

EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON WOMEN AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the European Commission will reflect on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and women's rights during a webinar entitled "Women and the Pandemic" on Monday, 8 March 2021 from 15:30-17:00 via Zoom. The webinar will also be shared live on the EU Infopoint Facebook page.

The COVID-19 crisis deepens the existing inequalities between genders and there is a need for an equal and inclusive recovery. Recovery from the COVID-19 public health crisis will shape the future of the EU and local policies. Therefore, it is important that gender equality remains a priority and a gender perspective is integrated into decision-making about the measures taken in response to the pandemic and the initiatives undertaken as part of economic and social recovery. This event will provide a platform for an exchange of experiences and good practices in advancing women's empowerment during crises such as COVID-19. The event will benefit from the valuable presentations and contributions of Ombudsperson Emine Dizdarlı, lawmaker İzlem Gürçağ Altuğra, head of the Cyprus Turkish Bar Association Human Rights Committee Aslı Murat, Nicosia women's shelter project coordinator Dr. Ömür Yılmaz, activist, lawyer and member of the Association of Women to Support Living (KAYAD) Mine Atlı with the moderation of academic and activist Prof. Dr. Fatma Güven Lisaniler.

The aim of the event is to raise awareness regarding gender equality, to offer remedies and actions dealing with inequalities and sharing information on what is being done to address this within the Turkish Cypriot Community with the support of the European Union. The event will highlight the difficulties women from all walks of life are facing during the pandemic; reflect on the work and the improvements on development of various legal texts on women's rights; and highlight the importance of support mechanisms by raising awareness about local implementations and opportunities.

As part of the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community, the EC has been supporting a series of activities and actions to strengthen the organisational capacities, outreach and impact in promoting and defending fundamental rights and women's rights in particular. The EU is currently funding two grant projects with a total budget of 1 million Euro to address issues relating to violence against women. The "Together We Are Stronger" project implemented by KAYAD aims to address domestic violence against women and children, while increasing the capacity of organisations and institutions that work on the issues of gender equality and domestic violence. The "United Against Violence" project, implemented by LTB, aims to establish a new women's shelter and to improve protection and support services for survivors of domestic violence.

Background:

The European Commission adopted a comprehensive "A Union of equality: gender equality strategy 2020-2025" which delivers on the von der Leyen Commission's commitment to achieving a Union of Equality. The Strategy presents policy objectives and actions to make significant progress by 2025 towards a gender-equal Europe. The goal is a Union where women and men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, are free to pursue their chosen path in life, have equal opportunities to thrive, and can equally participate in and lead our European society. The key objectives are ending gender-based violence; challenging gender stereotypes; closing gender gaps in the labour market; achieving equal participation across different sectors of the economy; addressing the gender pay and pension gaps; closing the gender care gap and achieving gender balance in decision-making and in politics. The Strategy pursues a dual approach of gender mainstreaming combined with targeted actions, and intersectionality is a horizontal principle for its implementation. While the Strategy focuses on actions within the EU, it is coherent with the EU's external policy on gender equality and women's empowerment.

For more information:

<https://cor.europa.eu/en/events/Pages/For-more-women-in-politics---International-Women's-Day-2021.aspx>

https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en#gender-equality-strategy-2020-2025

Media contact: EU Infopoint: info@abbilgi.eu, 228 2577



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