

Ad Hoc Committee on Migration meets online to discuss gender-based violence



Chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President Daniela De Ridder (Germany), the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration met today for a discussion on gender-based violence (GBV) in the context of migration. Meeting a few days ahead of International Women's Day, the committee discussed the prevalence and impact of sexual violence along migration routes and as a driver of migration. It was noted that GBV particularly affects migrant women and girls who face a continuous cycle of vulnerability throughout their migration journey.

Participants shared best practices in the area of policies to prevent and respond to GBV against migrant women and presented parliamentary initiatives undertaken to address this issue. In particular focus were policies and practices in addressing GBV in migration contexts and in developing gender-sensitive migration policies more generally. They discussed concrete examples where lawmakers have driven change, as well as further action that can be taken through legislative reforms, funding mechanisms, and improved institutional responses to GBV.

In her opening remarks, Vice-President De Ridder called for gender-sensitive migration policies that ensure the safety and dignity of women and girls on the move, noting that parliamen-

tary engagement is key.

"The OSCE PA has for a number of years urged gender-sensitive migration policies," De Ridder said, pointing to several resolutions that have been adopted by the Assembly. "However, resolutions alone are not enough – we need concrete implementation and actions. This means strengthening legal protections, creating safer migration pathways, and ensuring survivor-centred care, while also addressing root causes such as economic inequality and conflict."

Also contributing to the discussion was OSCE Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada), who stressed the critical importance of evidence-based policies and disaggregated data in order to better understand the gender impact of policies.

Melissa M. Verpile from the Parliamentarians for Global Action highlighted the importance of data collection for implementing evidence-based holistic policies, respecting international legal standards and enhancing parliamentary oversight. Boris Ditttrich (The Netherlands) also took part in the discussion, sharing examples of gender-sensitive migration policies from his country, including initiatives to organize safe spaces for vulnerable groups in asylum seeker reception centres.

Registration reminder for OSCE PA-ODIHR event

The OSCE PA and ODIHR are organizing a joint webinar ahead of International Women's Day entitled "Towards gender parity and transformative gender equality policy - The role of parliamentary bodies." The event, which seeks to raise awareness on the role that formal and informal parliamentary bodies play in promoting gender equality, will take place Thursday, 6 March 2025 from 14:00-15:00 CET.

To learn about the webinar and to register as a participant, please click here: <https://osce.org/odihr/585793>

OSCE parliamentarians gear up for a busy springtime of activities

The OSCE PA is preparing for a busy springtime of activities, with major trips planned to the Middle East, Spain, Portugal, Slovenia, and elsewhere. The third Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the South East Europe Delegations to the OSCE PA will take place in the city of Kastoria, Greece, from 27-29 March, offering a forum for parliamentarians from the region to engage in meaningful exchanges and fortify collaboration. In early April, the OSCE PA Bureau will hold its regular annual meeting at the Danish Folketing in Copenhagen, and the following month the PA will deploy an election observation mission for the 11 May parliamentary elections in Albania.

Next week, OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) will lead a delegation of parliamentarians to Jerusalem and Ramallah, for meetings and discussions on the situation on the ground and the prospects for peace and security. The visit will serve as a follow-up to a trip of Kauma and Secretary General Roberto

Montella to the Middle East last September.

Other notable visits this spring include a scheduled trip to Slovenia by members of the OSCE PA's Network of Young Parliamentarians and a visit by the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration to Spain, scheduled for 14-15 March and 19-22 March, respectively. On 13 March, President Kauma and Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares will visit Lisbon for a signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the PA and the Portuguese Parliament ahead of the Annual Session this summer in Porto.

On 7 April, the OSCE PA's Bureau will meet in Copenhagen, where the general committees' rapporteurs will present their preliminary ideas for the reports and draft resolutions being prepared for the Annual Session, and the Treasurer will present the draft budget for the coming 2025-2026 financial year.

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