

SEC.GAL/169/16/Corr.1*
17 November 2016

Gender Symposium: COMBATING FEMICIDE

ENGLISH only

Combating violence against women– bringing security home

Date: 25 November, 2016

Venue: Ratsaal, Hofburg, Vienna

Concept Note

Background

Femicide is globally recognized as one of the gravest violations of human rights and gender-based killings as the most serious form of gender-based violence. On 17 December 2015 the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/70/176 on taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls, which encourages Member States to promote integrated and comprehensive strategies to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls, including gender-related killing of women and girls.

On 22nd July 2016, the German Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Chairmanship and the Gender Section organized a conference on Combating Violence Against Women in the OSCE Region. One of the key recommendations emerging from the meeting was related to the importance of Data, research and documentation. The conference participants agreed this issue needs a systematic approach and improvement.

The UN Special Rapporteur on VAW has promoted the establishment of Femicide Watches at the national level. A systematic collection and documentation of data is necessary, as this also allows analysis of victims' profiles and perpetrators profiles, to address root causes.

In order to raise awareness within and outside the OSCE region on the issue of Femicide and the potential of Femicide watches, a symposium will be organized on 25th of November, the International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women and the first day of the yearly 16 Days of Activism to combat gender-based violence.

The symposium is organized by the OSCE Gender Section, in co-operation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Academic Council of United Nations (ACUNS), the Office of the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE).

*) Corrigendum due to the change of the distribution status

Symposium focus:

The half-day symposium in Vienna, Austria on 25th November 2016, will bring together stakeholders from government (policy makers and law enforcement agencies), international organizations, OSCE institutions and field operations, academics as well as civil society, including women's organizations, to identify ways forward and guidance needed for governments to prevent Femicide.

Key objectives:

- Discuss progress made and achievements reached in the area of Femicide in the OSCE region.
- Identify areas of future work for national governments to improve and systematize data collection and analysis on Femicide, with a view to improving prevention and response mechanisms.

Symposium format:

The symposium will consist of plenary sessions in a panel format where progress, good practices, gaps and new approaches will be shared by the panel members, followed by an open discussion. Registration to the Symposium is open to government representatives, civil society members, academia as well as programmatic experts from international organizations.

Translation:

Simultaneous translation for Russian and English will be provided during the symposium.

Registration:

To participate in the symposium, please register by **18th November** by sending an email to Eugenia Reznikowa (Eugenia.reznikowa@osce.org) with the following information:

- Full name
- Name of Delegation / Institution / Organization
- Title / Position / Rank
- Email address
- Nationality

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Date: 25 November, 2016

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09:00-9:30 Registration

9:30-11:00 SESSION 1: Femicide, current state of affairs

Opening remarks:

- **Ambassador Paul Bekkers**, Director, Office of the Secretary General of the OSCE
- **Mr. Aldo Lale-Demoz**, Deputy Director, United Nations Office of Drug and Crimes (UNODC)

Moderator: **Ambassador Sian MacLeod**, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the OSCE

Key-note speaker:

- **Dr. Dubravka Šimonović**, UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

Panel members:

- **Ms. Tamar Dekanosidze**, Georgian Young Lawyers Association, Georgia
- **Ms. Borjana Perunicic**, Ombudsman Office, Serbia
- **Ms. Ani Jilozyan**, Coalition to stop violence against women, Armenia

Discussion

11:00-11:30: Coffee & Tea break

11:30-13:00 SESSION 2: What needs to be done to monitor, understand and combat femicide?

Moderator: **Ms. Angela Me**, Chief, UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch

Speakers:

- **Ms. Karen Ingala Smith**, Co-creator of The Femicide Census, in partnership with Women's Aid Federation England
- **Ms. Ainur Dossanova**, Chief expert, Department of social and demographic statistics, Committee on Statistics of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- **Ms. Anna Costanza Baldry**, Professor in criminal and law psychology, Second University of Naples, Member of COST Action "Femicide across Europe"
- **Ms. Biljana Branković**, Member of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

Discussion

Closing remarks:

- **Ambassador Clemens Koja**, Permanent Representative of Austria to the OSCE, incoming Chairperson in Office for the OSCE
- **Ambassador Miroslava Beham**, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, OSCE

13:00 Light lunch will be served