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Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

Work programme (2026)

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A. Bureau of the committee

Chairperson: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE)

1st Vice-Chairperson: Ms Luz Martínez Seijo (Spain, SOC)
2nd Vice-Chairperson: Ms Maria Syrengela (Greece, EPP/CD)
3rd Vice-Chairperson: Ms Sevilay Çelenk (Türkiye, UEL)

Webpage: Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination
General e-mail: asega@coe.int

B. Meetings of the committee in 2026

	Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination	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 persons in Europe
PACE 1st part-session, Strasbourg	27 and 29 January					28 January
CSW70, New York				11-13 March		
Committee meeting, Paris	20 March	20 March	20 March		20 March	
PACE 2nd part-session, Strasbourg	20-22 April	22 April	22 April	21 April		
Committee meeting, Athens	28-29 May					
PACE 3rd part-session, Strasbourg	22, 23 and 25 June		23 June		23 June	
Committee meeting, Paris	18 September					
PACE 4th part-session, Strasbourg	28 September - 01 October					30 September
Conference, Madrid				5-6 November		
Committee meeting, Paris	30 November			30 November		

C. Reports debated in 2026

- **For a ban on conversion practices**

Rapporteur: Ms Kate Osborne (United Kingdom, SOC)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc.15883, Ref. 4786 of 26.01.2024
Debated during the 1st part-session 2026
Adopted text: Resolution 2643 (2026)

- **Countering discrimination based on religion and protecting freedom of religion or belief in Europe**

Former titles: Global rules to eliminate all forms of religious oppression; Countering discrimination based on religion and protecting freedom of religion and belief in Europe
Rapporteur: Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC)
Previous rapporteur: Ms Arta Bilalli Zendeli (North Macedonia, SOC)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15700, Ref. 4726 of 28.04.2023
Debated during the 2nd part-session of 2026
Adopted text: Resolution 2647 (2026)

- **Promoting the Istanbul Convention and improving its implementation: building on lessons learnt**

Rapporteur: Ms Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC)
Previous rapporteur: Ms Etilda Gjonaj (Albania, SOC)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15942, Ref. 4807 of 19.04.2024
Debated during the 2nd part-session of 2026
Adopted text: Resolution 2649 (2026)

- **Paving the way for a culture of consent**

Rapporteur: Ms Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 16133, Ref. 4873 of 11.04.2025
Debated during the 2nd part-session 2026
Adopted text: Resolution 2650 (2026)

- **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
Debated during the Standing Committee meeting on 22 May 2026
Adopted text: Resolution 2658 (2026)

- **Eliminating gender stereotypes in the media**

Rapporteur: Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine, ALDE)
Rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media: Mr Benjamin Dalle (Belgium, EPP/CD)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15975, Ref. 4812 of 24.05.2024
Debated during the 3rd part-session of 2026
Adopted text: Resolution 2661 (2026)

- **Women's access to justice**

Rapporteur: Ms Aysu Bankoğlu (Türkiye, SOC)
Origin: Bureau decision (urgent debate), Reference 4980 of 23.06.2026
Debated during the 3rd part-session of 2026
Adopted text: Resolution 2668 (2026)

- **Violent pornography: a test for human rights**

Former title: Violent pornography
Rapporteur: Ms Laura Castel (Spain, UEL)
Rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development: Mr Joseph O'Reilly (Ireland, EPP/CD)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15972, Ref. 4809 of 19.04.2024
Debated during the 3rd part-session of 2026
Adopted text: Resolution 2670 (2026)

- **Repression and targeted attacks on LGBTI persons and defenders in Türkiye**

Rapporteur: Mr Sam Rushworth (United Kingdom, SOC)
Origin: Bureau decision (urgent debate), Ref. 5012 of 28.09.2028
Debated during the 4th part-session of 2026
Adopted text: Resolution 2681 (2026)

D. Opinions debated in 2026

- ***The need for systemic support to Ukrainian soldiers who became disabled as a result of hostilities***

Former title: The situation of Ukrainian soldiers who became disabled as a result of hostilities
Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD)

Rapporteur for report of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development: Mr Jan Filip Libicki (Poland, EPP/CD)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 16063, Ref. 4845 of 27.01.2025
Report adopted by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development on 04.06. 2026
Debated during the 4th part session 2026
Adopted texts: Resolution 2672 (2026) and Recommendation 2312 (2026)

E. Reports under preparation

- ***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 Christophe Lacroix (Belgium, SOC)
Previous rapporteurs: Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD), Mr Randolph De Battista (Malta, SOC)
Origin: motions for a resolution, Docs. 15334 and 15339, Ref. 4603 of 27.09.2021
Expiry date for adoption: 27.09.2023, extended to 31.12.2026

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	
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).
09.04.2025	Introductory memorandum	
30.09.2025 (Strasbourg)		Joint hearing in camera with the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), with the participation of Mr Christophe Kamp, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Mr Hallvard Gorseth, Director of the Directorate of Equal Rights and Dignity, Council of Europe, Mr Ashot Avanesyan, Chair of the Council of National Communities of Ukraine (online).

- ***Artificial intelligence and gender equality: risks and challenges***

Rapporteur: Ms Edite Estrela (Portugal, SOC)
Rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media: Ms Mia Karamehić-Abazović (Bosnia and Herzegovina, NR)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 15986, Ref. 4816 of 24.06.2024
Expiry date for adoption: 24.12.2026

Consideration in the committee

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of
09.04.2025 (Strasbourg)	Introductory memorandum	
03.12.2025 (Paris)		Mr Leonhard den Hertog, Policy Officer, Gender Equality Unit, DG JUST, European Commission, (online); Ms Louise Hooper, Barrister, and independent expert at the Committee of Experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination of the Council of Europe.
20.03.2026 (Paris)		Mr David Milner, Head of the Human Rights Intergovernmental Co-operation Division and Secretary of the Steering Committee for Human Rights, DG I, Council of Europe (online); Ms Charlotte Gilmartin, Head of the Policy Unit and Secretary of the Gender Equality Commission, Gender Equality Division, DG II, Council of Europe.
28.05.2026 (Athens)	Information memorandum	

- ***Protecting ethnic and religious diversity in Syria***

Rapporteur: Ms Bisera Kostadinovska-Stojchevska (North Macedonia, SOC)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 16110, Ref. 4857 of 07.04.2025
Expiry date for adoption: 07.04.2027

Consideration in the committee

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of
20.03.2026 (Paris)		Dr. Karim El Mufti, Professor of political science, international affairs and international law, Saint Joseph University, Beirut, Lebanon; Ms Myriam Benraad, Researcher, Institut de Recherches et d'études sur le Monde Arabe et Musulman, Paris.
23.06.2026 (Strasbourg)	Introductory memorandum	

- ***The deterioration of women's rights in Afghanistan: a need for global response***

Rapporteur: Ms Maria Syrengela (Greece, EPP/CD)
Rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Migration, International Protection and Economic Co-operation: Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat (Türkiye, ALDE)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 16115, Ref. 4859 of 07.04.2025
Expiry date for adoption: 07.04.2027

Consideration in the committee

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of
30.09.2025 (Strasbourg)	Introductory memorandum	

03.12.2025 (Paris)		Ms Nazifa Yusufi Bek, Professor and activist, human rights and women's rights defender, former Member of Parliament in Afghanistan, President of the Afghan Women Parliamentarians and Leaders Network (AWPLN) (online); Ms Shah Gul Rezaie, former Member of Parliament from Afghanistan; Ms Mobina Akbari, Founding Member, Afghan Women Parliamentarians and Leaders Network (AWPLN), and Former Policy and Programme Expert, Ministry of Women's Affairs of Afghanistan (online); Mr Richard Bennett, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan (online).
21.04.2026 (Strasbourg)	Information memorandum	
28.09.2026 (Athens)		Ms Sajia Behgam, Education Rights Activist; Ms Homa Ahmadi, Former Member of Parliament, Logar Province, Afghanistan, Co-Founder of the Afghan Women Parliamentarians & Leaders Network (AWPLN); Ms Elaha Hashimi, Youth representative; Ms Elhama Hashimi, Youth representative; Dr Nadina Christopoulou, Director & Co-Founder, Melissa Network; UN Women representative (online).
23.03.2026 (Strasbourg)	Statement by the rapporteur and exchange of views	
18.09.2026 (Paris)	Statement by the rapporteur and exchange of views	
01.10.2026 (Strasbourg)	Preliminary draft report	Joint hearing with the Committee on Migration, International Protection and Economic Co-operation with the participation of: Mr Ahmad Reshad Jalali, Senior Policy Officer at the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE); Ms Lailuma Sadid, Former Afghan Diplomat, Journalist and President of the Network of Afghanistan Diaspora Organisations in Europe (NADOE); Mr Thomas Bombois, Legal Secretary, Court of Justice of the European Union.

- ***Equal share of unpaid care work between women and men: a pre-condition to achieving gender equality***

Rapporteur: Ms Wanda Nowicka (Poland, SOC)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 16158, Ref. 4882 of 23.05.2025
Expiry date for adoption: 23.05.2027

Consideration in the committee

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of
27.01.2026 (Strasbourg)	Introductory memorandum	
30.09.2026 (Strasbourg)	Statement by the rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Brussels (6-7 July 2026)	

- ***On the road to parity: supporting young women in politics***

Rapporteur: Ms Aysu Bankoğlu (Türkiye, SOC)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 16256, Ref. 4913 of 21.11.2025
Expiry date for adoption: 21.11.2027

Consideration in the committee

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of
23.06.2026 (Strasbourg)	Introductory memorandum	

- ***Comprehensive protection of children in rainbow families across Europe***

Rapporteur: Ms Lucia Plaváková (Slovak Republic, ALDE)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc.16299, Ref. 4929 of 26.01.2026
Expiry date for adoption: 26.01.2028

Consideration in the committee

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of
22.06.2026 (Strasbourg)	Introductory memorandum	

- ***Mainstreaming remembrance: preserving the historical memory of Roma and Travellers to counter Antigypsyism***

Rapporteur: Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD)
Rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media: Ms Luz Martínez Seijo (Spain, SOC)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc.16300, Ref. 4930 of 26.01.2026
Expiry date for adoption: 26.01.2028

- ***Strengthening the affective and emotional dimension of comprehensive sexuality education to prevent and combat discrimination, hate crime and gender-based violence***

Rapporteur: Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc.16318, Ref. 4936 of 28.09.2026
Expiry date for adoption: 28.09.2028

- ***Countering the backlash against women's rights: a European response***

Rapporteur: Baroness Lyn Brown (United Kingdom, SOC)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc 16339, Ref. 4944 of 20.04.2026
Expiry date for adoption: 20.04.2028

Consideration in the committee

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of
18.09.2026 (Paris)	Introductory memorandum	

- ***Attacks on the rights of LGBTI persons in Europe: a threat to democracy***

Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 16354, Ref. 4952 of 20.04.2026
Expiry date for adoption: 20.04.2028

Consideration in the committee

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of
18.09.2026 (Paris)	Introductory memorandum	

- ***Preventing and combating vicarious violence as a form of gender-based violence against women***

Rapporteur: Ms Luz Martínez Seijo (Spain, SOC)
Rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development: Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, PPE/DC)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc.16366, Ref. 4963 of 24.04.2026
Expiry date for adoption: 24.04.2028

Consideration in the committee

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of

30.09.2026 (Strasbourg)	Introductory memorandum	Ms María Guijarro Ceballos, State Secretary for Equality and for the Eradication of Violence against Women, Spain; Ms Shazia Choudhry, Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford; Ms Santy Montemayor, member of the Chamber of Deputies, Congress of the Union, Mexico

- ***The impact of artificial intelligence on the lives of older persons: opportunities, risks and policy responses***

Rapporteur: Ms Andrea Eder-Gitschthaler (Austria, EPP/CD)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc.16367, Ref. 4964 of 24.04.2026
Expiry date for adoption: 24.04.2028

- ***Social media platforms, women and girls: harnessing democratic potential while safeguarding fundamental rights***

Rapporteur: Ms Sevilay Çelenk (Türkiye, UEL)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 16369, Ref. 4965 of 24.04.2026
Expiry date for adoption: 24.04.2028

- ***Access to support services, protection and assistance for all women victims of violence: from principles to reality on the ground***

Rapporteur: Ms Catia Polidori (Italy, EPP/CD)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 16439, Ref. 4993 of 28.09.2026
Expiry date for adoption: 28.09.2028

- ***Preventing and combating femicides in Europe***

Rapporteur: Ms Iris Luarasi (Albania, SOC)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 16440, Ref. 4994 of 28.09.2026
Expiry date for adoption: 29.09.2028

- ***Hate crimes, intolerance and discrimination against Christians in Europe***

Rapporteur: Mr Dominik Oberhofer (Austria, ALDE)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 16447, Ref. 4997 of 28.09.2026
Expiry date for adoption: 28.09.2028

F. Opinions under preparation

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

Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE)
Former rapporteur: 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, ECPA)
Origin: motion for a resolution Doc. 15810, Ref. 4768 of 09.10.2023
Expiry date for adoption: 09.10.2027

Consideration in the committee

Date and place	Document	Hearing with the participation of
18.09.2026 (Paris)		Ms Jamilya Jamanbaeva, Ombudswoman, Kyrgyz Republic (online); Mr Ennio Boati, Regional Representative for Central Asia a.i., Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Bichkek, Kyrgyz Republic (online); Ms Maisy Weicherding, Researcher, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, Amnesty International (online).

- ***Climate and gender equality – Strengthening the protection of women's rights in the face of climate disruption***

Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Solveig Vik (Norway, SOC)
Rapporteur for report of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development: Aurora Floridia (Italy, SOC)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 16224, Ref. 4903 of 29.09.2025
Expiry date for adoption: 29.09.2027

- ***Fictional justice under occupation: a pseudo-legal system as an instrument of repression*** *Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Lucia Plaváková (Slovak Republic, ALDE)*

Rapporteur for report of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights: Mr Damien Cottier (Switzerland, ALDE)
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 16396, Ref. 4981 of 26.06.2026
Expiry date for adoption: 26.06.2028

- ***Securing refugee and migrant women's economic future in Europe – from fair work to funded entrepreneurship***

Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD)
Rapporteur for report of the Committee on Migration, International Protection and Economic Co-operation: to be appointed
Origin: motion for a resolution, Doc. 16442, Ref. 4995 of 28.09.2026
Expiry date for adoption: 28.09.2028

G. Sub-Committees

Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities

Chairperson:	TBD
Vice-chairperson:	TBD

Sub-Committee on Disability and Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination

Chairperson:	Ms Mariia Mezentseva-Fedorenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD)
Vice-chairperson:	Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD)

H. Networks of the committee

1. Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination runs the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence. It was set up after Resolution 1635 (2008) and Recommendation 1847 (2008) on "Combating violence against women".

This Network brings together parliamentarians from national, observer and partner for democracy delegations. It gives them a forum to exchange good practices, monitoring implementation of the Istanbul Convention and supporting members in their national work. It is co-ordinated by the General Rapporteur on violence against women. The Network has played a key role in promoting the Convention's ratification and entry into force. It continues to encourage States that are not yet parties to ratify it, while calling for its full and effective implementation across Europe.

In 2026, the Network held a side event at the 70th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York on countering backlash and safeguarding women's rights. It also organised a hearing in Strasbourg on addressing femicides in Europe. It issued public statements on key dates throughout the year, reaffirming the Assembly's commitment to gender equality in the face of growing disinformation and attacks on women's rights. Work is under way to adapt the Council of Europe's HELP course on violence against women for parliamentarians. The Network maintains co-operation with UN Women, GREVIO and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. It will also organise a conference in Madrid on 5 and 6

November 2026, in partnership with the Spanish Ministry of Equality, on the role of parliamentarians in promoting the Istanbul Convention and protecting women's rights.

Website: Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence
Network e-mail: womenfreefromviolence@coe.int

2. *No Hate Parliamentary Alliance*

The No Hate Parliamentary Alliance was established in 2015. It is a network of parliamentarians committed to taking an open, firm and pro-active stand against racism, hatred and intolerance. It was created by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination in follow-up to Assembly Resolution 1967 (2014) "A strategy to prevent racism and intolerance in Europe". It provides a platform for parliamentary action against hate speech and all forms of racism and discrimination, including Afrophobia, anti-Gypsyism, antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred. 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.

In 2026, the Alliance held a hearing in Paris on ways forward to eradicate racial discrimination. It also held an exchange of views in Strasbourg on countering hate speech in public discourse, which looked at the responsibility of political leaders, the media and online platforms. Throughout the year, it issued public statements to mark key international days, in particular Holocaust remembrance and combating anti-Muslim hatred, racial discrimination and hate speech. Looking ahead, it will follow up its work on hate speech in public discourse with a view to the elections due in several member States in 2027.

Website: No Hate Parliamentary Alliance
Alliance e-mail: nohatealliance@coe.int

3. *Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI persons in Europe*

Following Assembly Resolution 2417 (2022) "Combating rising hate against LGBTI people in Europe", the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination established the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI persons in Europe in April 2022. The Platform brings together parliamentarians from national, observer and partner for democracy delegations, members appointed by other Assembly committees and an associate member from the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. It promotes co-operation between national parliaments, the exchange of good practices and the visibility of LGBTI rights in the Assembly's work, in synergy with other Council of Europe activities. The Platform is co-ordinated by the General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI persons in Europe, supported by the Bureau of the Committee.

In 2026, the Platform held an exchange of views in Strasbourg on protecting the rights of intersex persons in practice and a new framework for inclusion. It also took part in the European IDAHOT+ Forum in Copenhagen in May and in the Human Rights Conference held during WorldPride Amsterdam in September. During the October part-session, it held an exchange of views on addressing the political instrumentalisation of LGBTI rights in Europe. Throughout the year, the General Rapporteur also issued public statements around International Days and also on restrictions on Pride marches and on the arrests of LGBTI activists in Türkiye.

Website: Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI persons in Europe
Platform e-mail: LGBTI.platform@coe.int

I. General Rapporteurs

General Rapporteur on violence against women: Ms Luz Martínez Seijo (Spain, SOC)
appointed on 03.12.2025 [Terms of Reference]
General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance: Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC)
appointed on 30.09.2026 for his second mandate [Terms of Reference]

General Rapporteur on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons: Ms Kate Osborne (United Kingdom, SOC)
appointed on 21.04.2026 [Terms of Reference]

General Rapporteur on Roma and Travellers: Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD)
appointed on 25.06.2025 [Terms of Reference]

J. Youth Rapporteur

Youth Rapporteur: Ms Aysu Bankoğlu (Türkiye, SOC)
appointed on 05.12.2024 [Assembly Resolution 2553 (2024)]

K. Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment

About the Prize
Vigdís Finnbogadóttir was the first woman in the world to be elected as a head of state (Iceland, 1980). The Prize was launched in 2023 and is named in her honour. It is rewarded every year to outstanding individuals, organisations or initiatives that have shown a strong commitment to empowering women and girls in all their diversity. The Prize consists of a sum of €60,000 and a trophy.

Why it matters
Women's rights and gender equality face increasing challenges across Europe and beyond. In this context, the Prize recognises achievements in advancing gender equality, promoting equal participation in decision-making, and fostering inclusive policies and practices that contribute to women's full and equal participation in political, social, and economic life.

Nominations
Individuals, civil society groups, associations or private companies from around the world may be nominated for the Prize. Nominations must be submitted using the form available on the Prize web page. They must also be supported by the signatures of at least five sponsors.

Past winners
The Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment has been awarded three times so far:
2024: Irida Women's Center (Greece), for its work against poverty and gender-based violence.
2025: Women of the Sun (Palestine), for its work on women's rights and peacebuilding.
2026: My Voice, My Choice (Slovenia), for its work towards safe and accessible abortion.

Website: Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment

L. Secretariat of the committee

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