



PARLIAMENTARY WEBINAR

COVID-19 AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

DATE AND TIME: 19 May 2020, from 16.00 to 17.00 (CEST)

Live streaming at <https://www.facebook.com/NetworkWomenFreefromViolence/>

Participants:

- ▶ **Dunja Mijatović**, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
- ▶ **Monica Ferro**, UNFPA, Director of the Geneva office
- ▶ **Fourat Ben Chikha**, PACE, General Rapporteur on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people
- ▶ **Neil Datta**, Secretary, European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights
- ▶ **Caroline Hickson**, Regional Director, IPPF European Network
- ▶ **Orla O'Connor**, Director, National Women's Council of Ireland

Moderator:

- ▶ **Petra Bayr**, Chairperson, Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe



■ As the Covid-19 pandemic burdens, and often overwhelms, public health services across Europe and throughout the world, sexual and reproductive healthcare are among the first services to be negatively impacted. The complete “lockdown” and other emergency measures adopted in most Council of Europe member States to contain the virus have hindered women’s access to such services.

■ Furthermore, some governments have used the crisis to justify scaling down or altogether removing the provision of sexual and reproductive health care services thus putting at stake women’s hard-won rights.

■ However, positive developments and innovative solutions to cope with the crisis and maintain the provision of sexual and reproductive services have also been reported in several European countries. They range from phone and online consultations for contraception to abortion pre-meetings and prenatal care, or the use of distance learning for comprehensive sexuality education.

■ This webinar aims to discuss and raise awareness of the current threats to sexual and reproductive health and rights and to share the good practices identified in tackling the problems encountered.

■ The event will also contribute to updating the work of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination in this area. Petra Bayr, Chairperson of this Committee and rapporteur on “Empowering women: promoting access to contraception”, will introduce and moderate the webinar.