



Zonta and the Council of Europe (CoE)

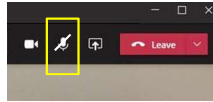
D13 UN & CoE Committee
April 2021



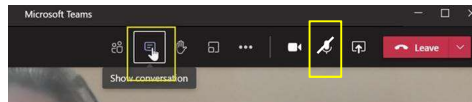
www.zonta-district13.org

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.

www.zonta-district13.org

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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
Representative for Area 02 (Lithuania)**

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.





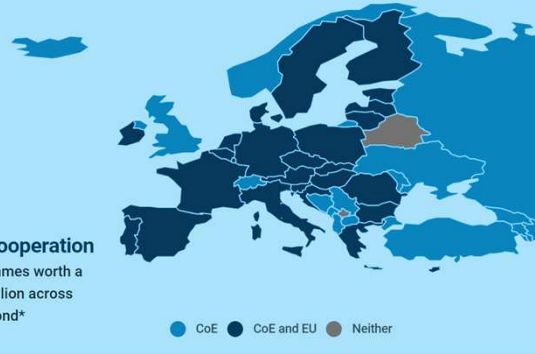
European Council

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

Council of Europe		European Union
1949	<i>Established</i>	1957
47	<i>Member states</i>	27
835 million	<i>Population</i>	448 million
	<i>Flag</i>	
Ode to Joy	<i>Anthem</i>	Ode to Joy



 **Legal cooperation**
The EU participates in 11 CoE conventions and several of its specialised bodies.

 **Technical cooperation**
42 joint programmes worth a total of €171 million across Europe and beyond*
*As of 01/09/2020

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/embassycontacts	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

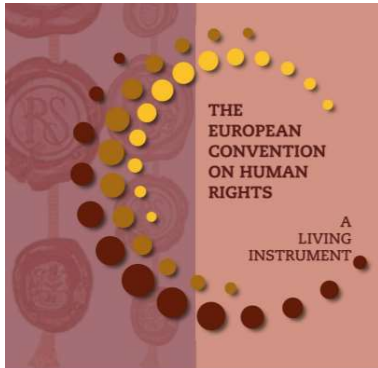
Zonta participates in meetings of the Parliamentary Assembly Committee (PACE)



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



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

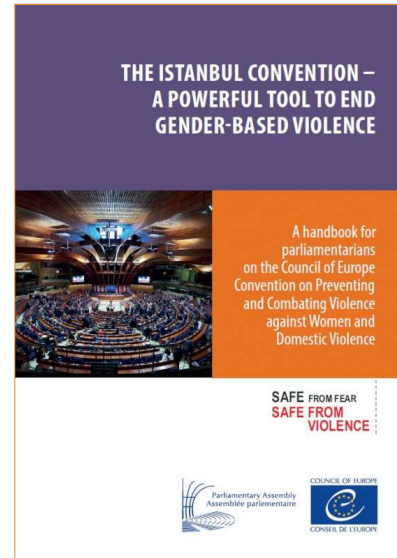


Relevant Conventions – The Istanbul Convention (210)

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.



The Istanbul Convention (CETS 210)

The Convention is based on the understanding that violence against women is a gender-based violence that is committed against women solely because they are women and that it comes out of a global culture of discrimination which denies women equal rights with men.

The Istanbul Convention strives for the same mission as Zonta International: To promote and protect the rights of women and girls and to fight violence against women.

For the international level the Istanbul Convention is important, because it is open for accession by any country in the world.

For Zonta Clubs, the Istanbul Convention is a practical tool to advocate for gender equality and women's rights and to take advocacy into action, also as heart of the Zonta Says NO-Campaign.

Can non-European countries join? The Convention is open for accession by any country in the world – provided that the country has been formally invited to accede by the Committee of Ministers of the CoE.

The procedure of accession: It is customary for the non-member state to request accession in a letter addressed to the Secretary General of the CoE.

Prior to acceding, the state has to take the necessary measures to ensure that its domestic law allows the Convention to be implemented.

The Committee of Ministers will ask for contributions to finance the follow-up mechanism

Relevant Conventions – The Istanbul Convention (210) – Statistics

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

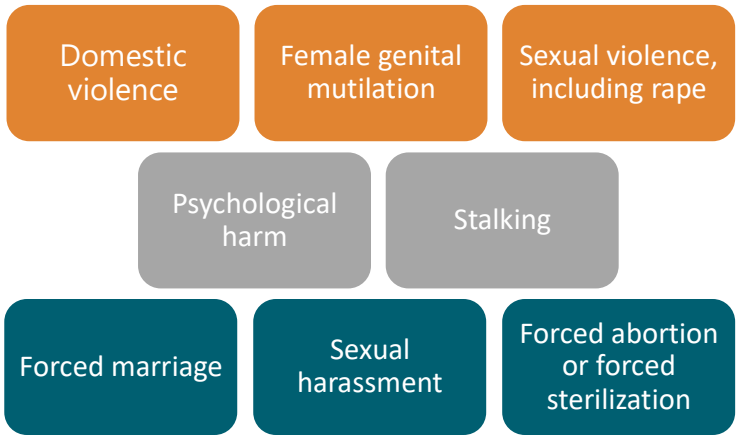
Approximately 130 million girls and women in the world have experienced female genital mutilation.

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



ZONTA INTERNATIONAL THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION
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.

<p>EDUCATE OURSELVES</p> <p>Take awareness of the Convention and of your rights as women in a system that is not always transparent to women. Contact media and advocacy organizations to ask for cooperation and information. Reach out to your own network. Share your own experiences with the Convention. Publish articles. Organize events. Use social media and digital storytelling on the Istanbul Convention and its implementation.</p> <p>Equip your materials and media for dissemination on a regular basis. Write a blog. Post on a C.E. information website.</p> <p>Get informed on the situation in your own country. Then decide what advocacy activities are most relevant to become engaged in.</p>	<p>SIGNING AND RATIFYING</p> <p>EUROPEAN ZONTA DISTRICT AREAS</p> <p>Check if your country has signed and ratified the Istanbul Convention. If not, advocate to make this happen. Get informed about the new signing victims, but also countries that have not signed. See: http://www.convention.eu/convention.html</p> <p>NON-EUROPEAN ZONTA DISTRICT AREAS</p> <p>Advocate for your country to become a signatory to the Convention. Advocate to make your country request accession.</p> <p>Listen to the experience of digital advocacy campaigns, and other activities with local knowledge. If planning your advocacy activities, listen and involve ZONTA members who have either experience on legal systems, better practices and be sure to involve relevant.</p>
<p>ADVOCATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>Make the Istanbul Convention a reality in your country by lobbying to implement to parliament. Government's need not only to change laws and to strengthen law enforcement agencies. They also need to change social and cultural patterns of behavior that breed and drive violence against women. Be informed on the threat of violence in your country. Advocate government to prevent violence against women, is protecting victims and is prosecuting and punishing the culprits to become relevant.</p> <p>Make that support of digital implementation take place at community level – build up the clubs to become relevant.</p>	<p>HOW TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION</p> <p>Organize advocacy activities like seminars, panel discussions, etc. with experts and public statements in order to make the public aware. Cooperate and join forces with the relevant organizations for a broader audience when effective.</p>
<p>DISTRICTS AND AREAS ACT AT NATIONAL LEVEL</p> <p>To enhance impact national advocacy and/or, partner with ZONTA services clubs to become and at national level. Use communication channels to governments and push for the national problems and needs. Use digital communication and push for the national problems and needs. Use digital communication. Use the power of our bodies to sending letters to government or writing up petitions to urge your government to sign, ratify and implement the Convention. Make your voice heard about violence against women and domestic violence as one of the most severe human rights violations based on gender.</p> <p>For more detailed information on the Istanbul Convention please see the EPPS ZONTA International and the Istanbul Convention: www.zonta.org and the Istanbul Convention at http://www.convention.eu and www.zonta.org and www.zontaisyano.com</p>	<p>FOLLOW THE MONITORING PROCESS</p> <p>The Monitoring Mechanism to the Convention is a unique tool to ensure the implementation of the Convention. The Monitoring Mechanism consists of two phases: CEDAW (The Council of Experts) and the Convention and the Monitoring Mechanism. The Monitoring Mechanism will help to ensure that the Convention is implemented in a way that is consistent with the Convention. The Monitoring Mechanism consists of two phases: CEDAW (The Council of Experts) and the Convention and the Monitoring Mechanism. The Monitoring Mechanism will help to ensure that the Convention is implemented in a way that is consistent with the Convention. The Monitoring Mechanism consists of two phases: CEDAW (The Council of Experts) and the Convention and the Monitoring Mechanism. The Monitoring Mechanism will help to ensure that the Convention is implemented in a way that is consistent with the Convention.</p>

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

The Convention is the first to recognize that violence against women is a gender-based violation of human rights and is deeply rooted in the inequality between women and men.

The Convention criminalizes all forms of violence, all of which Zonta International is fighting through its ZSN-Campaign and most of which ZI is fighting through the international service projects and ZISVAW projects.

The Convention requires states and parties to criminalise or otherwise sanction the following behaviours:

- Domestic violence (physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence)
- Stalking
- Sexual violence including rape
- Sexual harassment
- Forced marriage
- Female genital mutilation
- Forced abortion or forced sterilisation
- Psychological harm

This biennium Zonta is continuing to fight Early and Forced Marriage. A severe violation of human rights and of the dignity of women and girls. Over 650 million women alive today were married before their 18th birthday. The Istanbul Convention is fighting Forced and Early Marriage and will therefore be a meaningful tool for clubs to advocate for the right of women and girls.

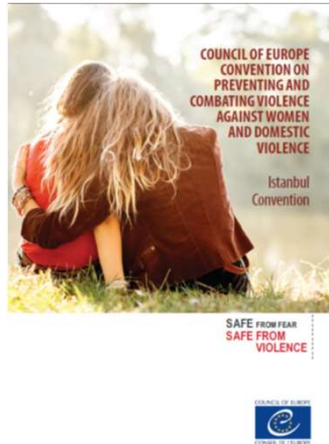
Relevant Conventions – The Istanbul Convention – Why so important?

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.
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The Convention also seeks to change the hearts and minds of individuals by calling on all members of society, particularly men and boys, to change their attitudes. In essence, it is a renewed call for greater equality between women and men, because violence against women is deeply rooted in the inequality between men and women in society and 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>

The 4 P's: **Preventing** violence, **protecting** victims and **prosecuting** the perpetrators are the cornerstones of the Istanbul Convention. **Integrated Policies**.

Prevention methods involves

- Changing attitudes, gender roles and stereotypes that make violence against women acceptable
- Training professionals working with victims
- Raising awareness of the different forms of violence and their traumatising nature
- Including teaching material on equality issues in the curricula at all levels of education
- Co-operating with NGOs, the media and the private sector to reach out to the public

Protection

- Ensure that the needs and safety of victims are placed at the heart of all measures
- Set up specialised support services that provide medical assistance as well as psychological and legal counselling to victims and their children
- Set up shelters in sufficient numbers and introduce free, round-the-clock telephone helplines

Prosecution

- Ensure that violence against women is criminalised and appropriately punished
- Ensure that excuses on the grounds of culture, custom, religion or so-called "honour" are unacceptable for any act of violence
- Ensure that victims have access to special protection measures during investigation and judicial proceedings
- Ensure that law enforcement agencies respond immediately to calls for assistance and manage dangerous situations adequately

Integrated policies:

Ensure that all of the aforementioned measures form part of a comprehensive and coordinated set of policies and offer a holistic response to violence against women and domestic violence.



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 itself, but to the way the Republic of Poland seems to intent to apply the Convention

The Istanbul Convention – the Nordic Way



PDF Document

DENMARK:

Reservation contained in instrument of approval deposited on 23 April 2014 – Or. Engl.

In accordance with Article 78, paragraph 2, of the Convention, Denmark reserves the right not to apply the provisions laid down in Article 44, paragraph 3, in respect of Articles 36, 37 and 39 of the Convention.

[Note by the Secretariat: The Government of Denmark has informed the Secretary General of its intention to uphold wholly this reservation for a period of 5 years (Article 79 of the Convention):

- by a Communication from the Ministry of Justice of Denmark, transmitted by the Permanent Representation of Denmark and registered at the Secretariat General on 30 April 2019 – Or. Engl. (Period covered: from 1 August 2019 to 1 August 2024).]

Period covered: 01/08/2014 -Articles concerned : 78, 44

Reservation contained in instrument of approval deposited on 23 April 2014 – Or. Engl.

In accordance with Article 78, paragraph 3, of the Convention, Denmark reserves the right to provide for non-criminal sanctions, instead of criminal sanctions, for the behaviours referred to in Article 34 of the Convention.

[Note by the Secretariat: The Government of Denmark has informed the Secretary General of its intention to uphold wholly this reservation for a period of 5 years (Article 79 of the Convention):

- by a Communication from the Ministry of Justice of Denmark, transmitted by the Permanent Representation of Denmark and registered at the Secretariat General on 30 April 2019 – Or. Engl. (Period covered: from 1 August 2019 to 1 August 2024).]

Period covered: 01/08/2014 -Articles concerned : 78, 34

LITHUANIA:

Declaration contained in a Note Verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Lithuania, dated 6 June 2013, handed over to the Secretary General at the time of signature of the Instrument, on 7 June 2013- Or. Engl.

The Republic of Lithuania declares that it will apply the Convention in conformity with the principles and the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania. Articles concerned : -

NORWAY:

Objection contained in a Note Verbale from the Permanent Representation of Norway, dated 3 July 2017, registered at the Secretariat General on 5 July 2017 – Or. Engl.

The Government of Norway has carefully examined the declaration made by the Republic of Poland upon ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, in which the Republic of Poland declares: "The Republic of Poland declares that it will apply the Convention in accordance with the principles and the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland."

Norway notes that this declaration seems to amount to a reservation.

The Government of Norway notes that according to Article 78, paragraph 1, of the Convention, reservations are only permitted with regard to a limited and specified number of Articles.

By invoking a general reference to the national Constitution without further description of its content, the Republic of Poland exempts the other States Parties to the Convention from the possibility of assessing the full effects of the declaration. The Government of Norway considers that the reservation in its present form, which subjects the application of the Convention to the principles and provisions of the Republic of Poland, may cast doubts as to the commitment of the reserving State to the object and purpose of the Convention. It is in the common interest of States that treaties to which they have chosen to become Parties are respected, as to their object and purpose, by all parties.

The Government of Norway therefore objects to the aforesaid declaration. This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Poland, without the Republic of Poland benefiting from the aforesaid declaration.

Period covered: 01/11/2017 -Articles concerned : -



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!

Zonta can contribute with its power, knowledge and persuasion by raising awareness in all 63 Zonta countries around the world to this first legally binding instrument/treaty to fight VAW and domestic violence. Zontians can follow the monitoring reports of their government and of the Grevio Group in their countries to see if their government meets the requirements of the Istanbul Convention.



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](#)



Last remarks

**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

www.zonta-district13.org

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.