



PUBLIC EVENT TO MARK THE 10th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION

Progress towards a Europe free from all forms of male violence

Wednesday, 12 May 14h00 -16h00 CET

On behalf of the European Women's Lobby (EWL), the EWL Coordination for Turkey and Women's Coalition Turkey, **we are delighted to invite you to a public event on the achievements of the Istanbul Convention and on avenues to overcome the existing obstacles towards its ratification and full implementation.** The event will be hosted by MEP Nacho Sanchez Amor - Turkey rapporteur (S&D) and will take place online on Wednesday, 12 May from 14h00 to 16h00 CET.

Background

The Istanbul Convention is the most comprehensive legal instrument in Europe that protects all women and girls from violence. As the first legally binding international instrument on preventing and combating all forms of violence against women and girls, it establishes a comprehensive framework of legal and policy measures for preventing such violence, supporting victims and punishing perpetrators. As such, it is the "gold standard" not only in Europe but also worldwide.

As of today, the Convention has been signed by all European Union (EU) member states and ratified by 21 of them. The EU has signed the Convention on June 13, 2017. There are ongoing efforts to ratify and implement the convention in all EU member states.

Purpose

The event will concentrate on creating awareness on the IC and its achievements so far and how to overcome the obstacles around its ratification and implementation, as well as the questions raised by the withdrawal decision of Turkey and withdrawal scenarios in place in other State Parties of the Convention. This event will aim to discuss the future of the Convention by identifying certain steps and ideas on how to strengthen the legal framework in Europe to protect women and girls from violence.

Format

The meeting will be moderated by the EWL. It will be introduced by high-level keynote speakers from the EU Institutions.

A first roundtable will aim at stressing the importance and achievements made so far and share key messages on how to strengthen it further. This event will also be the opportunity to present key

findings of the latest EWL report marking the 10th anniversary of the IC, called "[Towards a Europe Free from Male Violence Against Women and Girls](#)".

In a second roundtable, obstacles to the full implementation of the Convention in Europe will be presented by civil society representatives, through an update on the withdrawal decision of Turkey and the discussions in other countries like Poland. We will also hear political and academic voices proposing avenues to overcome the obstacles in ending violence against women and girls in Europe.

The event will be livestreamed on EWL youtube channel.

Agenda

Moderation: Joanna Maycock, EWL Secretary General

- Introductory remarks by MEP Nacho Sanchez Amor
- Keynote speech by Commissioner for Equality Helena Dalli (video message)
- İlknur Üstün, Coordinator, Women's Coalition and EWL Coordination for Turkey

Roundtable 1: Achievements in the first years of the Istanbul Convention

- Views from EP FEMM Committee Chair Evelyn Regner (TBC)
- Views from Claudia Luciani, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance
- Presentation of key findings in the EWL report, by Valentina Andrasek, member of the EWL Observatory on violence against women
- Q&A

Roundtable II: Overcoming the obstacles in ending violence against women and girls

- Views from MEP Riba i Giner, rapporteur on 'Proposal for a Council decision to add gender-based violence in the areas of crime listed in Article 83 TFEU' (TBC)
- Views from a women's rights organisation from Turkey
- Views from Gosia Tarasiewicz, President, Network of East-West Women, Poland
- Views from Professor Sara de Vido, Università Ca' Foscari, Venezia
- Q&A

Wrap up note by a EWL representative

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Now is the time to fully implement
and champion the standards of the
Istanbul Convention
everywhere in Europe.

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