

Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union
Directorate for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs
Secretariat of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

To the Chairperson(s) of the Committee(s) concerned

Dear colleague,

Following the tradition to celebrate the International Day for the elimination of Violence against Women, the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality proposes this year to bring together European and National Parliamentarians around the theme:

"The Istanbul Convention: combating violence against women at national and EU level"

The aim of the Inter-parliamentary Committee meeting (ICM) is to assess what is the state of the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention at EU and national levels and how it is being monitored by GREVIO.

The ICM will be organised around three panels:

- Panel 1 - The Istanbul Convention in the Member States: ratification and monitoring.
- Panel 2 - The 4 Ps in practice: how Member States tackle gender based violence and domestic violence.
- Panel 3 - The path to the EU accession to the Istanbul Convention.

After the panels a reception organised in cooperation with the European Institute for Gender Equality will take place in ASP building, MEP saloon, as part of its White Ribbon campaign.

The event is taking place in a year that the EU is especially devoting to prevent and combat violence against women. The signature by the EU of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention) has been the major milestone of 2017 in the common task of fighting gender-based violence. The ICM and the European Commission Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights, that will be devoted to Women's Rights and will also take place in November, are part of this EU collective effort that would be strengthened with your support.

We are therefore very pleased to invite up to four Members of the corresponding committee(s) of each National Parliament (two from each chamber in the case of bi-cameral Parliaments) to attend this event on **Tuesday, 21 November 2017 from 15.00 to 19.30 in the European Parliament in Brussels.**

Your participation in this event, for which we expect the attendance of several MEPs and members of national parliaments from EU Member States as well as representatives of international organisations, would be an ideal opportunity for you to meet a wide variety of parliamentarians from across the EU.

Practical details regarding the meeting will be forwarded in due course to your Parliament's representatives/services responsible for relations with the European Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Blinkevičiūtė', written in a cursive style.

Vilija Blinkevičiūtė
Chair of Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality