

Ending Violence against Women and Girls: Prevalence, Proposals and Partnerships

A side-event to the UNECE Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting, organised by the International Council of Women and the Council of Europe, and co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN in Geneva, the French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and NGO/CSW Geneva

WEDNESDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2019, 13:30-14:45
Room XXV, Palais des Nations (Building E, 1st floor)

Despite major advances in women's rights, Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), manifested as different forms of physical, sexual and psychological abuse, remains one of the most pervasive and persistent human rights abuses, with its most common form, domestic violence, taking place in the privacy of the home, often by an intimate partner. VAWG has extensive health (including long-term physical and psychological), social and economic implications for victims, their families, communities and society as a whole. It is a barrier to women's full participation in society and presents a wider threat to peace and security.

On average, one in three women report experiencing some form of physical or sexual violence by their partner and almost 58% of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner or family member (Global Study on Homicide UNODC, 2018). Despite the serious nature and extent of VAWG, most incidents are not reported to the police, partly due to women's lack of trust in the authorities to help and protect them.

The Beijing+25 review provides a unique and timely opportunity to address violence against women as a key barrier to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the achievement of gender equality, and to discuss how it can be overcome. In this context, the round table will focus on:

- ▶ The prevalence and manifestations of intimate partner violence/domestic violence against women and girls, including the physical and psychological impact on victims;
- ▶ The causes and consequences of VAWG such as honour killings and forced marriage;
- ▶ The findings of CEDAW and the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), which monitors implementation of the Istanbul Convention;
- ▶ The role of civil society organisations and of partnerships in combating VAWG.

Contacts: mohinderw@bluewin.ch, caterina.bolognese@coe.int

Simultaneous interpretation (English/French) will be provided courtesy of the French authorities



PROGRAMME

13:30 - 14:45

13:30 Brigitte Polonovski,
President ECICW, Moderator
Introduction to panel topic and speakers

Panellists

- ▶ **Nicole Ameline,**
Vice-Chair, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
Women's Rights, CEDAW and Beijing+25.
- ▶ **Alia El-Yassir,**
Regional Director, UN Women Regional Office for Europe/Central Asia.
VAWG across the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region: the importance of partnerships with civil society organisations – best practices and lessons learned.
- ▶ **Johanna Nelles,**
Secretariat of the monitoring mechanism of the Istanbul Convention (GREVIO and Committee of the Parties), Council of Europe.
Monitoring implementation of the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention – strengthening legal and other measures to end VAWG – how NGOs can contribute to GREVIO's work.
- ▶ **Elke Sleurs,**
Former Belgian Secretary of State, current Member of the Flemish Parliament.
Prevalence and manifestations of intimate partner violence/domestic violence against women and girls, including the physical and psychological impact on victims. Solutions.
- ▶ **Mohinder Watson,**
Founder, Action on Child, Early and Forced Marriage, Main UN NGO Permanent Representative, International Council of Women, Geneva.
Causes and consequences of forced marriage and 'honour killings' and examples of best practices to address these.

14:20 Questions from the floor, summing up and closing statement

- ▶ **Charles Ramsden,**
Chair of the Council of Europe's Gender Equality Commission, Moderator.
- ▶ **Marlène Schiappa,**
State Secretary for Gender Equality, France.
Ending Violence Against Women: A priority for France and its Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

*Refreshments will be provided prior to the event
courtesy of the Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN in Geneva.*