



PC.SHDM.GAL/10/18

15 November 2018

ENGLISH only

## Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

# COUNTERING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN – EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

2 – 3 July 2018  
Hofburg, Vienna

# FINAL REPORT



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## **OVERVIEW**

### **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) on “Countering Violence against Women – Everyone’s Responsibility” was held in Vienna on 2-3 July 2018. It was organized by the Italian OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office (CiO), with the support of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Gender Section of the Office of the Secretary General (OSG/GS). The meeting provided an opportunity to look into concrete actions to support the implementation of OSCE commitments and national legal and policy frameworks to combat violence against women, as well as to explore how measures to empower women can reduce their vulnerability to all forms of violence. The meeting brought together 131 participants (42 men, 88 women, 1 ND) , including 76 representatives from 41 OSCE participating States, two representatives of NHRI, 34 representatives of 26 non-governmental organizations, 13 participants from four OSCE institutions, one representative from OSCE Missions and five representatives of international organizations and agencies.

### **II. SYNOPSIS OF THE SESSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This section summarizes the discussions which took place during the opening session and the three thematic sessions and presents recommendations made by participants. The recommendations were directed towards a variety of actors, including OSCE participating States, OSCE bodies, including OSCE institutions and field operations, and civil society organizations. These recommendations have no official status as they are not based on consensus among the 57 OSCE participating States. Further, the inclusion of a recommendation in this report does not suggest that it reflects the views or policies of the OSCE. Nevertheless, these recommendations serve as useful indicators of how participating States are meeting their commitments pertaining to combatting trafficking in children, as well as what follow-up activities could be implemented in this area.

## OPENING SESSION



*Purna Sen, UN Women's Director of Policy Division, Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, ODIHR Director, Amb. Alessandro Azzoni, Chairperson of the Permanent Council, Amarsanaa Darisunen, OSCE Senior Gender Adviser on Gender Issues and Simona Lanzoni, Second Vice-President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), Council of Europe, at the opening session of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on "Countering Violence Against Women: Everybody's Responsibility" in Vienna, 2 July 2018 (OSCE/Micky Kroell).*

*Welcoming remarks:*

**Ambassador Alessandro Azzoni**, Chairperson of the Permanent Council, (CiO)

**Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir**, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

**Ms. Amarsanaa Darisuren**, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Azzoni noted how, by taking place independently of its social context, violence against women (VAW) hinders the full and equal participation of women and girls in all aspects of society. Violence against women, he argued, is a critical obstacle to achieving substantive equality between women and men as well as to women's enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Chairperson further stressed the commitment of the CiO to give priority to the issue in the OSCE region and collegially work to eradicate it. He noted that Italy is at the forefront of international campaigns to prevent and combat violence against women. In particular, Italy has promoted and actively participated in talks on U.N. General Assembly and U.N. Human Rights Council resolutions; it has also financed development cooperation projects geared to put an end to practices of female genital mutilation and early and forced marriages, among other forms of gender based violence. Being the prevention of violence intertwined with empowerment, the latter has also been a key-theme of the Italian G7 Presidency, which saw the adoption of a "Roadmap for a gender-responsive economic empowerment" at the Taormina Summit and

the first G7 Ministerial Meeting on Equal Opportunities. Finally he stressed how the OSCE through close co-operation has a key role in working with national stakeholders in building their capacity in the prevention of violence and the protection and empowerment of survivors.

ODIHR Director emphasized that violence against women is one of the biggest failures of our societies. Stressing the ubiquity of the problem, she mentioned how it is generally accepted that violence against women stems from deep rooted notions of women's unequal status in the society, and is often met with an attitude of tolerance by the community. The OSCE has a crucial role to play as an organization grounded in a comprehensive concept of security which entails the safety of all individuals and the safeguards of their fundamental human rights. She referred to specific commitments on violence against women, including key OSCE Ministerial Council decisions, calling on participating States to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and to provide protection to the victims. She concluded by calling for action and reiterating ODIHR's readiness to assist participating States in stepping up their efforts to eliminate violence against women.

Ms. Darisuren stressed that violence against women hampers progress towards comprehensive security. She indicated that violence against women represents a critical obstacle to achieving substantive equality between women and men with growing evidence on the high costs of violence against women to society and its negative impact on the economy. She noted how the work of the Gender Section, currently engaged in conducting a survey on the wellbeing of women in the OSCE region, is key to shedding light on the phenomenon and its dynamics as well as the responses needed to provide redress to victims/survivors while increasing law enforcement responses. The survey is the first comparable representative survey conducted in South East and Eastern Europe where women are asked systematically about their experiences of violence in non-conflict and conflict settings. The project links gender-based violence against women with the women, peace and security work by measuring physical, sexual and psychological violence against women in a region with post-conflict situations and ongoing conflicts.

*Keynote speakers:*

**Ms. Purna Sen**, UN Women's Director of Policy Division.

**Ms. Simona Lanzoni**, Second Vice-President, Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), Council of Europe

Ms. Purna Sen pointed to the present momentum in history which demands definitive action to end violence against women and work against the trivialization, minimization, denial or other forms of tolerance of violence while holding accountable perpetrators: the #metoo movement's waves of awareness, the new vision set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and last year's committee of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) acknowledgement of the responsibility of the state in ending violence against women (CEDAW 2017). She also referred to UN Women's mandate which includes being a watchdog, advisor and advocate for the rights of women across the UN and linking closely

with women's right's advocates outside the UN. Finally, Ms. Sen called to take action now that the ubiquity of violence against women has been exposed.

Ms. Lanzoni presented the milestone Convention of the Council of Europe on preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, known as the Istanbul convention. She indicated that the underlying message of the Convention is that every single form of gender-based violence must be responded to in a swift and professional manner that puts at the centre of any interventions the rights and the needs of women living violence, (and their children), their safety and their empowerment. She illustrated the holistic approach to combatting violence against women of the Istanbul Convention, as well as the process of change it initiated in the countries which ratified it and endorsed in their national legislation its provisions. These include new trend towards criminalizing more forms of violence against women (stalking, forced marriage, etc.), more countries setting up coordinating bodies, and large scale training initiatives.

### **SESSION I: Addressing Violence against Women – the Responsibility of the State**



*Christie Edwards, ODIHR Deputy Head of Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, Dr. Ethel Brooks, Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Sociology at Rutgers University, Sigríður Björk Guðjónsdóttir, Police Commissioner, Iceland, and Cons. Silvia Santangelo, from the Italian Permanent Representation and CiO, applaud the conclusion of Session I of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting in Vienna, 2 July 2018. (OSCE/Micky Kroell).*

*Introducers:*

**Ms. Sigríður Björk Guðjónsdóttir**, Police Commissioner, Reykjavik

**Ms. Tijana Milošević**, Head of the Department for Appeals and Complainants in the Office of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality

**Dr. Ethel Brooks**, Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Sociology at Rutgers University

In the first working session, participants reflected on trends, challenges and opportunities in the area of State responsibility for addressing violence against women.

Ms. Guðjónsdóttir described the police force's efforts to address violence against women in Iceland where, despite a variety of initial obstacles, they were able to drastically improve their response to domestic violence cases by changing the police methodology and forming partnerships with other sectors. The speaker noted that state responses in Iceland now prioritize cases of domestic violence and take into account the patterns related to the cycle of violence and the fear of victims to report violence and abuse. Ms. Guðjónsdóttir also spoke about the establishment of a Family Justice Centre, established and run by a network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), municipalities and ministries, including the Ministry of Interior. The Centre has been a valuable asset to provide a comprehensive approach to victims' services. Ms. Guðjónsdóttir called on participating States to take action to enforce their legal frameworks which provide remedies for violence against women.

Ms. Milošević shared information about the importance for Serbia of the ratification of the Istanbul Convention which was expedient to address prior discrepancies in domestic legislation. She also described the obligations of the Republic of Serbia under the new Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the problematic areas identified by the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, related to violence against women. Ms. Milošević shared concrete measures taken by the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality with respect to the identified challenges as well as recommendations related to the improvement of public policies for the eradication of violence against women.

Dr. Brooks discussed the intersectional vulnerabilities of particular women groups, including Roma and Sinti women and women with disabilities. She shared examples of State compensation and redress mechanisms related to the sterilization of Roma women in several countries, such as compensation for victims, recognition of the deleterious effects of policies which disproportionately affected Romani women, suspension of statutes of limitation on filing claims against the State, free legal services for victims, transparency in allocating compensation with representatives from victims groups and independent experts, and redress measures that include monetary and non-monetary compensation. She also described the vulnerability of Roma and Sinti women during forced evictions and racist attacks on Romani communities, where women disproportionately bear the burden of finding new homes, sources of income, educational resources, and healthcare. Finally, Dr. Brooks addressed the intersectional issues which affect Roma and Sinti women vis-a-vis States' inability to provide basic services such as education, clean water, healthcare, electricity and housing.

The following specific recommendations were made in Session I:

*Recommendations:*

- Improve police responses by understanding and have a victim-centred approach;
- Be prepared for powerful resistance to working on combating violence against women, from those who do not believe it as an issue and those who oppose female leadership in an institution. There is need to persuade that violence against women is not a private issue;
- Acknowledge sexual harassment experienced by female police officers, and cases of violence where police officers are perpetrators;
- Work across sectors, e.g. through centres/'one-stop-shops' where NGOs and police work together to provide support to victims of sexual violence, human trafficking and domestic violence;
- Evaluation/audits should be conducted on the implementation of new measures to combat VAW;
- Importance of ratification of Istanbul Convention, which sends a clear message that VAW is not an individual problem but a social challenge with societal consequences;
- Invest efforts in changing behaviour, focused on young people, that challenge existing social norms;
- Recognize intersectional vulnerabilities of Roma and Sinti women;
- Long overdue justice for victims of coerced and forced sterilization of Roma and Sinti women should get priority, no statute of limitation for these cases and compensation and justice for the victims;
- Need for protection measures at national level regarding Roma and Sinti who experience violence;
- VAW should not be framed as a cultural issue or an issue specific for Roma and Sinti groups, as it is the result of repression, sexism, etc.;
- National law enforcement agencies to investigate all violence cases against Roma;
- Create monitoring system to monitor hate crimes against Muslim women as well as a media campaign to prevent this violence;
- Make use of ODIHRs police training regarding Roma and Sinti women;
- Create synergies between networks of Roma and Sinti women and networks working on combating domestic violence;
- Support activities of empowerment of Roma women and girls;
- Increase funding to civil society organizations, including those working on empowerment of Roma and Sinti women and girls;
- Mandatory training of police and education of children and youth;
- Need to review national legislation to deal with new forms of GBV, like online violence, for example through use of Eurojust tool;
- Victim testimony should be taken seriously as it is documentation, their veracity should not be questioned, rather efforts should be made to recognize the courage to testify and to prevent women having to testify multiple times.



*Specific recommendations for the OSCE institutions and field operations:*

- Recognize activism of Roma and Sinti women;
- ODIHR to closely monitor the situation of Roma and Sinti women in crisis and post crisis situations and conduct investigation on recent incidents in Ukraine;
- To revise and update the 2003 Roma and Sinti action plan in order to include gender mainstreaming and an intersectional methodology.

**SESSION II: Countering violence against women in the public space**

*Introducers:*

**Ms. Zeina Hilal**, Programme Officer for the Gender Partnership Programme, Inter – Parliamentary Union (IPU)

**Ms. Maria D’Amico**, PANGEA ONLUS

**Dr. Majda Halilović**, Head of Research and Policy for the Atlantic Initiative in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In Session II, participants discussed different aspects of violence against women in the public sphere, from women’s access to justice, through violence against women in politics, to public representations of women. Participants pointed out that targeted policies are needed to protect women in the public sphere. Since digitalization has brought new forms of violence, participants stressed the necessity to support combatting violence and threats online through training on how to respond to such violence and harassment. It was also noted that lack of awareness of victims’ needs may lead to weak responses by the justice system, making more difficult for women to seek judicial remedies - hence the necessity of increasing awareness to report violence. Overall, it was emphasized that VAW is a phenomenon that affects the entire society, and that a holistic response and comprehensive and comparative data is needed.

Ms. Hilal started by stating that there can be no democracy without gender equality. She underlined the stagnation in the numbers of women in parliaments in the recent years, with global average now reaching 23.8%. VAW in politics is one important barrier contributing to the lack of advancement in women’s political participation. 81,8% of women MPs in the IPU survey reported to have faced psychological violence, 44,4% received threats, 65% had been subjected to sexist remarks. Social media, she reported, is the number one place where it happens with the aim of dissuading women from taking part in politics or punishing women politicians taking a stance on gender equality issues or other human rights issues. Young women or women with disabilities experience more frequent attacks.

Ms. D’Amico described how the organization she represents, PANGEA ONLUS, has worked to impact public opinion through, for example, social media campaigns, in cooperation with a wide array of institutions, and has promoted the creation of a lobby for state institutions to ratify and implement the Istanbul Convention, national guidelines for hospitals to help women countering violence, and campaigns such as “No longer invisible” to raise funds for women’s shelters. Ms. D’Amico also described the work done by the

organization to help children witnessing domestic violence and activities on producing CEDAW shadow reports.

Dr. Halilović shared experience from a gender and justice project within the *Research on Gender and Justice, Gender-bias and VAW and the Judiciary*. Dr. Halilović indicated that in a country, 65% of women judges showed gender-bias, as they emphasized the need to appear neutral and avoid being viewed as feminists. Such stance can affect the reporting of violence experienced by women. She noted how it took time for many professionals to start seeing their unconscious prejudices. Therefore, judges need to re-examine their practices and gender-bias. Dr. Halilović also highlighted that sexual harassment is not addressed enough in the judiciary and that there are only few cases considered by courts in recent years. As a response, policy and training tools to address sexual harassment were developed in BiH for the judiciary. Rape and sexual assault are also not covered sufficiently. For example, light sentences applied by courts in cases of sexual violence not only disregard the trauma suffered by the victim, but also discourage other victims from seeking justice. Dr. Halilović finally informed that Gender and Justice Project team has started to work with a group of judges to integrate knowledge on rape and sexual assault into judicial practice, including violence experienced by women with disabilities.

The following specific recommendations were made in Session II:

*Recommendations:*

- Parliaments and political parties need regulations and codes of conducts to address sexual harassment, sexism and violence against women in politics;
- Need for stronger and stricter laws to combat discrimination, including mechanisms to report discrimination and gender-based violence need to cover new forms of violence, such as online violence;
- Strong internal policies, mechanisms to address sexism and sexual harassment are needed in all institutions. This can be addressed through, for example, promoting gender-sensitive parliaments;
- Need to change the political culture, to increase numbers of women in politics, male parliamentarians have an important role to play;
- Build coalitions between institutions and civil society to reach true gender equality and end violence against women;
- Judicial professionals value collaboration, need to have complex knowledge on gender-based violence and gender-bias, identify unconscious bias, and work with specific groups directly, for example Roma, women with disabilities, so as to increase the understanding of diversity in the judiciary;
- Parliaments and political parties must develop clear codes of conducts to address sexual harassment and sexism, take action to discipline members who are involved in acts of violence. Political parties must actively and consistently demonstrate genuine will about women's involvement and leadership. Protection measures are needed also for women in the civil society, especially where the space for civil society is shrinking, as civil society is often the first stepping stone for women aiming to engage in politics;

- Need more attention and data on the situation at the local level with regard to VAW-P, not only at the national level. Encourage states to include information on VAW-P in SDG reports.
- Need to reform the criminal justice system to adopt victims-centered approaches, so that victims do not feel side-lined and marginalized.
- Need to recognize pornography as a public health crisis, install filters in all new digital products, especially when it comes to access to child pornography;
- Need to place special attention to marginalized groups, including young people, to provide role models to change attitudes. More attention is also needed to ensure political will and leadership to recognize the problem and to address it;
- Need to change the political culture, to increase the numbers of women in politics, media and CSOs have an important role to play.
- Social media platforms need to address online abuse;
- Need more research and more data on VAW-P in order to address the problem but also provide more platforms for women politicians to discuss these issues.

*Specific recommendations for the OSCE institutions and field operations:*

- Need to work with young people, including young leaders (men and women) to advance political participation of women and gender equality, create male networks to address the topic of VAW, advance codes of conducts for democratic institutions. Design innovative forms of civic education on gender equality, such as role plays rather than courses in class. Provide platforms for genuine, open and honest discussions with men;
- Need to raise awareness of the global nature of violence against women in politics and to collect data. Need to support networking among women politicians and civil society on these issues. Training programmes to women how to respond to attacks;
- The OSCE should also address violence against women in the digital sphere as a new form of violence;
- The OSCE well-placed to address VAW online, including hateful comments in news portals.

### **SESSION III: Protection from violence and empowerment of women at work and at home**



*Luisanna Porcu Representative of D.I.R.E- Women's Network Against Violence addressing the audience at the second day of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting in Vienna, 3 July 2018 (OSCE/Micky Kroell).*

#### *Introducers:*

**Ms. Iluta Lace**, Leader of the MARTA Center, Latvia

**Ms. Jamilya Kaparova**, Head of Ensan Diamon, Kyrgyzstan

**Ms. Luisanna Porcu**, Italian National Association D.i.R.E

In Session III, participants discussed approaches and strategies to protect women from becoming victims of violence, including the prevention of re-victimization. The interventions featured exchanges of good practices in providing adequate support to and response systems for women victims, also by allowing adequate opportunities for women to achieve economic self-sufficiency. Participants stressed the need to ensure comprehensive, co-ordinated responses and to work with, not for, victims, by taking their perspectives fully into account. The need to work with youth and with men was also highlighted as a measure to prevent violence against women.

Ms. Lace illustrated the work of her organization in Latvia and its efforts to serve as a “one-stop agency” offering different types of support to victims of violence and illustrating activities that were inspired by the cooperation with the Milan Chamber of Commerce and some Italian lobby groups in support of the victims of violence and women in vulnerable situations. She emphasized the importance of avoiding further victimization and of listening to survivors rather than making decisions on their behalf. She also stressed the need to

ensure a community-coordinated response involving the police, the court system, lawmakers, and other relevant actors. She urged governments to support grassroots organizations and to involve men in addressing violence against women, for example by educating them about the impact of prostitution on women.

Ms. Kaparova highlighted the high incidence of violence against women in Kyrgyzstan, including in the forms of domestic violence, early marriages and bride kidnapping. Alongside these negative trends, she pointed to the active role of civil society in the country as a positive force for change. Kyrgyz NGOs lobbied for Central Asia's first domestic violence law and helped develop a national action plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Women's networks created in the south of Kyrgyzstan after the June 2010 violence played an important role in preventing victimization of women and served as referral mechanisms for victims. She also observed that access to education for girls is crucial in addressing the problem of early marriage. Ms. Kaparova concluded that for laws and policies to prevent and address violence against women, key ingredients are financing, public awareness, institutional capacity and monitoring by civil society.

Ms. Porcu called for a transformative approach to the problem of violence against women: transforming the issue from a private to a public issue, transforming relationships between men and women, and transforming power dynamics in society. Power must be returned to women, she argued, by supporting their self-realization and helping them to rebuild and take control of their lives. Providing women with financial support and employment, and tailoring support for women based on their personal histories, are essential to empower women and prevent re-victimization. Cultural change is also needed, Ms. Porcu emphasized, to address the constant discrimination women face in society as a result of the social construct of gender. She further noted that working to address violence against women is by its nature political work.

The following specific recommendations were made in Session III:

*Recommendations:*

- Believe victims who report violence and ensure better education for police on violence against women, so that police know how to speak to victims and what questions to ask them;
- Strengthen police responses and promptly issue protection orders to protect victims;
- Strengthen accountability for violence against women and fight impunity of perpetrators;
- Address the demand for prostitution and educate boys and men so that they do not exploit women;
- Enhance national legislation on violence against women and provide political will and financing to effectively implement legal frameworks;
- Ensure women's access to quality education and information as a top priority to prevent violence against women;
- Protect women victims from their families if needed;
- Combat sexual harassment at work, including by ousting the harassers rather than the victims;

- Promote economic empowerment for women, including by opening to women positions from which they were previously barred;
- Introduce legislation on coercive control (domestic violence without physical violence, such as economic control);
- Institute more severe punishments for the crime of abduction of women;
- Take a multi-agency approach to bring different stakeholders around the same table to effectively counter violence against women.

*Recommendations for the OSCE institutions and field operations:*

- Help women who need help, challenging stereotypes, stigma and abusive discourses;
- Promote engagement of young men and women in countering violence against women and violent masculinities. UN Security Council Resolution 2419 is a good base for this as it recognizes the role of youth in the promotion of the culture of peace;
- Raise awareness on “gendercide” through campaigns like the “Vanishing Girls” campaigns;
- Increase focus on gender mainstreaming in the 2nd dimension and on the implementation of the existing OSCE commitments on violence against women;
- Continue to promote gender equality in the armed forces.

*Recommendations for civil society, international organizations and other actors:*

- Work with victims/survivors giving them a safe space to share their stories, which can encourage others to come forward;
- Empower victims to help them undergo transformative, liberating processes, and to realize their aspirations;
- Take a one-stop-shop approach to working with victims of violence, including by giving them employment opportunities;
- Provide a community coordinated response to violence against women;
- Lobby for better laws on violence against women, using pre-election periods to make sure politicians promise do not change and then hold them accountable;
- Engage in dialogue with authorities about violence against women, using political language and emphasizing the high cost of violence in society versus the low cost of prevention;
- Use creative ways to raise awareness and inform women how to get help; this can include posting stickers with an easy-to-remember phone number in toilets or dressing rooms so that women victims know where to call for help;
- Work in schools and talk to girls and boys about topics such as pornography and bullying.

## **CLOSING SESSION**

**Ambassador Alessandro Azzoni**, Chairperson of the Permanent Council, CiO

The Chairperson expressed satisfaction with the conference where women police officers, academics, representatives of international organizations and civil society came together and united their voices to end any form of violence against women, which cannot be justified under any circumstances and must be punished. He also noted that the event offered an opportunity to reflect on progress and to call for change. He also stressed the positive developments identified during the event. The special importance attached to women's empowerment, as a prerequisite to ensure women's wellbeing, independence and autonomy in the decision making, featured as one of the examples. Finally, he valued the work of civil society, especially women's non-governmental organizations, for the recent progress in the OSCE region related to the prevention, protection and contrast to violence against women.

**Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir**, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

The Director underlined that, while the OSCE works to reinforce legal and policy frameworks and step up their implementation, including through the ratification of key regional instruments, there is a need to continue identifying the root causes of violence against women. As a matter of fact, she argued, there is a lack of understanding of how discrimination against women is so deeply engrained. She encouraged participating States to work collegially with educators, law enforcement, the judiciary, parliaments, the media and civil society. She also stressed the need to adopt a zero tolerance attitude towards sexism, misogyny, discrimination, violent and abusive language and attitudes in all workplaces. Finally, she emphasized the need to form alliances across the board to identify intersectional vulnerabilities of women and monitor data on violence against in the society. She committed ODIHR to work with OSCE participating States and partners from civil society and international organizations, in co-operation with the Office of the Senior Gender Adviser of the OSCE Secretariat, in the implementation of the recommendations from this SHDM.

### 3. ANNEXES

#### Annex 1: Short agenda



#### Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

### COUNTERING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN – EVERYONE’S RESPONSIBILITY

2-3 July 2018  
Hofburg, Vienna

#### AGENDA

#### Day 1                      2 July

[13:00 – 14:45 – side events]

15:00 – 16:00              **OPENING SESSION**

16:00 – 18:00              **SESSION I: Addressing Violence against Women – the Responsibility of the State**

18:00                          Reception hosted by the Italian OSCE Chairmanship

#### Day 2                      3 July

10:30 – 12:30              **SESSION II: Countering Violence against Women in Public Space**

12:30 – 14:30              Lunch break hosted by the Italian Chairmanship at Hofburg

[13:00 – 14:30 – side events]



14:30 – 16:30      **SESSION III: Protection from violence and empowerment of women at work and at home**

16:30 – 17:30      **CLOSING SESSION**  
Rapports from the working sessions  
Comments from the floor  
Closing remarks

17.30                Closing of the meeting

## **Annex 2: Biographical information: Keynote Speaker, Introducers and Moderators**

<b>Day 1: Monday, 2 July 2018</b>
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**15:00 – 16:00      OPENING SESSION**

### ***Keynote speakers:***

**Dr. Purna Sen**, Director of Policy Executive Coordinator and Spokesperson on Sexual Harassment and Discrimination, UN Women.

Purna Sen is Director of Policy at UN Women, and currently serves as Executive Coordinator and Spokesperson on Sexual Harassment and Discrimination. She has over 30 years' experience in working on equality and discrimination, including capacity building, service delivery, teaching, advocacy and research. Dr. Sen's work has included research, publications and policy engagement on violence against women, sexuality and sexual control, human rights, civil society organizing against violence and race equality. She has worked with many organizations including Article 19, the British Council, the Refugee Women's Resource Project and Southall Black Sisters, the Kaleidoscope Trust (an LGBT rights charity), RISE (a domestic abuse charity) and the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative. She has also published on violence against women, intersectional inequality and human rights.

Prior to UN Women, Purna was Deputy Director of the Institute of Public Affairs at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) where she also taught gender and development and conducted research on women in public life. Previously she served as Head of Human Rights for the Commonwealth Secretariat and as Director for the Asia-Pacific Programme at Amnesty International. Purna was a parliamentary candidate in the 2015 UK general election. She has a PhD on women's resistance to domestic violence.

**Ms. Simona Lanzoni**, Second Vice-President, Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), Council of Europe.

Simona Lanzoni from 2015 is a member of GREVIO-Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and from October 2017 she is the GREVIO second vice president. Lanzoni is also the gender equality rapporteur for Grevio from 2015. Before her commitment in GREVIO In 2014 she received the honour of "Commendatore della Repubblica" for her work to promote the empowerment of women and fight VAW in various countries of the world". She is a gender expert and she spent many years in the development fields in post conflict and conflict areas, in extreme poor zone of the world and later also in the western countries under different task and role (Afghanistan, India, Nepal, South African, R.D.C. and Italy). Lanzoni has been always promoting at grassroots level practices to develop women agency and economic and social empowerment in a holistic perspective together with the work of policy for the advancement of women rights, the prevention and the end of violence against women and the promotion of their wellbeing.

*Moderator:*

**Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir**, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir was appointed as Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights on 18 July 2017. Gísladóttir has 35 years of leadership experience working on human rights, democratic governance and the rule of law at the international, national and local levels. Before taking up the position of ODIHR Director, she served from 2014 as Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia and Country Representative to Turkey for UN Women. From 2011 to 2014 she was Country Representative of UN Women to Afghanistan. From 2007 to 2009, Gísladóttir served as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland. She was previously a Member of Parliament and Chairperson and Leader of the Social Democratic Alliance (2005 – 2009) and Mayor of the City of Reykjavik (1994 – 2003). Throughout her career, she has been involved in policy and development work in conflict and non-conflict countries, aimed at strengthening democratic institutions and human rights. In the early years of her political career, in 1982, Gísladóttir was one the founders of the Women's Party, laying the ground for Iceland's remarkable progress in gender equality. Gísladóttir holds a Bachelor's degree in history and literature from the University of Iceland (1979), and pursued Post-graduate studies in history at the University of Copenhagen (1979-1981). In 2004 she was a Visiting Scholar at the European Institute, London School of Economics (LSE). She speaks English, French and Danish.

**16:00 – 18:00**                    **SESSION I: Addressing Violence against Women – the Responsibility of the State**

*Introducers:*

**Ms. Sigríður Björk Guðjónsdóttir**, Police Commissioner, Reykjavik.

Sigríður Björk Guðjónsdóttir graduated from the University of Iceland as cand.jur in 1993. She took specialized courses in University of Copenhagen in 1995, among others on tax

laws and became a Tax Commissioner in Vestfirðir, Iceland in 1996. In 2002 she received a Masters degree in European law from the University of Lund and become a District Commissioner in Isafjörður that year. As a District Commissioner she was also head of Customs in the area and a prosecutor as well as a Chief of Police. In 2007 she became a deputy National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police. She became District Commissioner of Suðurnes Police in 2009 and the District Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police in Iceland in 2014. She has diplomas in management and management of Policing from the University of Iceland. She has participated in various projects during her career, among others to establish a national security unit, a strong focus on violence against women and children, a university education for police officers and servant leadership.

**Ms. Tijana Milošević**, Head of the Department for Appeals and Complains in the Office of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality.

Tijana Milošević completed her master studies at the Law Faculty at the University of Novi Sad with master thesis related to victimology profile of women victims of domestic violence, and she got her BA degree at the Law Faculty at the University of Novi Sad. Since 2012 she has been employed with the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, currently working as the Head of Complaints Department. In 2007 she became a certified trainer in antidiscrimination and suppression of violence against women and has held numerous training and education sessions for representatives of different institutions, but has also acted as a peer educator. Prior to the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, she had worked in a Social Welfare Center as a member of the Team for the protection of women and children against domestic violence and had been a hotline volunteer dealing with women and children victims of domestic violence. She is also a member of the Working group on Gender Equality and Violence against Women and Gender-Based Violence of the Equinet - the European Network of Equality Bodies. She is the author of several publications and working papers, including “Guidebook for youth: Recognize violence in partner relationships” and „Violence against women with disabilities in residential settings“.

**Dr. Ethel Brooks**, Associate Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies and Sociology at Rutgers University.

Dr. Ethel Brooks is an Associate Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies and Sociology at Rutgers University, where she has held various positions since 2001. She has been a Tate-TrAIN Transnational Fellow at the University of the Arts London since 2012, where she was also US-UK Fulbright Distinguished Chair from 2011 to 2012. Dr. Brooks is Chair of the European Roma Rights Center and serves as a member of numerous boards and commissions, including the USC Shoah Foundation and the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis. In 2016, Dr. Brooks was appointment by President Obama to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. She also served as a Public Member of the United States Delegation to the Human Dimension Implementation meetings of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and is a member of the United States Delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and its Roma Genocide Working Group.

**Moderator:**

**Ms. Christie Edwards**, Deputy Head, Tolerance and Non-discrimination Department, ODIHR.

Christie Edwards is an internationally recognized and published expert with over eighteen years of experience working on international humanitarian and human rights law, gender, international policy and advocacy, and international community development. Christie has lead successful non-profit management and implementation programs, strategic planning, fundraising, and grants management in senior leadership roles at the national and international level with prominent NGOs and international organizations. Currently, Christie serves as the Deputy Head of the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department of the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, addressing issues of racism, xenophobia, religious discrimination, and hate crimes in the 57 OSCE participating States.

<b>Day 2: Tuesday, 3 July 2018</b>
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**10:00 – 12:00**            **SESSION II: Countering Violence against Women in Public Space**

***Introducers:***

**Ms. Zeina Hilal**, Gender Partnership Programme, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Zeina Hilal has worked with parliaments to advance development, human rights and gender equality for the past 18 years. She joined the IPU in 2006 after having served at UNDP from 2000 to 2006. Zeina is now responsible of the IPU's Gender Partnership Programme and works with parliaments from around the world on advancing gender equality and protecting women's rights, enhancing women's political participation, promoting gender-sensitive reforms and ending violence against women, in particular in politics.

**Ms. Maria D'Amico**, PANGEA ONLUS

Maria D'Amico is a journalist and responsible for several projects at Pangea ONLUS. She leads the communication team of the Italian Committee for Gender Equality. In the past she was responsible for the communication office of numerous associations promoting gender equality.

**Ms. Majda Halilović**, trainer, educator, and facilitator for legal professionals in BiH on the topics of gender equality, gender bias and law, and gender mainstreaming.

Majda Halilovic is head of research and policy at the Atlantic Initiative, Center for Security and Justice research in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since 2011 she has been working on the implementation of a multi-year gender and justice project focused on strengthening equality between women and men in the judiciary in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She conducts research and manages the implementation of programme activities in the areas of gender bias and the judiciary, domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape and sexual assault. She holds a doctorate in sociology and social policy.

***Moderator:***

**Dr. Marcin Walecki**, Head of Democratization Department, ODIHR.

Marcin Walecki possesses over 20 years of democracy assistance and governance experience working in more than 40 countries around the world. He also presents regularly at international conferences, seminars, and has written for numerous publications on democratization, political corruption, political financing, elections, political parties, and gender equality. A Polish citizen, Walecki holds a doctorate of philosophy in politics from St. Antony's College at Oxford University and a master's in Law from the Department of Law and Administration at the University of Warsaw. He is the former Executive Director of the European Partnership for Democracy (Brussels), and a Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy.

**14:30 – 16:30**                    **SESSION III: Protection from Violence and Empowerment of Women at Work and at Home**

***Introducers:***

**Ms. Iluta Lace**, Leader of the MARTA Centre, Latvia.

Iluta Lace has been a social worker, a trainer and feminist - activist involved in women's organisations. She organised a women's list to the Parliament elections in 1998 when only few women were on the election lists of the political parties. She started the Resource Centre for Women "Marta" (since 2017 – MARTA Centre) that educates women about their rights, provides them with information, and helps women develop their knowledge base and competency so that women gain confidence in their own abilities to successfully realize their goals. By Iluta's support it was started a special program for rehabilitation of women suffered from trafficking in human beings as well as victims of domestic violence in Latvia. She also facilitates amendments in legislation on prevention of violence against women, trafficking in human beings and promotes gender equality in education. Currently she facilitates development of community coordinated response for cases of domestic violence and cases of sexual exploitation. She was a vice president of the European Women's Lobby from 2004-2008. She has provided expertise on women's rights culture in countries like Russia, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and facilitated development of social services for women in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey.

**Ms. Jamilya Kaparova**, Head of Ensan Diamon, Kyrgyzstan.

Jamilya Kaparova is the founder and head of the public association "Ensan Diamond" (2003), the objective of which is to achieve gender equality in Kyrgyzstan. Her organization conducts its activities in the field of gender studies, through capacity building training and practical actions in communities through the Network of the Women's Initiative Groups established in 2011 first in three southern regions and later in the whole country. The organization also actively promotes legislative initiatives; in 2003 under the leadership of Jamilya Kaparova more than 7,000 (out of 36,000 in the country) signatures were collected

in support of the Law "On the social and legal protection from domestic violence". In 2016 and 2017, Jamiliya, together with other activists, promoted the adoption of the Law "On Protection and Protection Against Family Violence" and the "Law on Early Marriages". In recent years, Jamiliya has been working on the issue of gender aspects of security, working with law enforcement agencies to integrate a gender perspective into their work and prevent gender-based violence. Active in the public life of the country, she is a member of the Public Council under the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the KR, and since 2016 a member of the Coordination Council for Social Protection of Population and Children's Rights under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

**Ms. Luisanna Porcu**, Representative of the National Association D.i.R.E., Italy.

Luisanna Porcu is a feminist psychologist and psychotherapist; expert in gender issues, committed for years in supporting women survivors of male violence. She is the secretary of the national association D.i.Re - Women Network against violence, which includes 80 associations throughout the national territory. She is also the president of the association "Onda Rosa di Nuoro" that manages the Anti-Violence Center and the Refuge House, which is first in Sardinia. She has edited numerous publications and is responsible for the association's capacity building training programmes.

***Moderator:***

**Ms. Jennifer Croft**, Deputy Head, Human Rights Department, ODIHR.

Jennifer Croft has served as the Deputy Head of the Human Rights Department at OSCE ODIHR since November 2017. In this position she helps to lead the management of programmes addressing diverse issues related to human rights and security in the OSCE region. From 2010-2017 she worked as a Senior Adviser to the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, advising on the prevention of tensions involving national minority issues in a number of countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Previously she held a number of positions with the U.S. State Department and USAID and worked as a consultant for non-governmental organizations involved in the promotion of human rights and independent media.