



Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic  
to the United Nations



FOUNDATION  
BEAUTY OF HELP



CSW63

SIDE EVENT:

## Family Care: What Are the Costs to Women and What is the Role of the State?

*Wednesday, March 13, 2019  
1:15 PM-2:30 PM  
Conference Room D, UNHQ*

### **Moderator and welcoming remarks:**

**Ms. Martina Štěpánková**, Government Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

### **Speakers:**

**H.E. Mrs. Jana Maláčová**, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic

**Ms. Renee Graham**, the Chief Executive of the Ministry for Women, New Zealand

**Mr. Alexis Rinckenbach**, Head of the Office and International Affairs, Ministry of Solidarity and Health, France

**Mrs. Taťána Gregor Brzobohatá**, SDGs Ambassador, founder of the Foundation Beauty of Help, Miss World 2006

**Ms. Nigina Abaszadeh**, Regional technical Adviser on Gender and Human Rights, UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Worldwide, women comprise the majority of informal caregivers. Because of this, they are the ones who are responsible for their children's upbringing, taking care of elderly parents, and looking after their partners or siblings at various stages of life. One specific situation is to care for a family member with a handicap. Informal care has a significant economic and social impact and contributes to the family cohesion and intergenerational solidarity. Due to the ageing population, it can be assumed, that the value of informal care related to the issue of long-term care will increase rapidly.

Informal care, compared to the formal one, is considered to be a cheaper option. That is based on the assumption, that the main motivation to provide this care is a close relationship between the caregiver and the person cared for, or a fulfillment of intergenerational solidarity that should be performed. However, intensive caregiving is usually associated with reduction in labor force attachment for caregivers of working age, higher poverty rates and sometimes higher prevalence of mental health problems too. Informal caregivers are facing an insecure situation – they have to deal with the work-life balance.

Moreover long-term caregiving decreases the level of qualification, which limits the labor market access and leads to social isolation or even burnout. Loss of employment is often accompanied with insufficient reward received from the state, institutions or cared persons. Overall, such a stereotyped responsibility takes a toll on women and may result in occupational segregation, low female labor force participation and increase in the gender pay gap.

The side event will shed a light on how gender inequality impacts on women regarding informal care, and what the role of various stakeholders is. What are the key responsibilities of families, the public sector and employers? How can the state positively support families who are bringing up young children? These are just some of the questions to be discussed at this side event.

**Side-event is organised by the Czech Republic  
All CSW63 delegates with valid passes are invited to attend.**

**Please RSVP to [petra.mervart@gmail.com](mailto:petra.mervart@gmail.com) by 11 March.**