



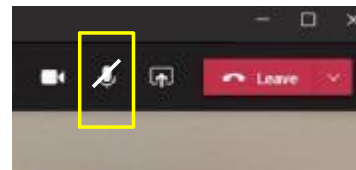
Zonta and the Council of Europe (CoE)

D13 UN & CoE Committee
April 2021



Practical information:

Please mute your microphone during the talk.



Add your questions or comments to the chat so they can be compiled and answered or send to you via e-mail at the end of the webinar.




Vision

Zonta International envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential.

In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision making positions on an equal basis with men.

In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence.

Contents



Meet the District 13 UN & CoE committee members and the members of the International CoE subcommittee

What is the CoE and how is it organized?

The Conference of the International NGOs (INGOs)

Zonta International's status at the CoE

Relevant Conventions

Final remarks

D13 UN & CoE Committee



Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard,
District Committee Chair 2020 – 2022

Zonta member since 1989. Contributed to the organization of multiple clubs in Denmark and Lithuania. Served in Zonta at all leadership positions up to International President (2014 – 2016). Member of the D13 UN & CoE committee since 2018, chair of this committee in 2020 – 2022.
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Hanne Friis Olesen
Representative for Area 01 (Denmark)

Zonta member since 1973. Member of a Nordic committee for organizing new clubs in 1977. Served as AD in 1978 – 80. Member of the UN & CoE committee since 2017, Chair of this committee in 2018–2020.
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Ruta Jasioniene
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Zonta member since 2009, has served Zonta as D13 Secretary, Club president and currently AREA 2 secretary. Member of the D13 UN & CoE committee since 2018.
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Hildur Helga Gísladóttir
Representative for Area 03 (Iceland)

Zonta member since 2003. Served twice as a member of the board, club president since 2020. Member of the D13 UN & CoE committee since 2018.
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Maggi Brigham
Representative for Area 04 (Norway)

Zonta member since 2018. Current member of the club board. Member of the D13 UN & CoE committee since 2020.
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International CoE



Anita Schnetzer-Spranger

Chairman, Zonta Club of Mainz, Germany



Irma Ertman

Zonta Club of Helsinki II, Finland
Former Ambassador to the CoE for Finland



Tuija Hannele Heikkilä

Zonta Club of Tampere I, Finland



Karin Nordmeyer

Adviser, Zonta Club of Freiburg-Schauinsland, Germany

[UN Committee in D13's webpage](#)

[ZI CoE webpage](#)

What is the CoE?

It is Europe's leading human rights organization
– it is NOT an institution within the European Union (EU)

It has 47 member states and 5 observer states (find them)
– 27 member states are also members of the EU

It represents more than 820 million citizens
– more than 400 million are women and girls

It cannot make binding laws, but it does have the power to enforce select international agreements reached by European states on various topics



What is the CoE?

It was founded in 1949, in the wake from World War II to:

- Defend human rights, parliamentary democracy and the rule of law
 - Rule of law implies that every citizen is subject to the law. It stands in contrast to the idea that the ruler is above the law
- Develop continent-wide agreements to standardize member countries' social and legal practices
- Promote awareness of a European identity based on shared values and cutting across different cultures



The Council of Europe – The European Union and the European Council



Council of Europe

An international organisation in Strasbourg which comprises 47 countries of Europe. It was set up to promote democracy and protect human rights and the rule of law in Europe.



European Union (EU)

The EU currently has 27 members that have delegated some of their sovereignty so that decisions on specific matters of joint interest can be made democratically at European level. No country has ever joined the EU without first belonging to the Council of Europe.

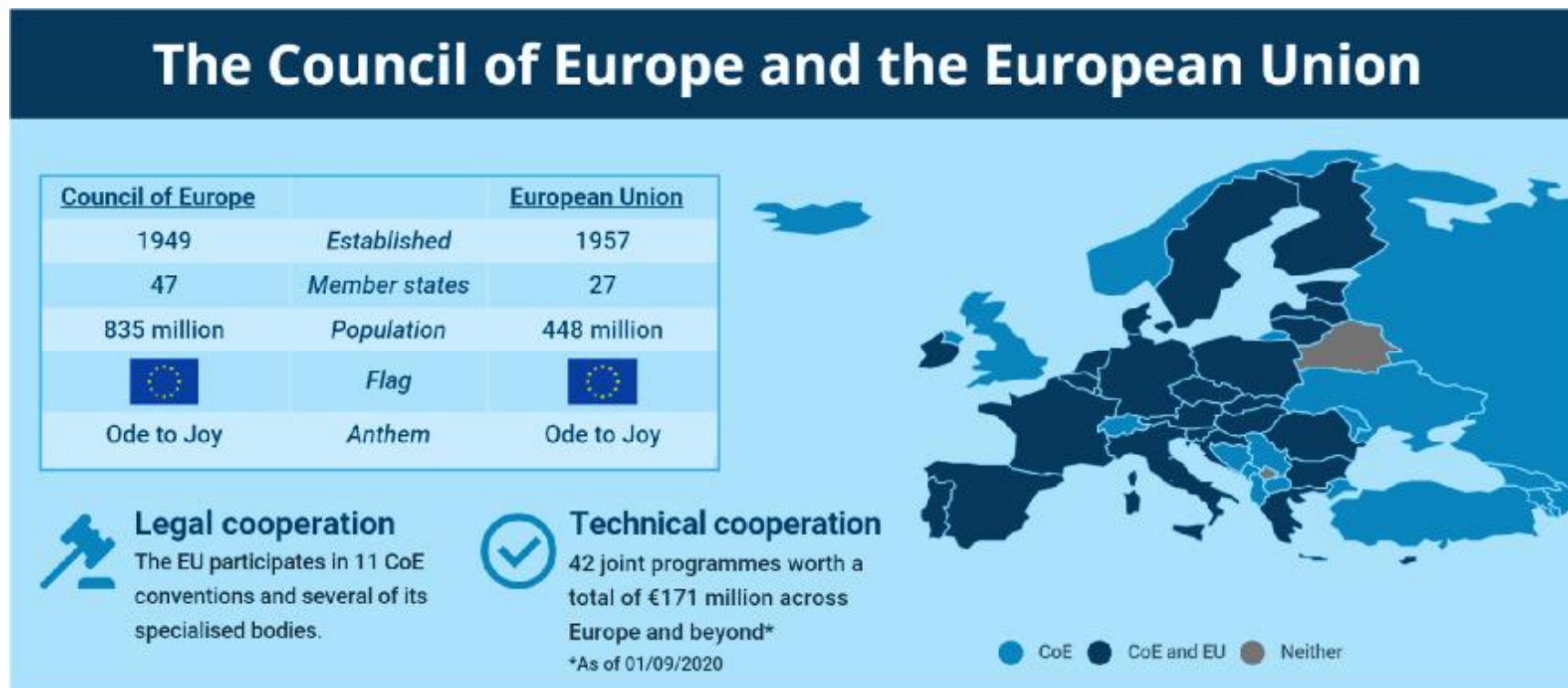


European Council

Institution of the European Union, consisting of the heads of state or government from the member states together with the President of the European Commission, for the purpose of planning Union policy.

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/do-not-get-confused>

The Council of Europe and The European Union



The Council of Europe and the European Union share the same fundamental values – human rights, democracy and the rule of law – but are separate entities which perform different, yet complementary, roles.

The Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament



Parliamentary Assembly

The deliberative body of the Council of Europe, composed of 324 representatives (and the same number of substitutes) appointed by the 47 member states' national parliaments.



European Parliament

The parliamentary body of the European Union which comprises 705 European Members of Parliament of the 27 European Union countries, elected by universal suffrage.

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/do-not-get-confused>

The European Court of Human Rights, the Court of Justice of the EU and the International Court of Justice



European Court of Human Rights

Based in Strasbourg, this is the only truly judicial organ established by the European Convention on Human Rights. It is composed of one Judge for each State party to the Convention and ensures, in the last instance, that contracting states observe their obligations under the Convention. Since November 1998, the Court has operated on a full-time basis.



Court of Justice of the European Union

Based in Luxembourg and ensures compliance with the law in the interpretation and application of the European Treaties of the European Union.



International Court of Justice

Judicial body of the United Nations, which is based in The Hague.

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/do-not-get-confused>

How is the CoE organized?

Meetings are held in Strasbourg, France



The Council of Europe works with the European Union
– the two entities share values

The Council of Europe co-operates with:

- the United Nations (UN)
- the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

The Council of Europe co-operates with countries
- worldwide

How is the CoE organized?

CoE bodies:

- The Committee of Ministers (decision-making body)
- The Parliamentary Assembly
- The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
- The Conference of INGOs (Zonta is a member)



Who represents the governments of the D13 countries?

Country	CoE webpage	Permanent Representation	Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly
Denmark	https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/denmark	https://europaadet.um.dk/en/	https://www.oscepa.org/members/member-countries/denmark
Lithuania	https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/lithuania	https://mission-ce.mfa.lt/mission-ce/en/embasycontacts	https://www.oscepa.org/members/member-countries/lithuania
Iceland	https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/iceland	https://www.government.is/diplomatic-missions/permanent-representation-of-iceland-to-the-coe/	https://www.oscepa.org/members/member-countries/iceland
Norway	https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/norway	https://www.norway.no/en/missions/coe/	https://www.oscepa.org/members/member-countries/norway

The Conference of the INGOs

- Is one of the 4 institutional pillars of the CoE, composed of about 400 INGOs
- Is the chief body representing the INGOs with participatory status (Zonta is one of them) and thus the official voice of Europe's civil society



FUNCTIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF INGOs

Identifies the general action needed to organize its participation

Helps to affirm the political role of civil society at the CoE

Decides on policy lines and defines and adopts action programs

Zonta's participatory status and the CoE and what it means

Zonta has the right to approach and work "individually" with all bodies of the CoE



Zonta can approach directly Parliamentarians and make our issues known to them

Zonta participates in meetings of the Parliamentary Assembly Committee (PACE)

Zonta's participatory status and the CoE and what it means

Actively supports gender equality issues amongst the most important representatives of Europe's civil society

Contributes to debates, resolutions and recommendations

Is part of the consultation processes

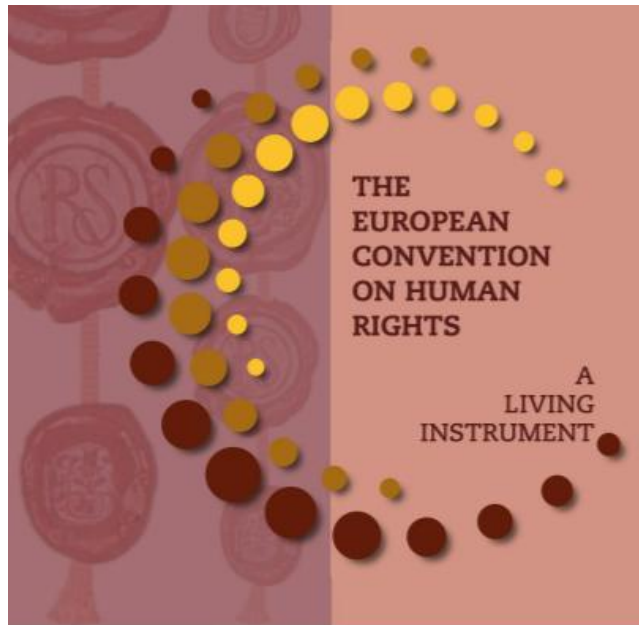
Votes and influences decisions

Participates in international conferences, seminars and projects

Participates in the World Forum of Democracy

Contributes to visibility and Trust

Relevant Conventions – The European Convention on Human Rights



A treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy, and the rule of law

All 47 member states have signed the treaty

The European Court of Human Rights oversees implementation in the member states



Relevant Conventions – The Istanbul Convention (210)

The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

Drafted: 7 April 2011
Signed: 11 May 2011
Signatories: 45 states + EU
Ratifiers: 34
Effective: 1 August 2014

Aims at zero tolerance, is the most-far reaching international treaty to tackle this serious violation of human rights and is a major step forward in making Europe and beyond safer.



Relevant Conventions – The Istanbul Convention (210) – Statistics

Worldwide, intimate partner violence is the most common type of violence against women, affecting 35% of women.

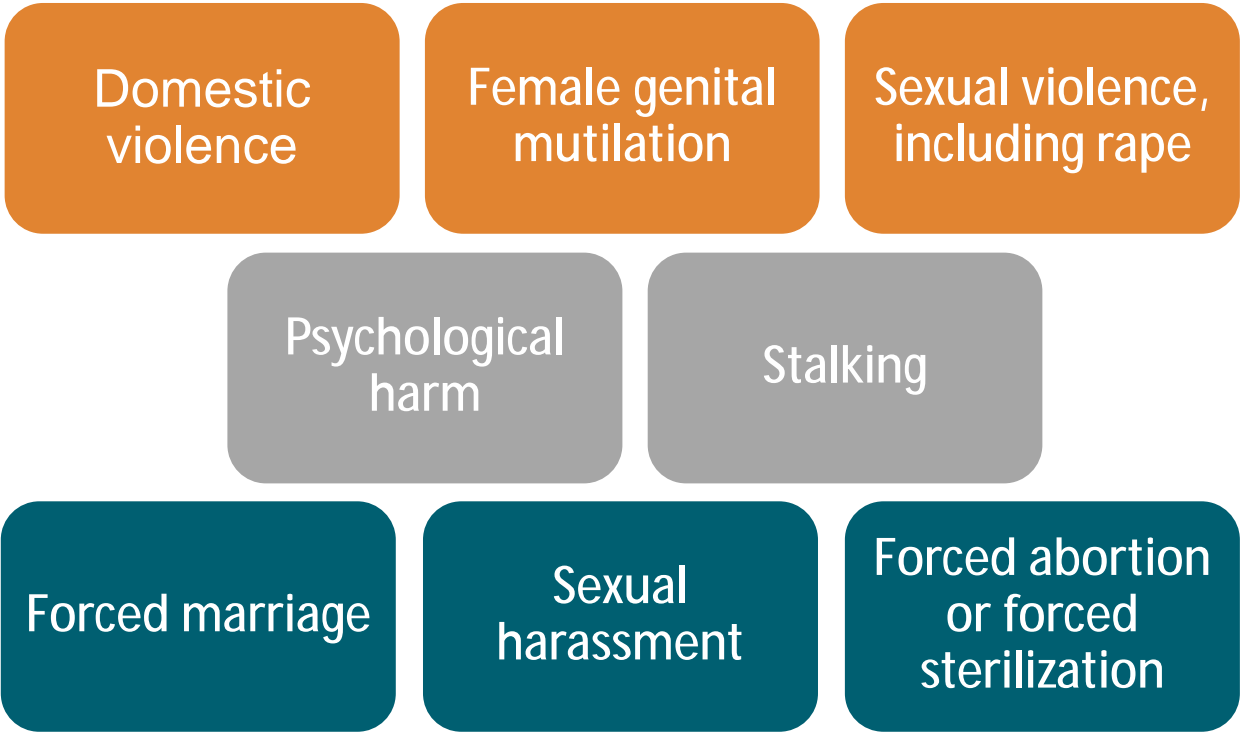
Approximately 130 million girls and women in the world have experienced female genital mutilation.

Across member states of the CoE, 20 - 25% of all women have experienced physical violence at least once during their adult lives and more than 20% have suffered sexual violence involving the use of force.

Worldwide, almost 650 million women alive were married before the age of 18. Some 250 million were married before 15.

Between 40 – 50% of women in EU countries experience unwanted sexual advancements, physical contact or other forms of sexual harassment in their workplace.

Relevant Conventions – The Istanbul Convention criminalizes



THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION
 ZONTA INTERNATIONAL The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence

How to use the Istanbul Convention as a concrete tool to put advocacy into action.

EDUCATE OURSELVES
 Raise awareness of the Convention and of violence against women as a social human rights violation. Club leaders and advocacy committees are advised to organize educational forums at all meetings. Main Zonta members familiar with the specifics of the Istanbul Convention. Club leaders are encouraged to take the lead and include members of the Istanbul Convention at club meetings and about conferences.

SIGNING AND RATIFYING
EUROPEAN ZONTA DISTRICT/AREAS
 Check if your country has signed and ratified the Istanbul Convention. If not, advocate to make this happen. Get informed about the laws about violence. See the country list on the CoE site: <http://www.coe.int/t/ta/Convention/Full-List/Convention/ treaty>
NON-EUROPEAN ZONTA DISTRICT/AREAS
 Discuss how your country can accede to the Convention. Advocate to make your country a legal accesor.

HOW TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION
 Utilize the expertise of district advocacy committees, and of other Zontas with legal knowledge, in planning your advocacy actions. Note that national procedures before parliament or other decision on legal systems. Letters/ petitions must be sent to people who are in the right position to handle the matter; otherwise they are likely to be ignored.

ADVOCATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION
 Organize advocacy activities like seminars, panel discussions, etc. with experts and people to mobilize the public. Public statements by important people to inform the public. Coordinate and partner with the relevant organizations for a broader audience when relevant.

FOLLOW THE MONITORING PROCESS
 Making the Istanbul Convention a reality requires a sustained effort to implement its provisions. Governments bear not only to change laws and to implement the policies required by the Convention, and tackle social and cultural patterns of behavior that tolerate and deny violence against women. Be informed on the state of your own country. How your government is providing services against violence, is protecting victims and is prosecuting perpetrators. Note the important parts of implementation: law, social and community level – a good way for clubs to become engaged.

DISTRICTS AND AREAS ACT AT NATIONAL LEVEL
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FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION PLEASE SEE THE PPT "ZONTA INTERNATIONAL AND THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION" AND "THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION" AT <https://members.zonta.org/Tools/Council-of-Europe-Tools>.

For more information on advocacy, visit www.zonta.org or www.zontasaysno.com

Relevant Conventions – The Istanbul Convention – Why so important?

Seeks to change the hearts and minds of individuals

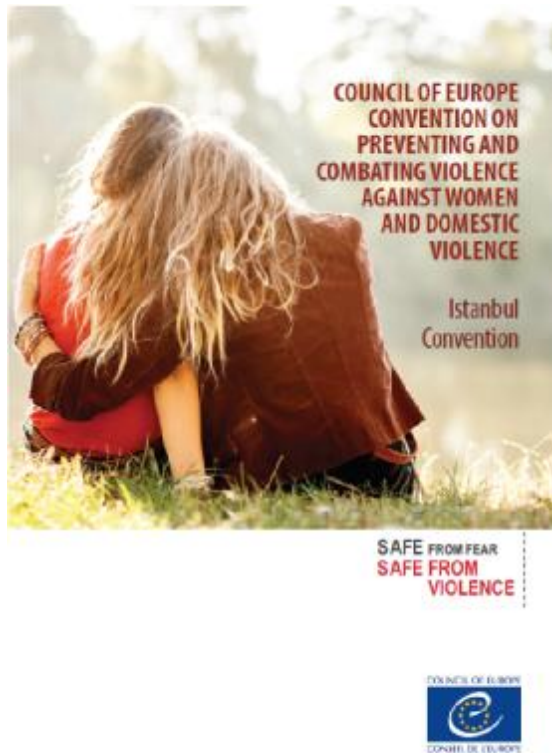
Calls on all members of society, particularly men and boys, to change their attitudes.

Renews call for greater equality between women and men.

Recognizes violence against women is deeply rooted in inequality in society.

Recognizes violence against women is perpetuated by a culture of intolerance and denial.

Relevant Conventions – Cornerstones of the Istanbul Convention (210)



1. Preventing violence

2. Protecting victims

3. Prosecuting perpetrators

4. Integrated Policies

Leaflet available in several languages:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/leaflets1>

Relevant Conventions – The Istanbul Convention (210) – D13 Countries

Country	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force	R.	D.	A.	T.	C.	O.
Denmark	11-10-2013	23/04/2014	01-08-2014	R.					
Iceland	11-05-2011	26/04/2018	01-08-2018						
Lithuania	07-06-2013				D.				
Norway	07-07-2011	05/07/2017	01-11-2017						O.

R: Reservations from Denmark about how to apply provisions and sanctions

D: Declarations: Lithuania declares that it will apply the Convention. However, it has not been ratified due to opposition from religious groups.

O: Objection not to the Convention it self, but to the way the Republic of Poland seems to intent to apply the Convention

The Istanbul Convention – the Nordic Way



PDF Document

Relevant Conventions – The Istanbul Convention – What can Zonta do?

- We can contribute with our power, knowledge and persuasion to see that our states/governments become parties to this important Convention, get access to the Convention and ratify it.
- We can also provide information to the group of experts in charge of the monitoring process (GREVIO), as a complement to the information provided by the state/government itself.

Link to Zonta International's statement in 2020:

[A renewed call for ratification of the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention \(zonta.org\)](https://www.zonta.org/en/press-releases/2020/a-renewed-call-for-ratification-of-the-council-of-europe-istanbul-convention)

STAND UP AND SPEAK OUT!



CoE Tools

- Anti-Trafficking Convention Infographic | [PDF](#)
- Council of Europe Committee Frequently Asked Questions | [PDF](#)
- Factsheet: Achieving gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures | [PDF](#)
- Factsheet: Combating gender stereotypes and sexism in and through education | [PDF](#)
- Factsheet: Combating gender stereotyping and sexism in the media | [PDF](#)
- Factsheet: Combating sexist hate speech | [PDF](#)
- Factsheet: Council of Europe key standards on gender equality | [PDF](#)
- Factsheet: Equality between women and men | [PDF](#)
- Factsheet: Guaranteeing equal access of women to justice | [PDF](#)
- Key Facts on the Council of Europe | [PDF](#)
- Statement on the Istanbul Convention (September 2020) | [PDF](#)
- The Council of Europe and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) | [PDF](#)
- The Council of Europe Guardian of Human Rights: A Summary | [PDF](#)
- The Istanbul Convention | [PDF](#)
- The Istanbul Convention | [PPT](#)
- The Istanbul Convention Infographic | [PDF](#)
- Zonta International and the Anti-Trafficking Convention | [PPT](#)
- Zonta International and the CoE Gender Equality Strategy | [PPT](#)
- Zonta International and the Council of Europe | [PPT](#)
- Zonta International and the Council of Europe (Yokohama Convention 2018) | [PPT](#)
- Zonta International and the Council of Europe Infographic | [PDF](#)
- Zonta International and the Istanbul Convention | [PPT](#)

[CoE Tools in ZI's webpage](#)

Take time to watch the Corporate Film
– “Inside the Council of Europe”!
<http://www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/who-we-are>

Start at minute 1:07



Thank You

Q&A – Other roots to confusion

European Convention on Human Rights

Council of Europe treaty securing civil and political rights. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention. Its judgments are binding on the countries concerned.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Adopted by the United Nations in 1948 in order to strengthen the protection of human rights at international level.

Charter of Fundamental Rights

European Union text on human rights and fundamental freedoms, adopted in 2000.