

HDIM 2018 - Session 15: Tolerance and non-discrimination II, including ensuring equal opportunity for women and men in all spheres of life, including through the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, and prevention of violence against women
Intervention of Slovenia, Warsaw, 19.9.2018

Madame Moderator,

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement.

Gender equality and empowerment of women are high on the Slovenian political agenda. Slovenian government is led by Constitution and relevant legislation, guaranteeing equality before the law. Slovenia remains deeply committed to the high international and national standards of gender equality, which are set up in our gender equality national programme as well as in Slovenia's Development Strategy by 2030.

Slovenia tends to rate high in various gender equality indexes, but there is always a room for improvement. While we can track significant progress in certain areas, such as political decision-making, employment, work-life balance, many challenges remain.

Addressing **violence against women** is of key importance not only for women's empowerment but also for the benefit of whole societies. Comprehensive approach to tackling violence, its causes and consequences is needed. There is a need to challenge cultural norms and practices that perpetuate societal inequalities and represent a root cause for violence against women.

Violence against women and girls is present in all OSCE participating states. It is a form of discrimination that seriously violates the enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. It presents one of the major obstacles in achieving gender equality.

Slovenia is aware of the important role played by women in economic, social, cultural and political aspects of every day's life, therefore we promote the integration of gender perspective into policies at all levels, including development cooperation, humanitarian assistance and peace and security related activities.

Let me conclude by saying that the sustained work on gender equality and on the prevention of violence against women must be a joint responsibility of both, women and men.

Thank you, Madame Moderator