



SECRETARIAT

AS/EGA/Gender/Network/London/CB (2014) 01
12 December 2014

To the members of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

Synopsis

of the meeting of the Sub-committee on Gender Equality and the Parliamentary Network “Women Free from Violence”

The Sub-committee on Gender Equality and the Parliamentary Network “Women Free from Violence, meeting in London on 9 December 2014, as regards:

- **Parliamentary Seminar:** actively participated in the Seminar *Women Free From Violence in the United Kingdom: the Istanbul Convention*;
- **Follow-up:** asked the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee to report back to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination at one of its next meetings.

Giorgio Loddo

Cc.: Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
Director of Communication
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

APPENDIX I

PROGRAMME OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR



Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR

**SUB-COMMITTEE ON GENDER EQUALITY
PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK "WOMEN FREE FROM VIOLENCE"
ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON EQUALITIES**

**WOMEN FREE FROM VIOLENCE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM:
THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION**

**LONDON
TUESDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2014
10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Portcullis House, House of Commons (*Attlee Suite, 1st Floor*)

PROGRAMME

09:30 Registration of participants

10:00 Welcome speeches:

- **Baroness Nicholson**, UK representative on the Council of Europe Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence

SESSION 1: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: TAKING STOCK OF THE SITUATION

Session to be facilitated by **Ms Sandra Osborne MP**, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Equalities

Presentations followed by discussion:

Inquiry into Violence against Women and Girls

- **Dr Hywel Francis MP** Chair, Joint Committee on Human Rights

Forced marriages

- **Ms Jasvinder Sanghera** Karma Nirvana
- **Ms Pragna Patel** Southall Black Sisters

Stalking and harassment

- **Rt. Hon. Elwyn Llwyd MP** Chair, All-Party Group on Stalking and Harassment
- **Ms Ann Moulds** Action Scotland Against Stalking
- **Ms Alexis Bowater** Network for Surviving Stalking

Female Genital Mutilations

- **Ms Christine Townsend** Integrate Bristol

SESSION 2: TACKLING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Session to be facilitated by **Ms Sahiba Gafarova**, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Presentations followed by discussion:

The Istanbul Convention: a holistic approach to tackling violence against women

- **Ms Lisa Gormley** Amnesty International

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Harmonising national legislations with the Istanbul Convention Standards

- **Ms Hilary Fisher** Women's Aid

Involving men in combating violence against women

- **Mr Chris Green** White Ribbon Campaign

12:45 Conclusions

13:00 End of seminar, followed by

Buffet lunch for visiting Assembly members and invited participants (*Attlee Suite*).



APPENDIX II

PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR WOMEN FREE FROM VIOLENCE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION

**All-Party Parliamentary Group on Equalities
Parliamentary Network “Women Free from Violence” and
Sub-Committee on Gender Equality**

London, 9 December 2014

CONCLUSIONS

The participants in the Conference, including members of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Equalities of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence and of the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, recall that violence against women is one of the most severe and widespread human rights violations.

The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), is the most comprehensive legally-binding international instrument in this field and has been rightly referred to as “the golden standard”. It is based on a holistic approach encompassing prevention of violence, protection of the victims, prosecution of perpetrators and integrated policies involving all relevant actors. Close co-operation between the public authorities and civil society is crucial and effective action to combat violence is impossible without it.

No country is immune from violence against women: this Conference has contributed to shedding light on the various forms of violence faced by women and girls in the United Kingdom, which are not dissimilar to those found in other countries. It has also raised awareness on the relevance of the Istanbul Convention and the added value of its provisions, aiming to counter manifestations of violence and also its root causes embedded in society.

The participants in the Conference urged the United Kingdom Government to ratify the Istanbul Convention, while highlighting that much of the relevant legislation in place in the UK was already in line with the Convention’s standards. The UK Government should then take an active part in the establishment of GREVIO, the Convention’s monitoring body composed of independent experts, and support its action.

Finally, participants thanked the Parliament of the United Kingdom for organising the Conference and inviting the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence and the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality to meet in London jointly with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Equalities.

APPENDIX III**SUB-COMMITTEE ON GENDER EQUALITY/
SOUS-COMMISSION SUR L'EGALITE DE GENRE****LIST OF PRESENCE / LISTE DE PRESENCE**

The names of present are **in bold** / *Les noms des présents sont en gras.*

Chairperson / Présidente

Ms Sahiba GAFAROVA Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-présidente

Ms Guguli MAGRADZE Georgia / Géorgie

Members / Membres**Alternates / Remplaçants**

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Ms Silvia Eloïsa BONET PEROT | Andorra / Andorre | |
| 2. | Ms Ismeta DERVOZ | Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie-Herzégovine | |
| 3. | Ms Ingrid ANTIČEVIĆ MARINOVIĆ | Croatia / Croatie | |
| 4. | Ms Athina KYRIAKIDOU | Cyprus / Chypre | Mr Nicos NICOLAIDES |
| 5. | Ms Riitta MYLLER | Finland / Finlande | |
| 6. | Ms Eleni KOUNTOURA | Greece / Grèce | Ms Eleni RAPTI |
| 7. | Mr Michael McNAMARA | Ireland / Irlande | |
| 8. | Ms Maria Edera SPADONI | Italy / Italie | Ms Elena CENTEMERO |
| 9. | Mme Françoise HETTO-GAASCH | Luxembourg | M. Yves CRUCHTEN |
| 10. | Mme Béatrice FRESKO-ROLFO | Monaco | |
| 11. | Ms Snezana JONICA | Montenegro | |
| 12. | Ms Elzbieta RADZISZEWSKA | Poland/Pologne | |
| 13. | Mr José MENDES BOTA | Portugal | |
| 14. | Ms Ana BIRCHALL | Romania | Mr Conneliu-Mugurel COZMANCIUC |
| 15. | Ms Aleksandra DJUROVIĆ | Serbia / Serbie | |
| 16. | Ms Carina HÄGG | Sweden / Suède | Mr Jonas GUNNARSSON |
| 17. | Mr Gerhard PFISTER | Switzerland / Suisse | |
| 18. | Ms Gülsün BİLGEHAN | Turkey/Turquie | Ms Tülin ERKAL KARA |

Ex officio:

Ms Gisela WURM

Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination/
Présidente de la Commission sur l'égalité et la non-discrimination

Other parliamentarians / Autres parlementaires

Mr Philippe BLANCHART Belgium / Belgique
Ms Marit MAIJ Netherlands / Pays-Bas
Ms Sandra Osborne MP Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Equalities

Parliamentary Network “Women Free from Violence”
Réseau parlementaire pour « le droit des femmes de vivre sans violence »

LIST OF PRESENCE / LISTE DE PRESENCE

The names of present are **in bold** / *Les noms des présents sont en gras.*

Member States	Members	Political group
Albania	...	...
Andorra	Sílvia Eloïsa Bonet Perot	SOC
Armenia	Naira Karapetyan	EPP/CD
Austria	Gisela Wurm	SOC
Azerbaijan	Sevinj Fataliyeva	EDG
Belgium	Philippe Blanchart (Chamber of Deputies)	SOC
	Cindy Franssen (Senate)	EPP/CD
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ismeta Dervoz	EPP/CD
Bulgaria	Deniza Karadjova	SOC
Croatia	Igor Kolman	ALDE
Cyprus	Athina Kyriakidou	SOC
Czech Republic	Dana Vahalová	SOC
Denmark	Lone Lokindt	ALDE
Estonia	Mailis Reps	ALDE
Finland	Ritta Myller	SOC
France	... (National Assembly)	
	... (Senate)	
Georgia	Chiora Taktakishvili	ALDE
Germany	Mechthild Rawert	SOC
Greece	Maria Giannakaki	SOC
Hungary	Attila Gruber	EPP/CD
Iceland	Ögmundur Jónasson	UEL
Ireland	Olivia Mitchell	EPP/CD
Italy	Deborah Bergamini	EPP/CD
Latvia	...	...
Liechtenstein	Judith Oehri	ALDE
Lithuania	Birutė Vėsaitė	SOC
Luxembourg	Françoise Hetto-Gaasch	EPP/CD
Malta	Deborah Schembri	SOC
Republic of Moldova	Liliana Palihovici	EPP/CD
Monaco	Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo	EPP/CD
Montenegro	Snezana Jonica	SOC
Netherlands	Khadija Arib	SOC
Norway	...	...
Poland	Elzbieta Radziszewska	EPP/CD
Portugal	José Mendes Bota	EPP/CD
Romania	Ana Birchall	SOC
Russian Federation	Nadezda Gerasimova	EDG
San Marino	Gerardo Giovagnoli	SOC
Serbia	Aleksandra Djurovic	EPP/CD
Slovak Republic	Helena Mezenská	NR

Member States	Members	Political group
Slovenia	Matjaž Hanžek	UEL
Spain	Carmen Quintanilla Barba	EPP/CD
Sweden	...	...
Switzerland	Gerhard Pfister	EPP/CD
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Ermira Mehmeti Devaja	SOC
Turkey	Tülin Erkal Kara	EDG
Ukraine	...	...
United Kingdom	Baroness Nicholson	ALDE

Observers	Members	
Canada	David Tilson	
Mexico	Diva Hadamira Gastelum	

Partners for democracy	Members	
Palestinian National Council	Najat Al-Astal	
Morocco	Nezha El Ouafi	

Invited guests / Hôtes invités/es

Ms Alexis BOWATER, Network for Surviving Stalking
Ms Hilary FISHER, Women's Aid
Dr Hywel FRANCIS MP, Chair, Joint Committee on Human Rights
Ms Lisa GORMLEY, Amnesty International
Mr Chris GREEN, White Ribbon Campaign
Rt. Hon. Eifyn LLWYD MP, Chair, All-Party Group on Stalking and Harassment
Ms Ann MOULDS, Action Scotland against Stalking
Baroness NICHOLSON, UK Representative of the Council of Europe, Parliamentary Network Women « Free from Violence »
Ms Sandra OSBORNE MP, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Equalities
Ms Pragna PATEL, Southall Black Sisters
Ms Jasvinder SANGHERA, Karma Nirvana
Ms Christine TOWNSEND, Integrate Bristol

Also present / Egalement présents/es

Ms Pooja S. AVLANI, House of Commons, Media
Ms Megan CONWAY, Joint Committee on Human Rights
Mr Harry FLETCHER, Digital Trust
Ms Alison GAME, Overseas Office, Inward Visits Manager
Ms Helen HAYWOOD, Deputy Chief Executive, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Baroness LISTER, member of the Joint Committee on Human Rights
Ms Clare MULLEN, Outreach Officer, House of Commons
Ms Nicole PICHE, Co-ordinator, APPG on Human Rights
Ms Emily PIGNON, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Ms Polly ROBERTS, Deputy Head, Policy Research Unit, House of Commons
Mr Julius VEASEY, Wilton Park, United Kingdom

Secretariat of the British delegation / Secrétariat de la délégation britannique

Ms Christine McGRANE
Mr Nick WRIGHT, Delegation secretary / *Secrétaire de la délégation*

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / ASSEMBLEE
PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

Mr Giorgio LODDO, Secretary to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination / *Secrétaire de
la Commission sur l'égalité et la non-discrimination*

Ms Jocelyne GIBERT, Assistant / *Assistante*