



Zonta and Council of Europe (CoE)
Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023

Workshop D-13 Conference
12th September 2019

The Idea of Council of Europe (CoE)

Started in 1949

With 10 memberstates, now 47

Goals for CoE

- Human rights
- Democracy
- The rule of law

European Court of Human Rights

- Started in 1957
- Independent institution

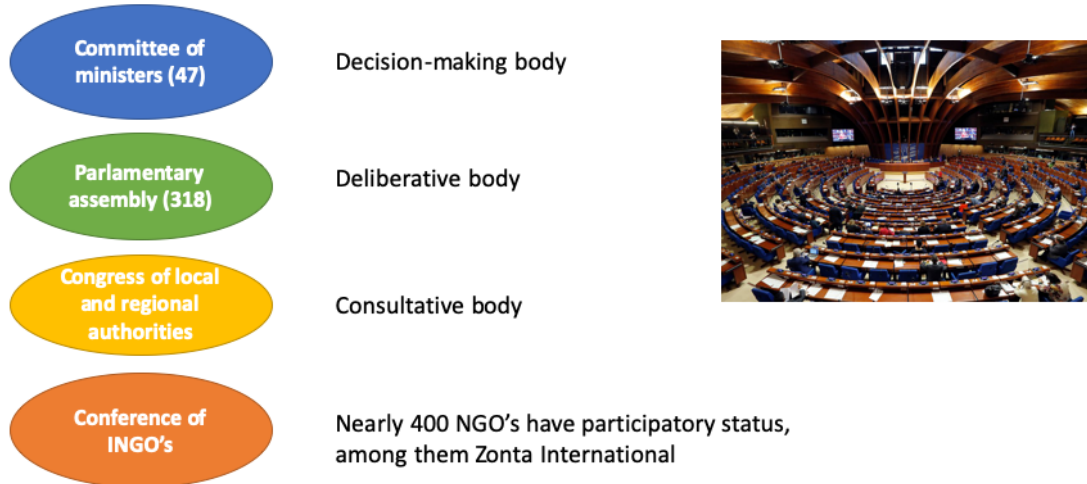
The CoE buildings are located in Strasbourg, France



Only Belarus, Kazakhstan and Vatican City are not Members.

European Court of Human Rights is unic in the world, because you as an individuel can apply to the Court.

The main bodies of CoE



Secretary-general Thorbjørn Jagland, Norway
From October 1 is the Secretary-general Marija Pejcinovic Buric, Croatia

Commissioner for Human Rights Dunja Mijatovic, from Bosnia and Herzegovina was elected in 2018.

The Commission for HR is an independent and impartial non-judicial institution established in 1999 by CoE to promote awareness of and respect for human rights in the member states



What is participatory status?



- **Participatory status** means active participation in policies and programs. Zonta got participatory status in 2003 but has been in CoE since 1983.
- Zonta contributes in debates, resolutions, intergovernmental activities and are **part of the decision-making process**.

Zontian Karin Nordmeyer, Germany, played an active role in making the Istanbul Convention.



- Zonta and CoE have **common interests** in human rights, gender equality, protecting women against violence, and working against trafficking in persons.

Who has acceded to The Istanbul Convention?



- The Istanbul Convention was signed on 11 May 2011 in Turkey by 13 Council of Europe member states and came into force on August 1, 2014.
- As of October 2018 it was ratified by 33 member states.

Denmark ratified it in April 2014, Norway in July 2017, Iceland in April 2018.

What is The Istanbul Convention?



- The Council of Europe (CoE) Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
- The most far reaching international treaty to tackle this serious violation of human rights
- Aims at zero tolerance and is a major step forward in making Europe and beyond safer

To learn more, see this video:

www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-channel/istanbul-convention

Cornerstones of the Convention

- Preventing violence
- Protecting victims
- Prosecuting perpetrators



What does the Convention criminalize?

- Domestic violence
- Stalking
- Sexual violence, including rape
- Sexual harassment
- Forced marriage
- Female genital mutilation
- Psychological harm
- Forced abortion or forced sterilization



**Gender Equality Commission of CoE:
Conference 3.-4. May 2018 in Copenhagen,
launching a new Gender Strategy**



Opening address by The Danish HM Crown Princess Mary



Hanne Friis, Zonta District 13. Chair UN and CoE Committee

In 2018 Denmark had the Chairmanship of CoE, and at a conference in Copenhagen the new Gender Strategy was launched. I attended the Conference, and had the opportunity to listen to the speakers and the panel discussions, and talk to some of the participants.

Keynote speaker:
President of GREVIO, CoE
Professor Dr. Feride Acar

- Ending immunity for violence against women and ensuring gender equality: The Council of Europe Istanbul Convention.
- We still live in a world where many women and girls are prevented from living, loving, dressing, playing, working, writing and achieving what they want - and how to do it.
- On account of the violence they are exposed to simply because they are women.



The President of GREVIO was also a speaker at CSW63

Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023

Gender equality is important for the CoE's mission: human rights, democracy and preserving the rule of law.

The six priority areas are:

1. Combating gender stereotypes and sexism
2. Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence
3. Guaranteeing equal access to justice
4. Achieving balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making
5. Protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls (new)
6. Achieving gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures



Council of Europe adopts in April, 2019 first-ever international legal instrument to stop sexism



- States should step up their fight against sexism in all walks of life, according to a [Recommendation](#) just adopted by the Council of Europe's [Committee of Ministers](#).

- and now all the member states have to implement in their legislation!