocating with selected Members of Parliaments on pushing forward issues related to reproductive health and gender equality.

4. **Sara Pilia** (Eurodoc), sara.pilia@eurodoc.net: coordinator of Eurodoc Equality working group for 2 years, and Eurodoc contact person for partnership related to gender equality within Higher Education institutions networks and INGO Conference; currently Eurodoc Vice President and member of the National Council of an Italian grass root organization that advocates for human and civil rights (ARCI). Focused on bringing research to citizens and on increasing young people (15-35 yo) participation in civil society, with a special attention to the empowerment of girls and people in vulnerable situations.

5. **Bénédicte Colin**, Federation of Catholic Family Associations in Europe (FAFCE), b.colin@fafce.org (FAFCE Policy Manager, follows the INGO Conference since 2019 on matters related to family, women and children's rights)

6. **Gabriela Frey**, European Buddhist Union (EBU), gabriela.frey@free.fr - Head of delegation since 2008, participating in the Human rights Committee (Report HR & Religions, rights of women), GPPP-Group, Founder of the Network of Buddhist women Europe.

8. Names, contact details, expertise and experiences of the delegates who will take part in the Committee (at least 7)

1. **Bettina Hahne** (SIE), see 7.

2. **Anita Schnetzer-Spranger** (Zonta International), see 7.

3. **Marina Davidashvili** (EPF), see 7.

4. **Sara Pilia** (Eurodoc), see 7.

5. **Bénédicte Colin** (FAFCE), see 7.

6. **Gabriela Frey** (EBU), see 7.

7. **Jackie Jones**, European Women Lawyers Association (EWLA)

jmifourjones@gmail.com – former President of EWLA, former MEP, former Chair of Wales Assembly of Women (ECOSOC accredited NGO), former Co-Chair National Association of

Women's Organizations (NAWO), UK, gender expert, Former Professor of Feminist Legal Studies, specializing in ending violence against women and girls.

8. **Remigiusz Bak** (remi@epfweb.org) has been Policy Officer at EPF (The European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights) since 2018, working with MPs from different countries around the world, with a focus on Eastern and Southern Europe. His main tasks include the organisation of Parliamentary visits and SRHR-related events, research on ultraconservative movements in Europe and, more recently, coordinating the development of an Android/IOS app and short movie making.

Remi is a Polish national and has a keen interest in human rights since the beginning of his studies. He holds three Master's degrees: in European Interdisciplinary Studies, in Human Rights and Democratization, and in Eastern Studies.

His broad experience includes traineeships at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Armenia, UN House in Armenia, Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland or European Parliament.

9. **Herminio Correa** herminio.correa@gmail.com, Member of the Parents International Supervisory Board

With a civil engineering and business management background, he was also a primary teacher at the beginning of his professional career. In the last 23 years he has developed his activity in the Associative Movement of Parents in Schools at national, european, and worldwide level, as a volunteer. He was also a trainer of parents, teachers, and students. He has participated, as an expert in projects in the field of household poverty with a special focus on children, protection and promotion of children's rights, media literacy, values, inclusion of migrants, gender equality, addictions to drugs, alcohol and other harmful substances, parental involvement and empowerment for educational success, active citizenship, and disabilities.

10. **Heleen Jansen**, heleen.jansen@orange.fr. Head of the IAW delegation since 2010 and before member of the AEDE-delegation at the COE. Member of the IAW commission on democracy and the commission on education. Treasure of OING-service

The International Alliance of Women (IAW) is an international NGO comprising 41 member organizations involved in the promotion of women's human rights, of equality and of the empowerment of women.

Specialist in education and author and editor of educational schoolbooks. Focussed on equality in education

11. **Hugo Charles Castelli Eyre**, hugocastelli@eonia.es, EN-RE, As a grassroots catholic christian I want to see complete gender equality in our church.

12. **Carola Roloff**, carola.roloff@uni-hamburg.de, I am engaged with the CINGO on behalf of the European Buddhist Union since June 2016 and fully support the committee's application and agenda.

13. **Anne-Marie Schott**, amzorschott@gmail.com, EFECW (Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women) EFECW is a large network across many European countries that will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2022. It is a platform for women to exchange knowledge, to become more aware of the issues and to be informed about the issues facing women today

14. **Monika Holtschneider**, SIE, monikah@si-kolumba.de. Taking part in working groups of the INGO Conference since 2018. Promoting the Istanbul Convention into the Soroptimist International community by workshops and networking. Supporting women's shelter in Cologne, Germany.

15. Cornelia Woll, Soroptimist International Europe (SIE) (wollarchitekten@t-online.de), Member of the working group of the INGO Conference s2018-21 (Intercultural cities), Member of SIE Advocacy group since 2020, co-founder of SIE "Task Force Istanbul Convention", supporting orange days campaigns, engaged in developing creative means to spread the IC's goals on social media and especially among young people.

9. Chairperson of the Committee proposed for election by the Conference of INGOs

Bettina Hahne (SIE) and Anita Schnetzer-Spranger (Zonta International)

10. As an attachment, you are requested to present the expertise and experience of the candidate for the position of Chairperson of this committee, in relation to the subject matter of the committee, as well as the expertise and experience of the Heads of the delegations supporting the creation of this committee

Extract from the [Rules of Procedure of the Conference of INGOs](#))

Rules that apply for the creation and functioning of a Committee, the validation of its mandate and of reporting and the election of the Chairperson of the Committee by the Conference of INGOs

«61. Committees shall be established by the General Assembly on a proposal from the Standing Committee or from 5 Heads of Delegation to: (a) provide a focus for discussion and research on a particular issue relevant to the work of Council of Europe bodies; and (b) prepare reports on their findings together with, where appropriate, draft declarations, recommendations and resolutions for its consideration.

62. In deciding to establish a Committee, the General Assembly shall have regard to:
(a) the relevance of the proposed issue to be examined for the threeyear Strategic Plan adopted by the General Assembly and for work being undertaken, or that ought to be undertaken, by Council of Europe bodies;
(b) the availability of sufficient expertise, whether amongst Delegates or that can otherwise be called upon;
(c) the need to avoid overlap with an issue that is being addressed by an existing Committee;
(d) the willingness of at least 7 Delegates to participate in it; and
(e) the possibility of accommodating meetings of the proposed Committee in the schedules of forthcoming Sessions of the Conference.

63. The General Assembly when establishing a Committee shall specify its terms of reference and the duration of its operation. It shall then invite applications/proposals for the Chair, who shall be elected on a show of voting cards where the Session is held in Strasbourg and/or through use of voting passwords for each Session held through videoconferencing. Only Articles 100, 120 and 122 shall apply to the election of Chairs of Committees.

64. The duration of a Committee shall normally be limited to two years but, where a real need has been demonstrated, may be extended by the General Assembly for a third year.

65. Committee meetings shall be open to all Delegates and to persons invited by the Chair or the Standing Committee to take part in them. Those attending shall provide the Rapporteur with their email address for distribution of notes of meetings and draft reports.

66. Each Committee shall choose its Rapporteur at its first meeting

67. *In the event of a Chair not being able to continue in this role, a replacement shall be appointed by the Standing Committee. In the event of a Rapporteur not being able to continue in this role, a replacement shall be appointed by the Committee at the first opportunity to do so.*

68. *The Chair of a Committee shall be responsible for:*

- (a) chairing its meetings;*
- (b) preparing its agenda in consultation with the Rapporteur and ensuring that this is sent to INGOs in accordance with Article 6;*
- (c) circulating notes of meetings and draft reports;*
- (d) inviting persons other than Delegates to participate in its meetings;*
- (e) liaising with any Delegate appointed by the Standing Committee to represent the Conference on a Steering Committee or other body within the Council of Europe whose remit is relevant to the issue being examined;*
- (f) presenting its reports submitted to the General Assembly;*
- (g) submitting a request for any extension of the Committee duration; and*
- (h) submitting interim and final reports for consideration by the General Assembly.*

69. *The Rapporteur shall be responsible for:*

- (a) suggesting points to be included in the agenda;*
- (b) preparing briefings for discussion at meetings;*
- (c) preparing notes of meetings;*
- (d) preparing interim and final reports; and*
- (e) deputising for the Chair in his or her absence*

70. *Outside of Conference Sessions, meetings of Committees may be held in Strasbourg or elsewhere and also through videoconferencing arrangements determined by the Standing Committee.*

71. *Each Committee shall submit: (a) an interim report on its activities for consideration at the General Assembly occurring a year after its creation; and (b) a final report on its findings, together with any draft recommendation or resolution considered appropriate, for consideration at the General Assembly held prior to the end of its mandate."»*