



Concept Note

ROUND-TABLE MEETING WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN POLAND
organised by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

Warsaw, Poland, 6 December 2017 (09.00 – 12.30)
Hotel Bristol – meeting room "Kossak"

Purpose:

In follow-up to his last country visit in 2016, the Commissioner has recommended to the Polish authorities to take measures to fight gender-based stereotypes, advance gender equality, and strengthen existing measures to combat domestic violence. On women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, he recommended that mandatory age-appropriate, evidence-based and non-judgmental sexuality education be taught in all schools. He also recommended that access to safe and legal abortion, as provided by law, be fully implemented in practice, and encouraged the authorities to further decriminalise abortion. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the follow-up given to the Commissioner's recommendations and the current situation with the civil society organisations concerned.

Agenda :

09:00 - 09:10 Introduction – Commissioner for Human Rights

09:10 - 10:00 Discussion on domestic violence and violence against women

Moderator: Dr Sylwia Spurek, Deputy Ombudsman

Suggested topics: Istanbul Convention, achievements and challenges to implementation; police search of premises and seizure of assets in premises of NGOs assisting women victims of violence

10:00 - 11:00 Discussion on Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

Moderator: Ms Krystyna Kacpura, Federation for Women's Rights and Family Planning

Suggested topics: draft laws aimed at restricting or liberalising current law on abortion; access to safe and legal abortion; access to contraceptives; refusal of service provision on grounds of conscience or religion; access to sexuality education

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 - 12:15 Discussion on gender equality and non-discrimination

Moderator: Dr Krzysztof Śmiszek, Polish Association of Anti-Discrimination Law

Suggested topics: combating gender stereotypes in all fields of life including education, media and justice; women's access to employment and education; women's participation in public and business lives; temporary special measures

12:15 - 12:30 Conclusions of the roundtable – Commissioner for Human Rights

Participants:**Council of Europe**

1. **Mr Nils Muiznieks** CoE Commissioner for Human Rights
2. **Ms Bojana Urumova** Deputy to the Director, Office of the Commissioner
3. **Ms Claudia Lam** Adviser (Women's rights and Gender Equality)
4. **Mr Andrzej Mancewicz** Adviser (Poland)

Invited civil society and NHRIs (pending confirmation)

5. **Ms Krystyna Kacpura** Federation for Women's Rights and Family Planning
6. **Ms Kamila Ferenc** Federation for Women's Rights and Family Planning
7. **Ms Urszula Nowakowska** Fundacja Centrum Praw Kobiet (Center for Women's Rights)
8. **Anna Głogowska- Balcerzak** Fundacja Centrum Praw Kobiet (Center for Women's Rights)
9. **Anna Karaszewska** Wielka Koalicja WKRW (Grand Coalition for Equality and Choice)
10. **Barbara Baran** Wielka Koalicja WKRW (Grand Coalition for Equality and Choice)
11. **Dr Krzysztof Śmiszek** Polish Association of Anti-Discrimination Law, PTPA
12. **Adw. Karolina Kędziora** Polish Association of Anti-Discrimination Law, PTPA
13. **Ms Joanna Piotrowska** Feminoteka Foundation
14. **Ms Aleksandra Solik** Karat Coalition
15. **Ms Agata Teutsch** Autonomy Foundation
16. **Dr Sylwia Spurek** Deputy Ombudsman (for Equal Treatment)
17. **Ms Katarzyna Wilkońska-Żuromska** BRPO Equal Treatment Department
18. **Ms Małgorzata Szuleka** Helsinki Foundation (HFHR)
19. **Ms Zuzanna Warso** Helsinki Foundation (HFHR)
20. **Dr Eleonora Zielińska** Member of the UNHCR Working Group on Discrimination against women
21. **Ms Agnieszka Grzybek** Fundacja STER

Interpreters

22. **Mr Rafal Rogowski**
23. **Mr Andrzej Grządkowski**

Please note:

The conference room "Kossak" in Hotel Bristol has been set up in U-shape and will fit up to 24 people.

Simultaneous interpretation will normally be provided. Participants will be expected to have a passive knowledge of English.

Speaking time by each participant should normally be limited to 3 minutes to allow all to have a meaningful contribution to the discussion.