



NO HATE
PARLIAMENTARY
ALLIANCE



**PACE Thematic Project on
Equality and non-discrimination: the role of national parliaments
2016-2018**

RATIONALE

The Council of Europe has established a solid legal and political framework for human rights and gender equality, starting with **the European Convention of Human Rights (1950)**. Article 1 of the Convention guarantees the rights and freedoms to everyone in the jurisdiction of the 47 member States of the Council of Europe. The principle of non-discrimination on the basis of sex is guaranteed by both Article 14 and Protocol 12 to the Convention. In addition, **the European Social Charter (1961)** establishes enjoyment of economic and social rights without discrimination.

With the aim of increasing the scope and visibility of standards on gender equality and non-discrimination as well as meeting the current needs of European societies, the Council of Europe has recently established new strategies:

- **The Council of Europe Strategy for equality between women and men (2014-2017), (2018-2023)**, adopted by the Committee of Ministers (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/gender-equality-strategy>);
- **The Istanbul Convention (2014)**, *Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence*. This treaty established the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (**GREVIO**) and asked the Parliamentary Assembly to participate in the monitoring and evaluation of the Convention (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/non-discrimination>);
- **No Hate Speech Movement “NO HATE” (2013)** (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/no-hate-campaign>). This movement, always active, was launched by the Youth Service of the Council of Europe which mobilised, first of all young people at local and national level and then other actors, for the fight against racism, intolerance and hate speech on social networks, in face of growing populism.

Since 2012, the Council of Europe has also had a substantial budget within the framework of joint programs, financed by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe, to encourage activities in the field, aiming at the effective implementation of its principles of gender equality and non-discrimination in Member States.

PACE PROJECT

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) is very active in the fight for the rights and equality of women and men and for non-discrimination through the work of **PACE Committee on Equality and Non-discrimination**. Thanks to its work, the Assembly has adopted a large number of texts in this area which deal with the fight against discrimination based on sex, the elimination of sexist language, the protection of women against violence, the balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making, the integrated approach to equality in education, sport and media, to name just a few as an example.

PACE resolutions and recommendations are essential standards for member states in the drafting of laws and the establishment of policies at national level aimed at respecting internationally accepted standards in the field of equality between women and men.

In addition, since 2006, the Assembly has actively participated in the campaign against violence done to women and then set up a **Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence**

(<http://www.assembly.coe.int/LifeRay/EGA/WomenFFViolence/DepliantWomenFreeFromViolence-BIL.pdf>). The Network actively campaigns for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and its effective implementation in national legislations of member States and beyond (<http://www.assembly.coe.int/nw/Page-EN.asp?LID=WFfV>).

The Assembly has also joined the “NO HATE” movement and created “**No Hate Parliamentary Alliance**”, open to members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and to members of delegations having observer and partner for democracy status (Jordan, Morocco, Palestine) with the Assembly. Their commitment is formalised by signing the [Charter of commitments](#) for membership in the Alliance (<http://www.assembly.coe.int/nw/Page-EN.asp?LID=NoHate>).

The PACE Parliamentary Project Support Division (PPSD) is responsible for the development of various joint programs with the European Union and country-specific projects funded by voluntary contributions from member States at parliamentary level. In the context of its ongoing activities in 2016-2018, PPSD integrated equality and non-discrimination issues, in close co-operation with the Committee on Equality and Non-discrimination and its networks, in the various programs which it developed with its partners in 2016-2018 – see below: Chapter on *Implementation and achievements* and the *Calendar of implemented activities 2016-2018*. It also provided logistical support to the operation of the two parliamentary networks mentioned above, since 2013

IMPLEMENTATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The PACE Parliamentary Project Support Division (PPSD) organised, between May 2016 and September 2018, **six parliamentary activities on equality and non-discrimination with a total number of 291 participants registered**: 161 parliamentarians (PACE MPs, MPs from national parliaments) and 130 other participants (experts, NGOs, international organisations, representatives of governments), in order to better implement PACE resolutions and recommendations in member States and in partner countries from the Southern Mediterranean Region (see *Calendar of Implemented activities 2016-2018 below*).

The activities of this project focused on **the three major themes** which have been integrated within the framework of various ongoing projects:

- ❖ **Participation of women in political life [Resolution 2222 (2018)]¹** - this theme was discussed at two regional parliamentary conferences, in 2016 and 2018, organised for the Parliaments of Jordan, Morocco and the Palestinian National Council, as part of the cooperation program with the Southern Mediterranean region, South Programme II (2015-2017) and South Programme III (2018-2021), joint programme with EU;
- ❖ **Women free from violence [Resolution 2084 (2015)]²** - the discussions on this theme focused on legislative advances and the role of national parliaments in the application of international standards in this field by the countries concerned – in 2017, during the Seminar organised for Ukrainian MPs as part of the Action Plan for Ukraine (2015-2017), and in 2018, at the Regional Conference for MPs from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Palestine, in the framework of the South Program III (2018-2021), joint programme with EU for countries of the Southern Mediterranean Region;
- ❖ **Combating intolerance and discrimination by avoiding hate speech [Resolution 1967 (2014)]³** - this theme aimed to give parliamentarians from countries, which have recently committed themselves to respecting the “Charter of commitments for membership in the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance”, means to improve legislation and operational mechanisms to guarantee their citizens better protection against racism, intolerance and hate speech. Two seminars on this subject were held, in 2016 and in 2017, for MPs from Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the framework of the Horizontal Facility I (2016-2019), joint program with the EU for Western Balkans.

These activities were organised in close cooperation with the PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and its two networks: Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence and No Hate Parliamentary Alliance (see *links above in the Chapter “PACE Project”*).

¹ Resolution 2222 (2018) Promoting diversity and equality in politics; Resolution 2111 (2016) Assessing the impact of measures to improve women’s political representation; Resolution 1898 (2012) Political parties and women’s political representation; Resolution 1489 (2006) Mechanisms to ensure women’s participation in decision-making

² Resolution 2084 (2015) Promoting best practices in tackling violence against women; Resolution 1861 (2012) Promoting the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

³ Resolution 1967 (2014) A strategy for the prevention of racism and intolerance in Europe.

**CALENDAR OF IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES IN 2016-2018
and participation statistics**

| Date and Venue / Programme | Activity and framework programme | MPs | Other participants |
|----------------------------------|---|------------|--------------------|
| 30 May 2016 AMMAN | Seminar on parliamentary democracy and a hearing on the participation of women in political life between the Chairperson of the PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and members of the Jordanian Parliament <i>In the framework of the South Programme II (2015-2017), joint programme with EU for countries from the South Mediterranean Region</i> | 20 | 13 |
| 15 December 2016 SARAJEVO | National seminar for the National Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina on "Combating intolerance and discrimination by avoiding hate speech: the role of parliamentarians", in cooperation with the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance <i>In the framework of the Horizontal Facility I (2016-2019), joint programme with UE for Western Balkans</i> | 10 | 18 |
| 28-29 September 2017 BUDAPEST | National seminar for the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on "The exchange of experiences on the role of parliaments in preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence", in cooperation with the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence <i>In the framework of the Action Plan for Ukraine (2015-2017)</i> | 20 | 16 |
| 24 November 2017 TIRANA | National seminar for the Parliament of Albania on "Combating intolerance, discrimination and hatred", in cooperation with the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance <i>In the framework of the Horizontal Facility I (2016-2019), joint programme with UE for Western Balkans</i> | 51 | 45 |
| 5 July 2018 RABAT | Regional conference on "Women in politics: how to progress towards equality?" at the invitation of the Parliament of Morocco and in cooperation with the PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination <i>In the framework of the South Programme III (2018-2021), joint programme with EU for countries from the South Mediterranean Region</i> | 32 | 26 |
| 20 September 2018 PARIS | Regional Parliamentary Conference on "Preventing and combating violence against women. Legislative advances and international standards in the Southern Mediterranean countries: the role of parliaments", at the invitation of the Parliament of Morocco and in cooperation with the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence <i>In the framework of the South Programme III (2018-2021), joint programme with EU for countries from the South Mediterranean Region</i> | 28 | 12 |
| Total | | 161 | 130 |
| TOTAL PARTICIPATION | | 291 | |