



BRUSSELS, 20-21 November 2017

Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights 2017 "Women's Rights in Turbulent Times"

Women's and girls' rights need promotion and protection, as they continue to be challenged. Any regression is unacceptable. Gender equality has been a core value since the very creation of the European Union. The promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls are crucial for achieving social justice, building resilient democratic societies, and achieving sustainable development, as set out in the Agenda 2030.

The 2017 Colloquium aims to expand political engagement, to activate all stakeholders, and to improve mutual cooperation for the promotion and protection of the fundamental rights of women and girls. Politicians, representatives of civil society, activists, leading academics, businesses and trade unions, media representatives, journalists, and international organisations will reflect together on the relationship between the fulfilment of fundamental rights for women, and pluralism, solidarity, tolerance, justice and equality.

The wide range of topics for discussion will include the presence and normalisation of misogyny in society and its links to the violation of the fundamental rights of women in all spheres of life; the key obstacles to gender equality in economic empowerment and political participation; the international women's movement and the shifting space for civil society; violence against women and links to other forms of violence in society, including in the context of populist and extremist movements; the gendered nature of hate speech, racism, and other forms of discrimination. The discussions during this event will explore avenues for action to ensure women's rights and work towards gender equality in the EU.

This Colloquium meets in the form of a roundtable where all will discuss on an equal footing and in an interactive manner how EU institutions, EU Member States, International Organisations, NGOs, trade unions, employers, academics, journalists and media representatives can promote fundamental rights for all women and girls. Each session will be introduced by short "impulse statements" to trigger the discussion. The floor will then immediately be opened to the roundtable participants.

Meeting venue: Palais d'Egmont, 8 bis Rue des Petits Carmes, Brussels

Monday 20 November 2017
Social justice and the Europe we want to live in

13:00 – 14:00 **Registration and coffee** (Atrium)

PLENARY SESSIONS

14:00 – 14:30 **Welcome and introduction** (Europe room)
Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President, European Commission

Spoken word performance
Jo Burgess, actor, singer-songwriter and poet

14:30 – 15:30
Plenary A

Women's rights under attack (Europe Room)
After a period of progress on gender equality and fulfilment of women's rights, currently many areas remain stagnant. This session will explore the rise of anti-gender movements on the one hand and the surge in criticism of sexism and misogyny through popular movements on the other hand.

Impulse statements by

Mary Beard	Professor at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
David Paternotte	Assistant Professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium
Barbara Nowacka	Chair of <i>Inicjatywa Polska</i> , leader of the Polish pro-choice movement <i>Ratujmy Kobiety</i>

followed by a round-table discussion

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee Break** (Atrium)

16:00 – 17:00
Plenary B

Equal participation at work and in politics: a fundamental rights prerequisite (Europe Room)

This session will discuss the intrinsic value of representation in all areas of public life, and explore what it means for our societies when women are under-represented in decision-making positions, when women's voices are silenced in public debates, and when women lack economic autonomy.

Impulse statements by

Madi Sharma	Member of the European Economic and Social Committee, businesswoman
Katrien Meire	Chief Executive of Charlton Athletic Football Club, United Kingdom
Wim Slabbinck	Clinical sexologist, historian and anthropologist
Étienne Davignon	Minister of State and former Vice-Chairman of European Commission

followed by a round-table discussion

17:00 – 18:00
Plenary C

Confronting a culture of violence (Europe room)

This session will link the pervasiveness of gender-based violence in the EU to culture, attitudes and questions about the very fabric of our society: is there peace in the EU when half of the population is at risk of gender-based violence?

Impulse statements by

Sanam Anderlini Co-founder and Executive Director of International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), adjunct professor at Georgetown University, United States of America

Lídia Puigvert

-Mallart

Professor at the University of Barcelona, Spain

Gilles Lazimi

Medical Doctor, member of the French *Haut Conseil à l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes* and activist

Assita Kanko

Town councillor in Ixelles, Belgium, member of the Board of Directors of the Belgian Development Agency

followed by a round-table discussion

18:00 – 18:30
Conclusions

Closing (Europe Room)

Virginija Langbakk Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality

Michael O'Flaherty Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Closing remarks

Kate Gilmore

United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

18:30 – 19:30

Networking reception with musical intermezzo by HUNT (Marble Gallery)

Indie-soul and electro beats with a post-romantic attitude in vocals and visuals. The members of the Estonian band HUNT are Hannaliisa Uusma, Chief Specialist of Equality Policy at the Estonian Ministry for Social Affairs, Brigitta Davidjants, Communications Specialist at the Estonian LGBT Association, and Kristin Pärn, designer

19:30
Speech

Dinner (invitation only) (Hall of Mirrors)

Mary Robinson

First woman President of Ireland (1990–1997), former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997–2002) and member of The Elders, the group of independent global leaders founded by Nelson Mandela

Moderator: Shada Islam, Director of Policy, Friends of Europe

Tuesday 21 November 2017

Building resilient gender equal societies, fit for the future

7:45 – 8:15

Registration (for those who did not attend on 20 November)

8:15 – 8:45

Opening words

Morning coffee (Hall of Mirrors)

Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Vice-President of the European Parliament

MORNING PARALLEL SESSIONS I

9:00 – 10:30

Parallel session I.a

Empowering women's public voices, including online (Orange room)

This session will examine the underlying mechanisms that fuel misogynistic hate speech especially in the online world. It will look at the impact of misogynistic hate speech on women's voices and choices. The session will also look at legal frameworks and best practices to support and protect women who are victims of hate speech.

Impulse statements by

Milena Santerini

Member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies and Member of the 'Jo Cox' Committee on Intolerance, Xenophobia, Racism and Hate Phenomena

Linnéa Claesson

Handball player, law student and Founder of *@assholesonline*

Sophie Gaston

Deputy Director of the British think-tank *Demos*

Ioannis

Dimitrakopoulos

Head of the Equality and Citizens' Rights Department at the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

followed by a round-table discussion

Moderator: Jacki Davis, journalist, speaker and moderator

9:00 – 10:30

Parallel session I.b

Women's economic empowerment: is it possible to close the gender pay gap? (Arenberg room)

This session will explore the different roots of the gender pay gap, such as discrimination, vertical and horizontal segregations, education, stereotypes and unconscious bias and unknown privileges, alongside structural and institutional inequalities that result in pay inequalities between women and men.

Impulse statements by

Gloria Mills

President of the European Trade Union Confederation Women's Committee

Bianka Siwinska

Executive Director of Polish Educational Foundation *Perspektywy*

Raphael Crowe

Senior Gender Specialist at the International Labour Organization

followed by a round-table discussion

Moderator: Joanna Maycock, Secretary-General of the European Women's Lobby

9:00 – 10:30
Parallel session I.c

Harnessing our collective capacity to end violence against women (Europe room)

This session will explore the importance of co-operation between Member States, European institutions and NGOs in combating violence against women, with particular attention to the Istanbul Convention's role as a catalyst.

Impulse statements by

Ayşe Feride Acar	President of GREVIO (independent expert body monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention)
Ol'ga Pietruchová	Director of the Department of Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and the Family of the Slovak Republic
Marai Larasi	Executive Director of British NGO <i>Imkaan</i>

followed by a round-table discussion

Moderator: Irene Donadio, Senior Lead, Strategy and Partnership, International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee break (Hall of Mirrors and Atrium)

MORNING PARALLEL SESSIONS II

11:00 – 12:30
Parallel session II.a

Promoting women's rights through inclusive and sustainable civil society (Europe room)

This session will discuss women's movements and the challenges caused by the shifting space for civil society. It will look into the mobilisation of traditional allies as well as of those organisations and citizens which do not traditionally identify with feminism or women's movements.

Impulse statements by

Gráinne Healy	Feminist activist, former Co-Director of the Yes Equality campaign which led and won the marriage equality referendum in Ireland
Sanda Brūna	Co-founder of Latvian youth street sports and culture movement <i>Ghetto Games</i>
Edgars Gertners	Investigative journalist and representative of Latvian organization <i>Streetbasket</i>
Edith Schratzberger -Vecsei	President of the European Women's Lobby

followed by a round-table discussion

Moderator: David Paternotte, Assistant Professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

11:00 – 12:30
Parallel session II.b

Engendering democracy: women in the political process (Arenberg room)

This session will raise questions about the legitimacy of our democracies in the context of the low representation of women in politics, and link the relative absence of women's voices in the public debate to misogyny in society.

Impulse statements by

Corinna Hörst	Deputy Director at the Brussels office of The German Marshall Fund of the United States
Rick Zednik	CEO of the Women Political Leaders Global Forum
Laura-Iuliana Scântei	Romanian Senator
Delphine Horvilleur	Rabbi and editor-in-chief of the French quarterly Jewish magazine <i>Tenou'a</i>

followed by a round-table discussion

Moderator: Joanna Maycock, Secretary-General of the European Women's Lobby

11:00 – 12:30
Parallel session II.c

Trafficking of women for labour and sexual exploitation

(Orange room)

This session will highlight trafficking of women and girls as a form of structural violence against women, showing how this transnational crime is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality, and highlight emerging issues in the context of the migration crisis.

Impulse statements by

Grégoire Théry	Executive director of Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution International
Esohe Aghatise	Lawyer, UN Expert on Trafficking, Founding Director of Italian Association <i>Iroko Onlus</i>
Venla Roth	National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, Office of the Finnish Non-Discrimination Ombudsman

followed by a round-table discussion

Moderator: Jacki Davis, journalist, speaker and moderator

13:00 – 13:30
Concluding remarks

Closing (Hall of Mirrors)

Kersti Kaljulaid	President of the Republic of Estonia
Věra Jourová	European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality

13:30 – 14:30

Networking lunch (Hall of Mirrors)