



Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence

Réseau parlementaire pour le droit des femmes de vivre sans violence



REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION

Wednesday 13 April 2016

The Hague, Netherlands

DRAFT PROGRAMME

1. Background

Following the ratification of the *Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence* by the Netherlands on 18 November 2015, the Dutch Parliament and the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will organise a regional conference on the Istanbul Convention in the Hague on 13 April 2016.

The conference aims at raising awareness on the phenomenon of violence against women and signalling the political commitment of the Dutch and other parliaments to prevent it and counter it through an appropriate policy and a legislative framework.

The conference is open to parliamentarians from Belgium, Denmark, Germany and Luxembourg as well as representatives from governmental and non-governmental organisations, civil society and experts. It will highlight the added value of the Istanbul Convention and try to address possible obstacles to its ratification by the countries concerned. It will also draw attention on the issue of harassment and abuse of young women in public spaces.

To date, the Netherlands and Denmark have ratified the Convention; Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg have signed it.

2. Draft programme¹

10.00 – 12.00 **Visit of a shelter**

Lunch

14.00 **Opening session**

Ms Ankie Broekers-Knol, President of the Senate

Ms Marit Maij, member of the Dutch Parliament and of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence

Mr Martin van Rijn, State Secretary for Health, Welfare and Sport

Ms Sahiba Gafarova, General Rapporteur on violence against women of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

14.30 – 15.15 **Session 1: Monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul convention**

Moderator: Ms Sahiba Gafarova, General Rapporteur on violence against women of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

The Istanbul Convention and its added value

Keynote speaker: Mr Javier Truchero, lawyer and former Spanish member of the Council of Europe Ad Hoc Committee to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence (CAHVIO)

The Dutch legislation regarding violence against women and challenges ahead

Keynote speaker: Ms Renée Römken, former member of the Council of Europe Ad Hoc Committee to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence (CAHVIO) and Director of the National Institute on Gender Equality and Women's history (Amsterdam)

Questions and answers

Coffee break

¹ All names are to be confirmed

15.30 – 16.30 **Session 2: Aligning legislation with the Istanbul Convention: national perspectives**

Moderator: Ms Marit Maij, member of the Dutch Parliament and member of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence

Keynote speakers:

Ms/Mr..., member of the Dutch Parliament

Ms/Mr..., member of the Belgian Parliament

Ms/Mr..., member of the Danish Parliament

Ms/Mr..., member of the German Parliament

Ms/Mr..., member of the Parliament of Luxembourg

Discussion

16.30 – 17.15 **Session 3: Sexual harassment and abuse – creating safe public spaces for young women**

Moderator: Chair of a parliamentary Committee

Ms Marith Volp, family doctor, expert and member of the Dutch parliament

Ms/Mr..., representative of the Dutch Gender Platform Wo=Men

17.30 - 19.00 **Cultural programme**

19.30 **Dinner**