



PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons
PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination
Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence

WEBINAR GENDER AND MIGRATION

Thursday 3 June 2021, 10:00 – 12:00 (CEST)

Live streaming at: <https://www.facebook.com/NetworkWomenFreefromViolence>

Opening remarks

- ▶ Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis, Secretary General of the PACE

Session I: Gender-specific vulnerabilities and discrimination on the ground

Moderator: Ms Sena Nur Çelik, Rapporteur for opinion on Gender mainstreaming in migration policies

- ▶ Ms Hayriye Nurdan Erpulat Altuntaş, Director General, Directorate General for Immigration, Asylum and Visa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkey
- ▶ Ms Malin Björk, member of the European Parliament
- ▶ Mr Ljubisa Vrećev, Symbiosis-School of Political Studies, Greece
- ▶ Ms Cécile Gréboval, Programme Manager, Gender Equality Division, Directorate General of Democracy of the Council of Europe

Discussion

Session II: Gender equality in migration policies

Moderator: Ms Petra Stienen, Rapporteur for report on Gender mainstreaming in migration policies

- ▶ Ms Sofia Voultepsi, Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum, Greece
- ▶ Mr Remha Kiros, Migration Policy Department, Ministry of Justice and Security, Netherlands
- ▶ Ms Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez, Director of Migration policies and diversity with the Spanish Think Tank Instrategies, Associated Professor at GRTIM UPF University, Barcelona

Discussion

Closing remarks

- ▶ Ms Petra Bayr, Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination
- ▶ Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez, Chairperson of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons



■ The webinar will focus on the need to provide gender-specific migration systems and the challenges this represents, both in devising policies which ensure equal treatment and access to protection and rights, and in ensuring that these policies are implemented adequately on the ground, while ensuring migrants' involvement in decision-making processes.

Session I: Gender-specific vulnerabilities and discrimination on the ground

■ Reception conditions for migrants and asylum-seekers are unsatisfactory or even sub-standard in many countries in Europe and around the world, lacking in sufficient resources and support. In these circumstances, it is difficult, but crucial, to ensure the systematic provision of gender-specific infrastructure to protect and preserve the dignity of these vulnerable people and especially, but not only, women and girls. Families need particular facilities, sanitary installations and medical services and they must have separate and safe spaces for women and girls, as well as adolescents, children and vulnerable minorities.

■ Asylum procedures must also be organised with respect to gendered differences in situations and circumstances. Traditional gendered roles and lifestyles cannot be ignored in the processing of applications, and can be addressed through simple measures such as the availability of female and male asylum officers, translators, doctors and social workers, etc.

■ This first session will concentrate on identifying gender-specific needs on the ground, and those areas where indiscriminate treatment presents a particular risk at all stages of the migration journey.

Session II: Gender equality in migration policies

■ Gender mainstreaming of migration policies does not only mean gender equality for migrants and refugees, but also in policy making. A real political transformation cannot arise without the systematic integration of a gender perspective in migration policy making. Women should have the same opportunity to sit in decision-making bodies and influence decisions relating to migrants. Diversity in decision-making bodies brings about innovation and better performance. It is impossible to elaborate efficient migration policies without including all relevant actors in the process, women and men from different backgrounds, including migrants and refugees.

■ The promotion of gender equality in integration policies is another important issue. Striking a balance between integration in the host society and culture, while maintaining the identity of the country of origin is a great challenge for migrants and indeed for policy makers who need to combine human rights standards, as defined in the European Convention on Human Rights and other international instruments, while respecting the personal values of migrants, which may differ.

■ In this session, the issue of gender equality in migration policies will be addressed from the point of view of politicians, decision makers and researchers who will share their experiences and make concrete recommendation on how to improve gender balance at all levels of decision making in the field of migration.



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