



Good practices and mobilization of civil society in the fight against gender-based violence

*Monday, March 11th 2019
8:15 - 9:30 AM
Conference Room 7*

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Context

Andorra, Finland, Morocco and Spain have shown their commitment to the fight against gender-based violence at the national and international levels in the field of public policies to combat and eradicate violence against women and girls.

In Spain the most recent milestones are, on the one hand, the attribution to the Deputy Prime Minister the powers in the area of equality in June 2018, these being integrated into the new Ministry of the Presidency, Parliamentary Relations and Equality; and, on the other hand, the approval by unanimity in 2017 of the first State Pact against Gender-based Violence. The pact is a result of political, territorial and social commitment and contains a broad set of measures that constitutes the roadmap to be followed in the period 2018-2022, inferring in an additional economic commitment of 1 billion euros.

Similar commitments have been reached in other countries, such as in Andorra, where the Government launched in 2017 a participatory process with representatives of the civil society aiming to assess the situation of equality in the country. This process led to the recent adoption of the Law on Equality and non-Discrimination and the implementation of several initiatives proposed by civil society representatives, like the Olympe de Gouges Awards, an initiative to promote the establishment of equity policies in the private sector and the public administration. Furthermore, following the adoption of the Law on Equality and non-Discrimination, the Government of Andorra will create the National Observatory for Equality, a national institution composed by representatives

of the public and private sector, with the goal to gather relevant data and assess the implementation of the Law.

2. Objectives

The main objective of the event is to share and exchange with all relevant stakeholders knowledge and experiences regarding good practices and mobilization of civil society in the fight against gender-based violence. The elimination of violence against women and girls is a challenge for society as a whole, a joint task that requires unitary action and maximum coordination, collaboration and cooperation among all the agents involved, both from the public and private sectors.

Civil society, including women's and community-based organizations, feminist groups, women human rights defenders, girls' and youth-led organizations, national human rights institutions, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, the media, etc. are fundamental actors in the fight against violence against women and girls.

Efforts carried out by civil society in eliminating violence against women are complementary to those of Governments, and play a key role as a driving force for legislative and policy change and in key areas such as prevention, awareness-raising or care and support for victims. An inclusive and transparent engagement with them is needed to end gender-based violence and, at the same time, for a gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It is, therefore, important to address the role of civil society mobilizations in a side-event within the framework of the 63rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

3. Speakers:

- **H.E. Bassima Hakkaoui**, Moroccan Minister of Family, Solidarity, Equality and Social Development.
- **H.E. Elisenda Vives Balmaña**, Permanent Representative of Andorra to the United Nations
- **H.E. Soledad Murillo**, Spanish Vice Minister for Equality
- **H.E. Terhi Heinilä**, Secretary General of NJKL - National Council of Women of Finland