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Zonta and Council of Europe (CoE)

CoE - Gender Equality - Istanbul Convention

Ideas for Zonta Clubs in District 13
By UN and CoE Committee in D-13 October 2018
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The Idea of Council of Europe (CoE)

Started in 1949

with 10 member states, 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



Who are members of CoE?

- 47 member countries, representing 820 million people. Observers are Canada, USA, Japan, Mexico and Holy See.



- 24 members of CoE are also members of European Union (EU). EU and CoE have different roles but build on same values. EU is a political and economic union. CoE is an intergovernmental human right organization. All members in EU have first been members of CoE.
- CoE is an observer in UN General Assembly.

The main bodies of CoE

Committee of
ministers (47)

Decision-making body

Parliamentary
assembly (318)

Deliberative body

Congress of local
and regional
authorities

Consultative Body

Conference of
INGO's

Nearly 400 NGO's have participatory status,
among them Zonta International





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.

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

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.



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



Other participants in The CoE Conference Copenhagen May 2018



Marja Routanen, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Sport Values And Asger Ryel from UN Women, Nordic Liaison Office, Copenhagen

**Planet 50-50
by 2030:
Reality or
Utopia?**

**Gender
stereotypes
and sexism**



Cecilie Nørgaard, Educational and Gender Sociologist

- To learn more, see this video:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-channel/istanbul-convention>

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 1 August 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.
- Find out which countries signed/ratified the Istanbul Convention:
<http://www.conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/ChercheSig.asp?NT=210&CM=&DF=&CL=ENG>

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



GREVIO – Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

GREVIO is the independent expert body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence ([Istanbul Convention](https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention)) by the Parties.

To learn more:

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



Why is the Istanbul Convention important to Zonta?

- Zonta International strives to promote and protect the human rights of all women/girls and to reduce violence against women.
- Whether in Europe or anywhere else in the world, Zontians can use the Istanbul Convention as a tool for advocacy!
- The Istanbul Convention will give more strength to the 'Zonta says NO!' campaign!



Resources for your Zonta Club

Videos about violence against women in Europe:

- <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/a-life-without-violence-is-every-woman-s-right>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJT5jLk-yfM&fbclid=IwAR3fu0vww9zxQhRCnsbnOCeLIM60LCKjenP2JsMZ3ETGAIUcVgW7P-ts_TO
«Violence against women is not fate ...»

The Istanbul Convention Leaflet in different languages:

Danish:

- <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680685e22>

Icelandic:

- <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680464984>

Lithuanian:

- <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680464986>

CoE and Zonta's role. Frequently Asked Questions 2018:

- <https://membership.zonta.org/Portals/0/Membership/Tools/CoE%20Tools/CoEFAQs.pdf>