



**Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination**

**AS/Ega/Inf (2023) 01 rev. 6**

9 November 2023

**Work programme (2023)**

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## 1. Reports debated in 2023

### 1.1. **Finding solutions for marital captivity**

*Rapporteur: Ms Margreet De Boer (Netherlands, SOC)*

- Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15193, Ref. 4554 of 25.01.2020
- Debated during the first-part session of 2023
- Resulted in [Resolution 2481 \(2023\)](#)

### 1.2. **The role of men and boys in stopping gender-based violence**

*Rapporteur: Ms Petra Stienen (Netherlands, ALDE)*

- Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15290, Ref. 4589 of 21.06.2021
- Debated during the first-part session of 2023
- Resulted in [Resolution 2480 \(2023\)](#)

### 1.3. **The Istanbul Convention: progress and challenges**

*Rapporteur: Ms Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC)*

- Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15386, Ref. 4617 of 24.01.2022
- Debated during the first-part session of 2023
- Resulted in [Recommendation 2247 \(2023\)](#) and [Resolution 2479 \(2023\)](#)

### 1.4. **Conflict-related sexual violence**

*Rapporteur: Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC)*

- Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15511, Ref. 4647 of 28.04.2022
- Debated during the first-part session of 2023
- Resulted in [Resolution 2476 \(2023\)](#)

### 1.5. **Innovative approaches to sexual and reproductive health and rights**

*Rapporteur: Ms Petra Stienen (Netherlands, ALDE)*

- Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15248, Ref. 4579 of 28.05.2021
- Debated during the meeting of the Standing Committee on 3 March 2023
- Resulted in [Resolution 2490 \(2023\)](#)

### 1.6. **Closing the digital divide: promoting equal access to digital technologies**

*Rapporteur: Ms Edite Estrela (Portugal, SOC)*

- Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15170, Ref. 4546 of 20.11.2020
- Debated during the 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session 2023
- Resulted in [Resolution 2510 \(2023\)](#)

### 1.7. **Preventing and combating violence against women with disabilities**

*Rapporteur : Ms Béatrice Fresko Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE)*

- Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15531, Ref. 4658 of 20.06.2022
- Debate during the 4<sup>th</sup> part-session 2023
- Resulted in [Resolution 2514 \(2023\)](#)

## 2. Report tabled in 2023

### 2.1. **Institutional racism of law enforcement authorities against Roma and Travellers**

*Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Pierre Grin (Switzerland, ALDE)*

- Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15561, Ref. 4667 of 10.10.2022
- To be debated by the Standing Committee on 28.11.2023

## 3. Reports under preparation

### 3.1. **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 21.06.2024

**Consideration in the Committee**

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

**3.2. 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: 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 27.09.2024

**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)		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	

**3.3. 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 (Strasbourg)	Information memorandum	

**3.4. Women in the economy: employment, entrepreneurship and gender budgeting**

*Rapporteur: Ms Sena Nur Çelik (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 (Strasbourg)	Information memorandum	
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).

**3.5. 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) ( <i>online</i> ); 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	

**3.6. 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
- Expiry date for adoption: 14.10.2024

**Consideration in the Committee**

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of
25.01.2023 (Strasbourg)	Introductory memorandum	
24.03.2023 (Paris)	Information memorandum	
25.04.2023 (Strasbourg)	Communication by the rapporteur	
22.06.2023 (Strasbourg)		Joint hearing with the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe, with the participation of: Vladimir Simonko, Executive Director, LGL, Lithuania; Florina Presadă, Executive Director, Accept Romania; Claire Vandendriessche, Spokesperson, Acceptess-T, France.

**3.7. Protecting women human rights defenders and people who defend women's rights in Europe**

*Rapporteur: Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC)*

- Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15642, Ref. 4701 of 23.01.2023
- Expiry date for adoption: 23.01.2025

**Consideration in the Committee**

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of
24.03.2023 (Paris)	Introductory memorandum	
14.09.2023 (Paris)		Mr Hugo Gabbero, Director of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Paris; Ms Sarah Durocher, President, <i>Planning familial</i> , France; Ms Noémie Gardais, International Advocacy Officer, <i>Planning familial</i> , France.

**3.8. 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 (Strasbourg)	Introductory memorandum	

**3.9. 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	

**3.10. 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: 09.10.2023

**3.11. Preventing and combating gender discrimination in health**

*Rapporteur: to be appointed*

- Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15806, Ref. 4765 of 09.10.2023
- Expiry date for adoption: 09.10.2023

**4. Opinions under preparation****4.1. 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

**4.2. Transmission by the Committee of Ministers for consultation on the application for membership set out in the letter of 12 May 2022 addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (document [DD\(2022\)200](#)), in line with Statutory Resolution (51) 30**

*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
- Expiry date for adoption: 28.04.2025

**4.3. Review of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic**

*Rapporteur for opinion: to be appointed*

*Rapporteur for report of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: to be appointed*

*Rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights: to be appointed*

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

**5. Bureau of the Committee**

**Chairperson:** Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD)  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson:** Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE)  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson:** ZZ...  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-Chairperson:** Mr Fourat Ben Chikha (Belgium, SOC)

**6. General Rapporteurs**

**General Rapporteur on violence against women:** Ms Etilda Gjonaj (Albania, SOC)

**General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance:** Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC)

**General Rapporteur on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people:** Mr Christophe Lacroix (Belgium, SOC)

**7. Sub-Committees****Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities**

**Chairperson:** Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD)

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

**Sub-Committee on Disability and Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination**

Chairperson: ZZ...

Vice-Chairperson: ZZ...

**Sub-Committee on Gender Equality**

Chairperson: Ms Maryna Bardina (Ukraine, ALDE)

Vice-Chairperson: Ms Konul Nurullayeva (Azerbaijan, EC/DA)

**8. Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence**Website: [pace.coe.int/en/pages/network-violence-women](https://pace.coe.int/en/pages/network-violence-women)Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/pages/Parliamentary-Network-Women-Free-from-Violence/521837241177461](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Parliamentary-Network-Women-Free-from-Violence/521837241177461)

On the basis of [Resolution 1635 \(2008\)](#) and [Recommendation 1847 \(2008\)](#) 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 co-ordinator.

**Meetings in 2023**

Date and place	
06.03.2023 (New York)	<i>Towards a green and digital future: challenges and opportunities for women and girls in public life and the workplace:</i> side event at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67), co-organised by the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Netherlands and Estonia, with the participation of: Ms Marjan Hammersma, Vice-Minister of Education, Culture and Science, Kingdom of the Netherlands; Ms Hanna Vseviov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia; Ms Mariëlle Feenstra, NGO Representative, Dutch Delegation to CSW67; Ms Mariia Mezentseva, Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Ms Petra Stienen, member of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Ms Zita Gurmai, former General Rapporteur on violence against women, member of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Mr Fourat Ben Chikha, Third Vice-Chair of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Ms Margreet De Boer, member of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.
13.03.2023 (London)	Peer-to-peer seminar on <i>The role and responsibilities of parliamentarians in supporting the Istanbul Convention</i> with the participation of: Lord Leslie Griffiths, member of the delegation of the United Kingdom to PACE; Ms Iris Luarasi, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO); Ms Mariia Mezentseva, President of the delegation of Ukraine to the PACE, Chair of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination; Ms Robyn Andréo-Boosey, Co-founder and co-director, IC Change; Ms Ruth Jones, member of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence (United Kingdom); Ms Carolina Lasén Diaz, Executive Secretary of the Istanbul Convention monitoring mechanism (GREVIO and the Committee of the Parties); Ms Lesia Zaburanna, member of PACE (Ukraine); Ms Petra Bayr, member of the Parliamentary Network

	Women Free from Violence (Austria); Ms Lucy Hadley, Head of Policy, Women's Aid; Ms Sophia Lane, Campaign and Public Affairs, Women's Aid; Dr Hannana Siddiqui, Southall Black Sisters; Mr John Howell MP, President of the delegation of the United Kingdom to the PACE (United Kingdom); Ms Tonia Antoniazzi MP (United Kingdom); Ms Hannah Bardell MP, member of the PACE (United Kingdom).
25.04.2023 (Strasbourg)	Joint hearing with the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination on <i>Preventing and combating violence against women with disabilities</i> (Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko Rolfo, Monaco, ALDE) with the participation of: Ms Ana Peláez Narváez, Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Secretary General of the European Disability Forum and Executive Vice-President of CERMI Women's Foundation; and Ms Iris Luarasi, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO).
15.09.2023 (Paris)	Joint hearing with the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination on <i>Gender-based violence – the question of consent</i> , with the participation of Ms Catherine Le Magueresse, Associate Researcher, Institute of Legal and Philosophical Sciences of the Sorbonne (ISJPS - Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne); Ms Sabrina Wittmann, Lawyer, Violence against Women Department, GREVIO, Council of Europe Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity (DGII); Ms Manon Garcia, Professor of Practical Philosophy at the Freie Universität, Berlin (online); Ms Yvonne Woods, Campaigns and Communications Manager, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre.

## 9. No Hate Parliamentary Alliance

**Website:** [pace.coe.int/en/pages/no-hate](https://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 2023**

<b>Date and place</b>	
08.05.2023 (Vienna)	Parliamentary seminar on <i>Countering hate speech and hate crime</i> with the participation of: Ms Fiorentina Azizi-Hacker, Head of Counselling Centre !AgainstRacism and of Counselling Centre #AgainstOnlineHate, Austria; Ms Johanna Eteme, Head of Department, Austrian Ministry of the Interior; Ms Sandra Konstatzky, Director, Office of the Ombudsperson for Equal Treatment, Austria.  An exchange of views also took place at the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) with the participation of Mr Michael O'Flaherty, Director, and other experts from the agency.



## 10. Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe

**Terms of reference:** [AS/Ega/Inf \(2022\) 18](#)

In its [Resolution 2417 \(2022\)](#) “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 2023**

<b>Date and place</b>	
22.05.2023 (Brussels)	Conference on <i>Finding Safety: Guaranteeing the rights of LGBTI refugees and asylum-seekers in Europe</i> with the participation of: Sonia Lenegan, Legal and Policy Director, Rainbow Migration, United Kingdom; Sofia d’Arcio, Legal Officer, Dutch Council of Refugees, Netherlands; Akram Kubanychbekov, Senior Advocacy Officer, ILGA-Europe; Farah Abdi, Policy Officer, Asylum, Transgender Europe (TGEU); Dimitri Verdonck, co-founder Le Refuge Bruxelles, RainboWelcome project, Brussels; Nadia Sacoor, Chairperson, Clube Safo, Portugal; Domagoj Hajduković, Member of the Croatian Parliament, Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on “Integration of migrants and refugees: benefits for all parties involved”, Member of the Platform; Cecilie Becker-Christensen Saenz Guerrero, Senior Policy Officer, UNHCR Regional Representation for EU Affairs, Brussels; Eliane Tillieux, President, Chamber of Representatives, Federal Parliament of Belgium.
22.06.2023 (Strasbourg)	Joint hearing with the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, with the participation of: Vladimir Simonko, Executive Director, LGL, Lithuania; Florina Presadă, Executive Director, Accept Romania; Claire Vandendriessche, Spokesperson, Acceptess-T, France.
12.10.2023 (Strasbourg)	Exchange of views on <i>Banning “conversion practices” for LGBTI persons: a human rights imperative</i> with Ms Dunja Mijatović, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, held jointly with the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination.



**11. Meetings in 2023**

	Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination	Sub-Committee on Gender Equality	Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities	Sub-Committee on Disability and Multiple and Inter-sectional Discrimination	Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence	No Hate Parliamentary Alliance	Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe
Strasbourg	1 <sup>st</sup> part-session of 2023 (23 - 27.01.2023)	25.01.2023	25.01.2023	25.01.2023			
New York					06.03.2023		
London					13.03.2023		
Paris	24.03.2023						
Strasbourg	2 <sup>nd</sup> part-session of 2023 (24 - 28.04.2023)		27.04.2023		25.04.2023		
Vienna						08.05.2023	
Brussels							22.05.2023
Paris	12.05.2023						
Strasbourg	3 <sup>rd</sup> part-session of 2023 (19 - 23.06.2023)						22.06.2023
Paris	14 - 15.09.2023				15.09.2023		
Strasbourg	4 <sup>th</sup> part-session of 2023 (09 - 13.10.2023)						12.10.2023
Paris	07.12.2023					07.12.2023	

**12. Secretariat**

Ms Penelope DENU, Head of the Secretariat

☎: +33 (0)3 88 41 32 15

E-mail: [penelope.denu@coe.int](mailto:penelope.denu@coe.int)

Mr Giorgio LODDO, Secretary

☎: +33 (0)3 90 21 59 08

E-mail: [giorgio.loddo@coe.int](mailto:giorgio.loddo@coe.int)

Ms Elodie FISCHER, Secretary

☎: +33 (0)3 90 21 56 34

E-mail: [elodie.fischer@coe.int](mailto:elodie.fischer@coe.int)

Ms Louise MORLON, Project Manager

☎: +33 (0)3 90 21 40 14

E-mail: [louise.morlon@coe.int](mailto:louise.morlon@coe.int)

Ms Naouelle TEFIFEHA, Assistant

☎: +33 (0)3 90 21 51 48

E-mail: [naouelle.tefifeha@coe.int](mailto:naouelle.tefifeha@coe.int)

Mr Martin McMILLAN, Assistant

☎: +33 (0)3 90 21 50 82

E-mail: [martin.mcmillan@coe.int](mailto:martin.mcmillan@coe.int)

**Email:** [asega@coe.int](mailto:asega@coe.int)

**Alliance e-mail:** [nohatealliance@coe.int](mailto:nohatealliance@coe.int)

**Network e-mail:** [womenfreefromviolence@coe.int](mailto:womenfreefromviolence@coe.int)

**13. Website and social media**

[pace.coe.int/en/pages/committee-29/AS-EGA](http://pace.coe.int/en/pages/committee-29/AS-EGA)

[pace.coe.int/en/pages/networks](http://pace.coe.int/en/pages/networks)

[pace.coe.int/en/pages/network-violence-women](http://pace.coe.int/en/pages/network-violence-women)

[www.facebook.com/pages/Parliamentary-Network-Women-Free-from-Violence/521837241177461](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Parliamentary-Network-Women-Free-from-Violence/521837241177461)

[pace.coe.int/en/pages/no-hate](http://pace.coe.int/en/pages/no-hate)

[pace.coe.int/en/pages/network-rights-lgbti](http://pace.coe.int/en/pages/network-rights-lgbti)

[twitter.com/PACE\\_Equality](https://twitter.com/PACE_Equality)