**Programme**

**Towards a Europe free of violence against women**

Gender based violence is still one of our societies´ biggest challenges: it happens at home, on the streets, in the workplace and on-line and is deeply rooted in gender inequality. In order to prepare its opinion on the **Commission proposal for a directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence**, the EESC is organising a hybrid public hearing on **21 April 2022 from 9:30 am to 1 pm.**

The aim of the event is to gather input from civil society, including social partners and academia as well other EU Institutions and international organisations. It will be an occasion to highlight the important role of organized civil society in eradicating violence against women.

We will debate around the following questions:

* Why is EU action needed in combating violence against women?
* What is the EU's role in combating violence against women and domestic violence?
* What are the strengths and weaknesses of the current proposals?

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| **9:00 – 09:30** | *Testing connections*  |
| 09:30-09:35 | Introduction by* **Lech Pilawski,** President of the study group
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| 09:35-09:50 | Opening remarks * **José Antonio Moreno Díaz**,rapporteur of the EESC opinion
* **Ody Neisingh**,co**-**rapporteur of the EESC opinion
* **Maria Nikolopoulou**, EESC Equality Group President
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| 09:50-11:10 | Panel 1: Moderator: **Denis Meynent,** member of the study group, EESCKeynote speakers: * **Maruša Gortnar**,Head of Operations, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)
* **Joanna Goodey**,Head of the Research and Data Unit, Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)

Interventions by* **Maria Rosaria Mollica**, Legal Officer, Gender Equality Unit, European Commission
* **Iris Luarasi**, President, GREVIO, Council of Europe
* **Ana Peláez Narváez**, Vice-Chair, UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Q&A |
| *11:10 – 11:20* | *Break* |
| 11:20 – 12:45 | Panel 2: Moderator: **Tudorel Tupiluși,** member of the study group, EESCInterventions by:* **Laura Kaun**, Policy and Campaigns Officer, European Women's Lobby (EWL)
* **Esther Lynch**, Deputy General Secretary, ETUC
* **Rebekah Smith**,Deputy Director, Social Affairs Department, Business Europe
* **Marcella Pirrone**,President,Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE)
* **Dastan Salehi**, Advocacy Officer, PICUM
* **Rosa San Segundo**, Director of the University Institute for Gender Studies, Madrid University

Q&A |
| 12:45-12:55 | Conclusions by * **José Antonio Moreno Díaz**, rapporteur of the EESC opinion
* **Ody Neisingh**,co**-**rapporteur of the EESC opinion
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| 12:55–13:00 | Closing remarks by **Christa Schweng**, President of the EESC |