



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting Warsaw, 16 - 27 September 2019

EU Right of Reply – Working Session 8

Mr. Moderator,

In reply to remarks made during the session questioning the value of certain regional instruments on combating violence against women, as well as questioning the need to address domestic violence within the national legislation, we would like to make the following remarks:

Violence against women and girls can take many forms, including domestic violence. It is both a violation of human rights and a security issue. It is violence against the entire society and the entire society has to react. The EU remains committed to combating all forms of violence against women and girls. Alongside the EU Member States, the EU signed the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention in June 2017, the world's most comprehensive treaty on combating violence against women and girls, focused on preventing violence, protecting victims and ending impunity of perpetrators. We recommend the Participating states to give consideration to sign and ratify relevant regional and international instruments, such as the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention.

In reply to *Salut et Misericorde*, let me just say that the gender equality is a matter of human rights, of democracy and justice. It is instrumental to conflict-resolution and peacebuilding as it enables more legitimate and sustainable peace processes. This is why, gender equality and combating violence against women and girls need to remain high on our OSCE agenda. LGBTI persons have the same rights as all other individuals — no new human rights are created for them and none should be denied to them. We remain committed to the principle of the universality of human rights.

Thank you.