

Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination AS/Ega/Inf (2024) 01 rev3 30 April 2024

Work programme (2024)

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1. Reports debated in 2024

1.1. Freedom of expression and assembly of LGBTI people in Europe

Rapporteur: Mr Christophe Lacroix (Belgium, SOC)

- Origin: decision of the Bureau, Ref. 4691 of 14.10.2022
- Debated during the 2nd part-session 2024
- Resulted in Resolution 2543 (2024)

2. Reports tabled in 2024

2.1. Protecting women human rights defenders in Europe

Rapporteur: Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC)

- Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15642, Ref. 4701 of 23.01.2023
- To be debated during the 3rd part-session 2024

3. Opinions debated in 2024

3.1. Application by Kosovo* for membership of the Council of Europe

Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE)

Rapporteur for report of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD)

Rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights: Ms Azadeh Rojhan (Sweden, SOC)

- Origin: decision of the Bureau, Ref. 4730 of 28.04.2023
- Debated during the 2nd part session 2024

4. Reports under preparation

4.1. Promoting inclusive participation in parliamentary and political life

Rapporteur: Ms Maryna Bardina (Ukraine, ALDE)

- Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15291, Ref. 4590 of 21.06.2021
- Expiry date for adoption: 21.06.2023, extended to 27.06.2025

Consideration in the Committee

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of
30.11.2021	Introductory memorandum	
(Hybrid format)	and questionnaire to be	
	sent to ECPRD	
20.06.2022	Information memorandum	
(Strasbourg)		
01.12.2022 (Paris)	Statement by the	
	rapporteur	
18.03.2024 (Paris)	Statement by the	
	rapporteur	

4.2. The situation of national minorities in Ukraine

Former title: The ongoing worsening of the access of Ukraine's national minorities to education in their mother tongues: need for a follow-up to Parliamentary Assembly Resolution 2189 (2017) and Violation of the rights of national minorities in Ukraine

Rapporteur: Mr Randolph De Battista (Malta, SOC)

Previous rapporteur: Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD)

- Origin: motions for a resolution, Docs. 15334 and 15339, Ref. 4603 of 27.09.2021
- Expiry date for adoption: 27.09.2023, extended to 03.10.2025

^{*} Throughout this text, all reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Consideration in the Committee

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of
30.11.2021 (hybrid format)	Communication by the rapporteur	
12.05.2022 (Stockholm)	тарропош	Exchange of views on "National minorities in Europe" with Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.
24.03.2023 (Paris)	Communication by the rapporteur	
23.01.2024 (Strasbourg)		Joint hearing with the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), with the participation of Ms Veronika Bílková, member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) in respect of Czechia, Vice-President of the Venice Commission, and one of the rapporteurs on the opinion to the Law on National Minorities (Communities), Czechia; Mr Ashot Avanesyan, Chair of the Council of national communities of Ukraine, Ukraine (online); and Ms Olga Stefanishyna, Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Ukraine (online).

4.3. Preventing and combating violence and discrimination against LBQ women in Europe Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE)

• Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15559, Ref. 4665 of 10.10.2022

Expiry date for adoption: 10.10.2024

Consideration in the Committee

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of
01.12.2022 (Paris)	Introductory memorandum	
25.04.2023	Information memorandum	
(Strasbourg)		
07.12.2023 (Paris)	Information memorandum	Ms Ilaria Todde, Advocacy and Research Director, EL*C (Eurocentralasian Lesbian* Community), Belgium; Ms Yasemin Öz, Lawyer, Co-founder of Kaos gl, Türkiye; Ms Marame Kane, lesbian activist and artivist, France; and Ms Maud Royer, President of the Association <i>Toutes des femmes</i> , France.

4.4. Women in the economy: employment, entrepreneurship and gender budgeting Rapporteur: Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat (Türkiye, NR)

• Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15562, Ref. 4668 of 10.10.2022

• Expiry date for adoption: 10.10.2024

Consideration in the Committee

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of
01.12.2022 (Paris)	Introductory memorandum	
22.06.2023	Information memorandum	
(Strasbourg)		
15.09.2023 (Paris)	Replies to a questionnaire	Exchange of views with Ms Valerie Frey, Senior Economist, Social Policy Division, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

4.5. Protecting the human rights and improving the lives of sex workers and victims of sexual exploitation

Former title: The reintegration of persons trapped in prostitution and human trafficking survivors Rapporteur: Mr Fourat Ben Chikha (Belgium, SOC)

Previous rapporteur: Ms Margreet de Boer (Netherlands, SOC)

• Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15570, Ref. 4674 of 10.10.2022

Expiry date for adoption: 10.10.2024

Consideration in the Committee

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of
24.03.2023 (Paris)	Introductory memorandum	Ms Sabrina Sanchez, General Director, European Sex Workers Alliance (ESWA); Ms Irena Ferčíková Konečná, Policy officer, European Sex Workers Alliance (ESWA) (online); Ms Monica Costa Riba, Senior Campaigner - Gender in Europe, Amnesty International; and Ms Sarah-Marie Maffesoli, Sex Work Technical and Legal Advisor, Doctors of the World, France.
20.06.2023 (Strasbourg)	Information memorandum	

4.6. Global rules to eliminate all forms of religious oppression

Rapporteur: Ms Arta Bilalli Zendeli (North Macedonia, SOC)

• Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15700, Ref. 4726 of 28.04.2023

• Expiry date for adoption: 28.04.2025

Consideration in the Committee

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of	
11.10.2023	Introductory memorandum		
(Strasbourg)			
07.12.2023 (Paris)		Exchange of views with Ms Nazila Ghanea, United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (online).	

4.7. Overcoming age-based discrimination against older persons

Rapporteur: Ms Andrea Eder-Gitschthaler (Austria, EPP/CD)

• Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15735, Ref. 4736 of 26.05.2023

• Expiry date for adoption: 26.05.2025

Consideration in the Committee

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of
15.09.2023 (Paris)	Introductory memorandum	
18.03.2024 (Paris)	Information memorandum	Mr Daris Lewis Recio, Legal and Policy Officer, European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET), Brussels and Ms Nena Georgantzi, Human Rights Manager, AGE Platform Europe (online).

4.8. Sexual violence against men and boys

Rapporteur: Mr Fourat Ben Chikha (Belgium, SOC)

• Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15805, Ref. 4764 of 09.10.2023

• Expiry date for adoption: 09.10.2025

Consideration in the Committee

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of
07.12.2023 (Paris)	Introductory memorandum	
18.03.2024 (Paris)	Information memorandum	Mr Gary Williams, CEO of SurvivorsUK, London and Ms Katherine Gambir, Senior Research Advisor at the Women's Refugee Commission (<i>online</i>)

4.9. Preventing and combating gender discrimination in health

Rapporteur: Ms Camilla Fabricius (Denmark, SOC)

• Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15806, Ref. 4765 of 09.10.2023

• Expiry date for adoption: 09.10.2025

4.10. For a ban on so-called conversion therapies

Rapporteur: Mr Fourat Ben Chikha (Belgium, SOC)

Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc.15883, Ref. 4786 of 26.01.2024

• Expiry date for adoption: 26.01.2026

4.11. Enhancing co-operation between parliaments and equality bodies

Rapporteur: Ms Tuula Haatainen (Finland, SOC)

- Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15905, Ref. 4791 of 07.03.2024
- Expiry date for adoption: 07.03.2026

4.12. Promoting the Istanbul Convention and improving its implementation: building on lessons learnt

Rapporteur: to be appointed

• Origin: motion for a resolution, <u>Doc. 15942</u>, Ref. 4807 of 19.04.2024

• Expiry date for adoption: 07.03.2026

4.13. Violent pornography

Rapporteur: to be appointed

Origin: motion for a resolution, <u>Doc. 15972</u>, Ref. 4809 of 19.04.2024

• Expiry date for adoption: 19.04.2026

5. Opinions under preparation

5.1. The situation in Iran and the protection of Iranian human rights defenders in Council of Europe member States

Former title: The situation in Iran

Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD)

Rapporteur for report of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Mr Max Lucks (Germany, SOC)

- Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15688, Ref. 4713 of 02.03.2023
- Expiry date for adoption: 02.03.2025

5.2. Review of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC)

Rapporteur for report of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC)

Rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights: Mr Serhii Kalchenko (Ukraine, EC/DA)

- Origin: motion for a resolution Doc. 15810, Ref. 4768 of 09.10.2023
- Expiry date for adoption: 09.10.2025

5.3. Violence and hate speech against politicians: a threat to democracy

Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine, ALDE)

Rapporteur for report of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Ms Elisabetta Gardini (Italy, EC/DA)

- Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15846, Ref. 4776 of 22.01.2024
- Expiry date for adoption: 22.01.2026

6. Bureau of the Committee

Chairperson: Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD)

1st Vice-Chairperson: Ms Etilda Gjonaj (Albania, SOC)

2nd Vice-Chairperson: Mr Caspar van den Berg (Netherlands, ALDE)

3rd Vice-Chairperson: Ms Nina Kasimati (Greece, UEL)

7. General Rapporteurs

General Rapporteur on violence against women: Ms Etilda Gjonaj (Albania, SOC)
General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance: Mr Fourat Ben Chikha (Belgium, SOC)
General Rapporteur on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people:
Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE)

8. Sub-Committees

Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities

Chairperson: ZZ... Vice-Chairperson: ZZ...

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Sub-Committee on Disability and Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination

Chairperson: ZZ... Vice-Chairperson: ZZ...

Sub-Committee on Gender Equality

Chairperson: Mr Edmunds Cepurītis (Latvia, SOC)

Vice-Chairperson: ZZ...

9. Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence

Website: pace.coe.int/en/pages/network-violence-women

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pages/Parliamentary-Network-Women-Free-from-Violence/521837241177461

On the basis of <u>Resolution 1635 (2008)</u> and <u>Recommendation 1847 (2008)</u> on "Combating violence against women", the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination runs the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence.

This Network is a *sui generis* structure, composed of contact parliamentarians from national, observer and partner for democracy delegations to the Assembly. In 2011, following the opening for signature of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention, CETS No. 210), the Network decided that its main objective would be encouraging further signatures and ratifications of this instrument, so that it could enter into force as soon as possible. Since the entry into force of the Convention in August 2014, the Network has continued to promote its ratification and to develop activities linked to its implementation.

The Network is chaired by the General Rapporteur on violence against women, who acts as its political coordinator.

Meetings in 2024

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Date and place	
24.01.2024 (Strasbourg)	Joint exchange of views with the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination on <i>Reflecting on progress: a decade of implementing the Istanbul Convention in</i> Europe, with the participation of Ms Aleid Van Den Brink, First Vice-President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO).
11.03.2024 (New York)	Side event on <i>Parliamentarians as drivers for women's empowerment</i> , coorganised by the Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, Greece and Iceland, with the participation of: Mr Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson, Minister of Social Affairs and the Labour Market of Iceland; Ms Maria Alexandra Kefala, Deputy Minister of Social Cohesion and Family of Greece; Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; members of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat (Türkiye, NR), Ms Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC), Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine, ALDE), Ms Wanda Nowicka (Poland, SOC); and Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Head of the Ukrainian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination.

10. No Hate Parliamentary Alliance

Website: pace.coe.int/en/pages/no-hate

In follow-up to Assembly Resolution 1967 (2014) on "A strategy to prevent racism and intolerance in Europe", the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination proposed setting up the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance.

The Alliance was officially launched on 29 January 2015 in Strasbourg. It is composed of parliamentarians, members of the Parliamentary Assembly, who commit to taking open, firm and pro-active stands against

racism, hatred and intolerance on whatever grounds and however they manifest themselves. Their commitment is formalised by signing the Charter of Commitments for membership in the Alliance.

The main activities of the Alliance are conducted at national level. Its members commit to:

- raising awareness against racism and intolerance amongst politicians and civil society;
- promoting the respect of equality, non-discrimination and respect for diversity, as grounded in the European Convention on Human Rights and its Protocols;
- exchanging information on law and best practices in preventing and combating racism, hatred and intolerance with parliamentarians from other countries;
- supporting and participating in the work of the national committees of the Council of Europe "No Hate Speech Movement."

The Alliance is coordinated by the General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance, who is supported by the Bureau of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination.

Meetings in 2024

Meenings iii 2024	
Date and place	
19.03.2024 (Paris)	Joint meeting with the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination: heard a presentation of the Joint European Union / Council of Europe Programme "Equality and Freedom from Discrimination for Roma" (EQUIROM) by Mr Manuel Demougeot, Chair of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM) and held an exchange of views on the theme <i>Equality and non-discrimination for Roma and Travellers</i> .
	Joint meeting with the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons:
	 heard a statement by Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC), member of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance and rapporteur for a report on The theme of migration and asylum in election campaigns and the consequences on the welcoming and rights of migrants (Resolution 2525 (2024));
	 held an exchange of views, on the theme Approaching the theme of migration and asylum during election campaigns: policy instruments in preventing and combating hate speech, with the participation of Ms Laura Castel, member of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance, member of the Council for Democratic Elections of the Council of Europe and Mr Daris Lewis Recio, Legal and Policy Officer, European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET).

11. Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe

Terms of reference: AS/Ega/Inf (2022) 18

In its <u>Resolution 2417 (2022)</u> "Combating rising hate against LGBTI people in Europe", the Assembly called for the creation of a network of its interested members, in order to facilitate cooperation between national parliaments aimed at promoting full and effective equality for LGBTI people throughout the continent.

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination adopted the terms of reference of the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe on 26 April 2022. It will be composed of parliamentarians from national, observer and partner for democracy delegations to the Assembly, as well as members appointed by other Assembly committees and an associate member appointed by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe. Members of other similar interparliamentary networks may also be invited to participate in its work.

In carrying out its work, the Platform will work for example to promote the exchange of good practices between national parliaments and the acknowledgement of LGBTI rights in the Assembly's work, and to strengthen the Assembly's voice and promote synergies with other Council of Europe activities in this field.

The Platform is coordinated by the General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI people in Europe, supported by the Bureau of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination.

Meetings in 2024

Date and place	
16.04.2024 (Strasbourg)	Exchange of views on Addressing discrimination and violence against transgender people with Ms Dinah Bons, Co-Chair, Transgender Europe (TGEU); Mx Cianán B. Russell, Senior Policy Officer, ILGA-Europe; Ms Erika Castellanos, Executive Director, Global Action for Trans Equality (GATE).

12. Meetings in 2024

	Committee on Equality and	Sub- Committee	Sub- Committee on	Sub-Committee on Disability	Parliamentary Network	No Hate Parliamentary	Parliamentary Platform for
	Non- Discrimination	on Gender Equality	the Rights of Minorities	and Multiple and Inter- sectional Discrimination	Women Free from Violence	Alliance	the rights of LGBTI people in Europe
Strasbourg	1 st part-session of 2024 (22 - 26.01.2024)				24.01.2024		
New York					11.03.2024		
Paris	18-19.03.2024	18.03.2024	18.03.2024	18.03.2024		19.03.2024	
Strasbourg	2 nd part-session of 2024 (15- 19.04.2024)						16.04.2024
Tirana	5-6.06.2024				05.06.2024		
Riga					11.06.2024		
Strasbourg	3 rd part-session of 2024 (24 - 28.06.2023)						
Paris	12.09.2024						
Strasbourg	4 th part-session of 2024 (30.09- 04.10.2024)						
Paris	05.12.2024						

13. Secretariat

Ms Penelope DENU, Head of the Secretariat

☎: +33 (0)3 88 41 32 15 E-mail: penelope.denu@coe.int

Ms Carolina LASÉN DIAZ, Secretary

***** +33 (0)3 90 21 56 79

E-mail: carolina.lasen-diaz@coe.int

Mr Giorgio LODDO, Secretary ☎: +33 (0)3 90 21 59 08 E-mail : giorgio.loddo@coe.int

14. Website and social media

pace.coe.int/en/pages/committee-29/AS-EGA

pace.coe.int/en/pages/networks

pace.coe.int/en/pages/network-violence-women

www.facebook.com/pages/Parliamentary-Network-Women-Free-from-Violence/521837241177461

pace.coe.int/en/pages/no-hate

pace.coe.int/en/pages/network-rights-lgbti

twitter.com/PACE_Equality

Ms Louise MORLON, Project Manager

雷: +33 (0)3 90 21 40 14 E-mail: louise.morlon@coe.int

Ms Naouelle TEFIFEHA, Assistant

2: +33 (0)3 90 21 51 48

E-mail: naouelle.tefifeha@coe.int

Ms Sorina LECLER, Assistant ☐: +33 (0)3 90 21 56 95 E-mail : sorina.lecler@coe.int

Email: asega@coe.int

Alliance e-mail: nohatealliance@coe.int

Network e-mail: womenfreefromviolence@coe.int