



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Gender, Violence and Rights of the Child: a focus on Europe

Panel Discussion on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and the 25th anniversary of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child

UNESCO, Room XI
25 November 2014

This event is organized on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November) and will also mark the 25th anniversary of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (20 November).

Violence against women is a grave violation of human rights. Its impact ranges from immediate to long-term multiple physical, sexual and mental consequences, including death. Violence against women also impacts the rights of children. In spite of the many international and regional treaties that protect children's rights, many children face threats and lack opportunities for access to education and health and social care. They are victims of the worst forms of child labour, violence, sexual abuse, diseases, armed conflict and are exposed to discrimination, marginalization and exclusion.

Still today, many women and girl children are suffering from various kinds of violence and Europe is not immune from this violence. According to WHO's 2013 global review of available data, 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. Eurostat 2012 says 68% of the victims of trafficking are women and 12% are girls, and UNHCR Global Trends reports 49% of the refugee population is made up of women in 2013.

The conference will also be an opportunity to launch the Guide ["Pour la mise en oeuvre de la Convention internationale des droits de l'enfant à partir de l'approche de genre"](#) produced by the Association Adéquations with the support of UNESCO. It analyzes and advocates for a gendered implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). As the event will be held on the 25 November, the discussion will be centered on the parts of this guide and on the articles of the CRC linked to the issue of violence.

The objective of the panel discussion is threefold:

- To underline the ways in which a gender-sensitive approach is vital to the efficient implementation of the Convention of the Rights of Child;
- To highlight the ways in which gender-based violence is still preventing the full realization of children's rights within Europe; and
- To provide recommendations for policy reforms and practical measures to advance the protection of children's rights through the prevention of gendered forms of violence.

The discussion will be focused on the current situation in Europe to draw attention to the fact that gender-based violence and infringements of the rights of children are still problematic issues for European countries. The discussion will also highlight ways in which existing and new conventions and legislation, for example the Council of Europe's Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) which came into force on 1 August 2014, can be mobilized in support of prevention of violence and advancement of rights.

The discussion will be structured into two panels of experts (academics, legal experts, policymakers, civil society) who will provide a brief introduction to the relevant issues, and will then take part in a discussion with the public. The suggested subjects for the two panels are:

1. From domestic and intimate partner violence to institutional violence: its impacts on the rights of the child
2. A gendered perspective on conflict, violence, refugee protection and the rights of the child

Provisional Programme
- 25 November 2014 – Room XI

9:30: **Welcome**

10:00 – 10:15: **Opening remarks**

Ms S. Gülser Corat, Director, Division for Gender Equality, UNESCO

10:15 – 11:15: **Panel 1: From domestic and intimate partner violence to institutional violence: its impacts on the rights of the child**

Moderator: Ms Yveline Nicolas, Coordinator, Association Adéquations

Ms Françoise Brié, Vice-President, Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes, France

Ms Emilie Jarrett, Assistant Policy Officer, Gender Equality Unit, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

Mr Olaf Kapella, Research Coordinator and Senior Researcher, Austrian Institute for Family Studies, University of Vienna, Austria

Ms Jurgita Pečiūrienė, Gender Expert, European Institute for Gender Equality, Vilnius, Lithuania

Ms Heidi Stoeckl, Lecturer, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom

11:15 – 12:15: **Panel 2: A gendered perspective on conflict, violence, refugee protection and the rights of the child**

Moderator: Jane Freedman, Programme Specialist, Division for Gender Equality, UNESCO

Ms Florence Boreil, Protection Officer, UNHCR, France

Mr Maxime Forest, President of the Commission on European and International Challenges, High Council of Equality between Women and Men, France

Ms Madina Jarbussynova, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Vienna, Austria

Ms Maria Giovanna Manieri, Programme Officer, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, Belgium

12:15 – 13:00: **Discussion**