

COMPILATION OF OSCE PA RESOLUTIONS RELATED TO GENDER EQUALITY

(1992-2024)

1999 ST. PETERSBURG DECLARATION

- RESOLUTION ON TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

2002 BERLIN DECLARATION

- RESOLUTION ON THE IMPACT OF TERRORISM ON WOMEN
- RESOLUTION ON COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS, ESPECIALLY WOMAN AND CHILDREN

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- RESOLUTION ON EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN OSCE DECISION-MAKING
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2015 HELSINKI DECLARATION

- RESOLUTION ON WOMEN AND GIRLS MADE VULNERABLE BY ARMED CONFLICT, CRISIS OR MINORITY STATUS

2016 TBILISI DECLARATION

- RESOLUTION ON INTEGRATING GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE RESPONSE TO THE MIGRANT AND REFUGEE CRISIS

2017 MINSK DECLARATION

- RESOLUTION ON PROMOTING GENDER INCLUSIVE AND RESPONSIVE MEDIATION

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- RESOLUTION ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

2019 LUXEMBOURG DECLARATION

- RESOLUTION ON THE INTEGRATION OF GENDER AND YOUTH PERSPECTIVES IN EFFORTS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE
- RESOLUTION ON DIGITALIZATION AS AN ADVANTAGE FOR GENDER POLICIES

2022 BIRMINGHAM DECLARATION

- RESOLUTION ON COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN JOURNALISTS AND POLITICIANS

2023 VANCOUVER DECLARATION

- RESOLUTION ON THE GENDERED CONSEQUENCES OF ARMED CONFLICTS
- RESOLUTION ON ADOPTING EFFECTIVE MECHANISMS TO SAFEGUARD UKRAINIAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING
- RESOLUTION ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE WITH REGARD TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN

2024 BUCHAREST DECLARATION

- RESOLUTION ON CONDEMNING THE WEAPONIZATION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT ZONES
- RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN FOSTERING DEMOCRATIC AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

1999 ST. PETERSBURG DECLARATION

RESOLUTION ON TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

1. Condemning the fact that millions of persons every year, of whom the overwhelming majority are women or children, are trafficked into the international sex trade, in gross violation of their fundamental human rights;
2. Underlining that trafficking of persons in all its forms is an evil that calls for concerted and vigorous action by countries of origin, transit and destination, and by international organizations;
3. Noting that international trafficking in persons is not limited to sexual trafficking but also involves forced labour and other violations of internationally recognised human rights;
4. Concerned that sexual trafficking is a particularly brutal form of the international traffic in persons which includes all the elements of the crime of rape because it results in the involuntary participation of another person in sex acts by means of fraud, force, or coercion;
5. Aware that trafficking in women and children in the OSCE region and beyond is inherently related to the global phenomenon of organised crime relating to slavery, forced labour and forced prostitution;
6. Recalling the commitments of OSCE participating States, as set out in the [1991 Moscow Document](#), to “seek to eliminate all forms of violence against women, and all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women including by ensuring adequate legal prohibitions against such acts and other appropriate measures”¹;
7. Recalling that international law recognises the right to be free from slavery and involuntary servitude, arbitrary detention, degrading or inhuman treatment, and arbitrary interference with privacy or the family, as well as the right to protection by law against these abuses;
8. Concerned that existing legislation and law enforcement in some OSCE participating States are inadequate to deter trafficking and to bring traffickers to justice and that enforcement against international sexual traffickers is also hindered by official indifference, corruption, and in some instances active official participation in trafficking;

¹ Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, 1991, 40.7, p. 48. Available at [DOCUMENT \(osce.org\)](#).

9. Urgently appeals to the Governments of OSCE participating States to adopt or strengthen existing legislation and enforcement mechanisms to punish trafficking perpetrators, particularly those who use force or fraud to traffic women or children into the international sex trade, while protecting the rights of the trafficking victims;

10. Urges the Governments of OSCE participating States to develop nationally and internationally co-ordinated law enforcement strategies to combat internationally organised crime, and particularly the role of organised crime in trafficking of women and children;

11. Recommends that countries of origin, transit and destination of trafficking victims conduct information campaigns to raise public awareness and understanding of this problem;

12. Suggests that the ODIHR convene a meeting of expert advisors and relevant officials from OSCE participating States to develop a co-ordinated strategy for combating this problem.

2002 BERLIN DECLARATION

RESOLUTION ON THE IMPACT OF TERRORISM ON WOMEN

1. Recalling the commitments of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, as stated in the [2002 Sintra Declaration](#), the [St. Petersburg Declaration](#), the Resolution of the 1999 Annual Session on the Trafficking of Women and Children² as well as the Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism of the Bucharest Ministerial Council³;
2. Appreciating the role of the United Nations in increasing the representation of women in the decision-making process, in particular, [Security Council Resolution 1325 \(2000\) on “Women in Peace and Security”](#), the outcome of the [Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations “Women 2000”](#) and previous conferences, and the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women of 1979](#);
3. Expressing concern that women who are the only majority that often bears the status of a minority also account for the majority of those adversely affected by terrorism and are increasingly targeted directly through murder, rape and injury;
4. Recognizing that women are particularly susceptible to social marginalization, poverty and general suffering engendered by violent conflicts;
5. Underlining the important role of women in conflict prevention, resolution and peace building;
6. Emphasizing the importance of women’s full involvement and equal participation in all efforts to maintain and promote peace, security and the rule of law;
7. Stressing that peaceful democracies can only truly function when gender equality is also recognized, emphasized and exercised,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

8. Appeals to the OSCE and to the participating States asking them, in their action towards an enabling social and political environment to combat terrorism and to promote peaceful resolution of conflicts, to pay particular attention to the protection of women and the promotion of their rights;
9. Urges the participating States to take action in order to develop an enabling social and political environment to ensure an increased representation of women in the OSCE on all levels and to forward more competent female candidates for contracted and seconded positions;

² St. Petersburg Declaration of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, 1991. Available at [ST \(oscepa.org\)](#).

³ Ninth Meeting of the Ministerial Council, Bucharest Ministerial Declaration, 2001, p. 8. Available at [40515.pdf \(osce.org\)](#).

10. Recommends that a sufficient number of experts be provided in all levels of the OSCE, including the Secretariat, Institutions and Field Missions, to deal with gender issues;

11. Asks the National Parliaments of the participating States, when selecting Members of their Delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly, to secure a proper gender balance in the Assembly's membership;

12. Calls upon the Governments of the participating States to revise the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism by including provisions relating to the impact of terrorism on women, and by recognizing the need for increased participation of women in the process of conflict prevention and conflict resolution;

13. Suggests that the same Governments promote awareness of the effects of terrorism on women and of the need to make effective arrangements to overcome these effects, with the ultimate objective of promoting and maintaining peace, security and the rule of law.

RESOLUTION ON COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS, ESPECIALLY WOMAN AND CHILDREN

1. Aware of the urgent need for OSCE Member States to undertake measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, and to end violence against women as well as sexual exploitation and all forms of trafficking in human beings and to promote the adoption of strengthening of legislation to hold accountable persons responsible for these acts and the protection of victims,

2. Alarmed that human trafficking has become the fastest growing facet of organised crime,

3. Deploring that trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, continues to expand throughout the OSCE region notwithstanding national, regional and international efforts to combat the phenomenon,

4. Noting that the problem of trafficking in human beings is multidimensional in nature – affecting the security, economic and human dimensions of the Helsinki process – and is of relevance throughout the OSCE region,

5. Underlining that trafficking in human beings is a law-enforcement issue and a human rights concern but is first and foremost a violation of human rights,

6. Reminding that parliamentarians in several international organizations like the Inter-

-Parliamentary Union, the Council of Europe, the Nordic Council and the OSCE, have condemned trafficking as a violation of human rights,

7. Recalling that the [1991 Moscow Document](#), the [1999 Charter for European Security](#), the [OSCE Ministerial Council Decision of November 2000](#) and the [OSCE Ministerial Council Decision of December 2001](#) commit OSCE participating States to seek to end all forms of trafficking in human beings including through appropriate legislation and other measures,

8. Aware that the root causes of human trafficking, such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, patriarchal structures, discrimination, racism, violence and the demand for cheap labour and commercial sexual services have to be addressed,

9. Underlining that combating human trafficking concerns society in its entirety and not just the individuals involved,

10. Alarmed by the existence and prevalence of sex tourism aimed, in particular, at the sexual exploitation of children,

11. Requiring that countries of destination for persons trafficked into sexual exploitation acknowledge their incontestable responsibility to address the demand for commercial sexual services,

12. Deeply disturbed that nationals of OSCE participating States have been implicated in the trafficking of women and girls, and in soliciting the sexual services of trafficked persons, in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo while serving as part of the international presence in those areas,

13. Aware of the need of a legal framework, improved implementation of legislation, enhanced and improved international cooperation and coordination, and well trained professionals in the field,

14. Regarding the SECI Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime⁴ and the Trafficking in Persons Task Forces established under the Southeastern European Cooperative Initiative's (SECI) auspices as a useful model for cross-border cooperation in law enforcement against trafficking in persons,

15. Emphasizing the need to develop victim assistance and protection mechanisms both in countries of origin and of destination. Government authorities should consider granting of temporary and/or permanent residence permits to victims of trafficking,

⁴ The SECI Center (The Southeast Europe Cooperative Initiative Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime) is an operational regional organization bringing together police and customs authorities from 13 member countries in Southeast Europe. Available at [SECI Center - The Southeast Europe Cooperative Initiative Regional Center for Combating Trans-border Crime \(Slovenia - Croatia - Hungary\) - E-DEN \(isig.it\)](#).

16. Welcoming the commitment expressed by OSCE participating States at the Conference on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, held in Berlin in October 2001, to enhance their efforts to combat human trafficking,
17. Commending the ODIHR Anti-Trafficking Project Fund⁵ as a new mechanism to support and fund anti-trafficking initiatives in the field,
18. Commending the global television campaign launched by the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) to increase education and awareness about trafficking,
19. Welcomes the proposal of the incoming OSCE Chair-in-Office to address the economic impact of trafficking in human beings, small arms, and illegal drugs at the OSCE Economic Forum in 2003,
20. Calls on OSCE participating States to ratify relevant international documents including the [UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime](#) and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children⁶,
21. Requests that OSCE participating States take unequivocal responsibility for the problem of human trafficking and take appropriate counter-measures including adoption and implementation of appropriate legislation guaranteeing effective criminal prosecution,
22. Calls on OSCE participating States to ensure that their laws contain the requisite jurisdiction to prosecute acts of trafficking in human beings when those acts are committed abroad by their nationals,
23. Calls on OSCE participating States to ensure that their laws contain the requisite jurisdiction to prosecute their nationals who travel abroad for the purpose of engaging in sexual acts with children,
24. Demands that account has to be taken of the special situation of trafficked children and their specific rights and needs,
25. Urges OSCE participating States and the EU to help ensure that funding is available on a regular basis for priority anti-trafficking initiatives carried out by the ODIHR and OSCE field operations,

⁵ ODIHR's Anti-Trafficking Project Fund was established in mid-February 2001 to enhance ODIHR's efforts to combat trafficking and provide OSCE field operations with financing, enabling them to expand their initiatives in the field. p. 6, Annual Report 2001 on OSCE Activities, 2001. Available at <https://www.osce.org/secretariat/14514>.

⁶ United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto, 2004, p. 41. Available at [United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime And The Protocols Thereto \(Unodc.Org\)](#).

26. Urges the OSCE, working with the international community and regional initiatives such as SECI and the Stability Pact⁷, to prioritize the problems of organized crime, corruption and trafficking in human beings, narcotics and arms that plague countries in Southeast Europe, and as a matter of urgency to increase coordination amongst themselves in order to more effectively fight these destabilizing realities,

27. Encourages the OSCE participating States in Southeastern Europe to utilize fully the capability of the SECI Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime in Bucharest, Romania, including by appointing without undue delay liaison officers from their police and customs services to serve at the SECI Center;

⁷ The Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) is a set of rules designed to ensure that countries in the European Union pursue sound public finances and coordinate their fiscal policies. Available at [Stability and Growth Pact \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu).

2005 WASHINGTON DECLARATION

RESOLUTION ON IMPROVING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE OSCE

1. Recalling the Assembly's past recommendation on improving gender equality within the OSCE and its recommendations to fight gender based discrimination,
2. Recognizing the increased visibility of gender issues within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as an important step,
3. Regretting that in spite of the goodwill expressed in the [2000 OSCE Gender Action Plan](#), very little actual progress is visible with regard to the gender equality situation within the Organization itself,
4. Realizing that many national Delegations to the OSCE PA still include very few women and that some Delegations include no women at all, The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:
5. Welcomes the [2004 Ministerial Council decision adopting the new Gender Action Plan](#) and insists on an immediate implementation of the provisions included;
6. Again calls upon the OSCE Secretary General and participating states to take positive action to promote the recruitment of women candidates within OSCE bodies and Institutions, especially at higher levels; and to improve the culture and working atmosphere in the Organization, and encourages national OSCE PA Delegations to assist their respective Governments in identifying qualified female candidates;
7. Reiterates the Assembly's recommendation to provide equal opportunities for men and women in the OSCE in order for the Organization to live up to its own principles;
8. Requests that the OSCE improve the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in its reports, resolutions and all other documents, as gender neutral often means gender blind, and, at the same time, encourages the OSCE PA International Secretariat to continue its monitoring and reporting of this;
9. Recommends that Parliamentary Delegations to the OSCE monitor the work of their Permanent National Delegations in Vienna in order to ensure that they promote gender balance in all OSCE activities by, for instance, requesting reports on this matter;
10. Strongly urges parliaments in the OSCE area to take positive action in order to obtain gender balance in their national delegations to the OSCE PA;

11. Calls upon Heads of OSCE PA Delegations to take positive action to promote the nomination and appointment of women candidates in the OSCE PA for elected positions and with regard to participation in field-related activities;

12. Invites all Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to promote participation of women in politics and civil society-building in their home countries, starting at their respective constituencies;

13. Encourages the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues to continue the efforts to ensure that OSCE PA reports and resolutions are gender mainstreamed and that a gender perspective be included in the work of the Assembly, and stresses the importance of the informal network of the Special Representative on Gender Issues;

14. Welcomes the efforts of the International Secretariat to promote gender equality in the OSCE and calls upon the OSCE PA Secretary General to continue his efforts to maintain a good and equal working environment in the International Secretariat.

RESOLUTION ON THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OSCE MISSION MEMBERS

1. Noting that full and true equality between men and women is a fundamental aspect of a just and democratic society as stated by the Moscow Meeting of the third conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE 1991,

2. Noting that in this context the participating states committed themselves (40.7) “to seek to eliminate all forms of violence against women, and all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women including by ensuring adequate legal prohibition against such acts and other appropriate measures”⁸,

3. Noting that prostitution is an undesirable social phenomenon and is an obstacle to the ongoing development towards equality between women and men and noting also that women in prostitution have few other options and most of them do not make a rational choice to enter prostitution,

4. Noting that international aid workers and peace keepers who exploit prostitutes in the field have been duly criticized and that exploitation of positions of unequal power undermines the credibility of humanitarian work and damages victims, their families and communities,

5. Noting that such behaviour has, in fact, resulted in an increase of the trafficking of women and children, The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

⁸ Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, 1991, 40.7, p. 48. Available at [DOCUMENT \(osce.org\)](https://www.osce.org/documents/human-dimensions/1991/04/19910407).

6. Underlines the need to uphold the highest ethical standard of integrity, accountability and transparency in all OSCE activities;
7. Commends the [Code of Conduct for OSCE mission members](#);
8. Welcomes a rule of zero tolerance for UN aid workers who buy sexual services;
9. Remains determined to fulfil all the human dimension commitments of the OSCE;
10. Recommends that the Code of Conduct for OSCE mission members be completed by prohibiting the purchase of sexual services. In this instance “sexual services” does not only mean “cash purchases” of sexual services from prostitutes, visits to brothels, etc. but also “private support” in the form of payment of bills, rents, school fees etc. in exchange for sexual services. Recommends also that visits to pornography establishments, strip joints or similar clubs not be permitted as this could mean lending support to crimes such as trafficking and other criminal activities;
11. Urges that all persons involved in OSCE activities follow the Code of Conduct amended as recommended above.

2007 KYIV DECLARATION

RESOLUTION ON WOMEN IN PEACE AND SECURITY

1. Underlining the fact that civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those affected by armed conflicts,
2. Recalling that armed conflicts are a breeding ground for atrocities against women and other vulnerable groups of civilians such as children and elderly people,
3. Underlining the fact that the participation of women and girls and the inclusion of gender perspectives in both formal and informal peace processes are crucial in the establishment of sustainable peace,
4. Welcoming the discussions and decisions initiated by the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security,
5. Welcoming the fact that several OSCE participating States have already developed and adopted National Action Plans on UNSC Resolution 1325,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

6. Encourages OSCE participating States to develop, adopt and implement national action plans on women, peace and security;
7. Recommends that the OSCE works as a regional network supporting, coordinating and reviewing the development and implementation of national activities in this field.

2008 ASTANA DECLARATION

RESOLUTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1. Recognizing that equal opportunities for women and men and the protection of their human rights are essential to peace, sustainable democracy, economic development and therefore to security and stability in the OSCE region,
2. Noting that, in its [Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women \(1993\)](#), the United Nations General Assembly stated that it was convinced of the need for a commitment by States in respect of their responsibilities and a commitment of the international community at large to the elimination of violence against women,
3. Recalling the [2004 OSCE Action Plan for Gender Issues](#) and the [2005 Ministerial Council Decision 15/05 on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women](#) which called on participating States to fight violence against women and increase protection of victims,
4. Further recalling the Beijing Platform for Action⁹ and [the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 \(2000\)](#), which calls for full and equal participation of women in decision making with regard to conflict prevention as well as in post-conflict reconstruction, and stressing the importance of women's full and equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security,
5. Alarmed by the increase in the number of women subjected to violence in OSCE participating States and the fact that globally, one woman in five is a victim of violence, and raising concern that the issue of domestic violence remains largely invisible in spite of this, The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:
6. Condemns violence against women as a general violation of women's rights as human beings – the right to life, dignity, safety, and physical and psychological well-being;
7. Realizes that all kinds of violence, including domestic violence against women are linked with the overall disrespect for women's role in society, and regrets that gender issues are still not visible on the political agenda of the OSCE;
8. Urges the OSCE Secretary General, Heads of Institutions and Heads of Missions as day-to-day managers within the Organization to increase efforts in

⁹ The 1995 Beijing Platform for Action flagged 12 key areas where urgent action was needed to ensure greater equality and opportunities for women and men, girls and boys and laid out concrete ways for countries to bring about change. Available at [The Beijing 12 critical areas of concern deconstructed | UN Women – Headquarters](#).

promoting a more gender equal working environment within the OSCE in order to set an example for all levels of society in participating States;

9. Repeats its call for participating States to second more women to management level positions and to nominate more female candidates to leadership positions within the OSCE, and strongly urges national Parliaments to ensure gender-balance in the composition of the Delegations to the OSCE PA;

10. Encourages participating States to recruit more female police officers, to set up centres for victims of gender violence, trafficking in human beings and victims of rape, and to ensure flexibility as regards access to justice and calls on the OSCE to provide support and assistance to States in this regard;

11. Urges national Parliaments to ensure adequate legislation to protect women who are victims of domestic violence, including through emancipating victims from vulnerable situations, instituting appropriate restraints on movements by perpetrators, enforcing penalties and sentences, and providing legal assistance, loans and access to property to victims of domestic violence;

12. Calls on the national parliaments in the OSCE region to ensure that legislation outlaws all forms of violence against women, including rape, prostitution and trafficking, and institutes appropriate penalties and sentences;

13. Urges increased international co-operation between state institutions and NGOs in order to improve protection for the female victims of violence or trafficking, including awareness-raising and training for those in primary contact with potential victims;

14. Notes that women's economic dependency on men makes women easy targets for oppression and abuse, as well as potential victims of prostitution and human trafficking, and affirms the importance of reducing poverty and of actively promoting possibilities for women in the labour market;

15. Repeats its call on parliaments to ratify, if they have not yet done so, and implement the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) and their protocols.

2009 VILNIUS DECLARATION

RESOLUTION ON MATERNAL MORTALITY

1. Recognising that the World Health Organization's Constitution notes that "the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being"¹⁰,
2. Aware that there has been no significant progress in achieving the fifth goal of the [Millennium Declaration of 2000](#) calling for a 75 per cent reduction in global maternal mortality by 2015, which may negatively affect efforts to promote peace and sustainable democracy, empower women and advance economic development globally,
3. Noting that a mother's death has a severe impact upon the lives and futures of children, including daughters withdrawn from school to assume family responsibilities; detracts from family income; and collectively weakens communities and perpetuates poverty while undermining the right of women to full and equal participation and involvement in civil society,
4. Acknowledging the [statement of July 2008 by the G-8 nations](#) expressing support for a comprehensive approach to reducing maternal and newborn mortality through investments to improve access to quality medical care and to skilled birth attendants, backed by access to emergency obstetric care, and to improving the health workforce, health facilities and culturally appropriate referral systems and tools,
5. Recognising the accompanying call by the G-8 in the Toyako Framework for Action that, in order to make real and substantial progress towards improving maternal, reproductive and child health, additional resources – from both domestic and international sources – are needed if the health-related Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved,
6. Aware that in [September 2008 the United Nations announced the creation of a Task Force](#), co-chaired by the British Prime Minister and the President of the World Bank, to study ways to strengthen health systems in an effort to reduce the number of women who die in pregnancy and childbirth, and which is due to present its recommendations, on financing to strengthen health systems and pay for health care workers to potentially save the lives of 10 million women and children by 2015, at the 2009 G-8 meeting in Italy,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

¹⁰ Constitution of the World Health Organization, 1948, p. 1. Available at [couv arabe.indd \(who.int\)](#).

7. Calls upon the participating States to make stronger and more consistent efforts to reduce maternal mortality both at home and abroad through greater financial investment and participation in global initiatives, particularly those geared toward regions where mortality is highest, and encourages the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to remain seized of the matter.

2010 OSLO DECLARATION

RESOLUTION ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

1. Stressing the importance of equal participation of women and men and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security,
2. Deeply concerned about the endemic prevalence of sexual violence carried out by state agencies, both military and police, whose role is to provide security and protect citizens, as well as resistance forces or militias, in contemporary armed conflicts,
3. Recalling historically, that not only land and material goods, but also women have been the entitlement of soldiers and other combatants in wars, and that gender-based violence, including rape, is one of the most traditional and pervasive features of war and has been tolerated as an inherent, inevitable and unfortunate element of war,
4. Noting that although the explicit prohibition of the crime of rape is to be found in the [1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War](#), governing internal conflicts, and the [1977 Additional Protocol II to the Convention relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts](#), wartime rape has not enjoyed the same status as other war crimes, because of its gender-specific character and the value system rooted in the social structure of patriarchy that has dominated the social space in which wars have taken place, as well as the international legal arena, which in turn have contributed to the legal culture of impunity surrounding rape and sexual violence in war,
5. Commending with high appreciation the continuous grass-roots advocacy of women and human rights organizations in pushing the topic of gender and security onto the international agenda,
6. Commemorating the 10th anniversary of United National Security Council (UNSC) resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security,
7. Noting the significant contribution of UNSC resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, unanimously adopted on 31 October 2000, in acknowledging gender-dimensions of war and peace, and the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction,
8. Noting that the prohibition against rape and other sexual abuses committed in armed conflicts was not supported by means of international enforcement until the inception of the International Criminal Court of 1 July 2002,

9. Welcoming [UNSC resolution 1820 on sexual violence in conflict](#), adopted on 19 June 2008, that reinforces resolution 1325 in recognizing that sexual violence as a tactic of war is often widespread and systematic and can impede the restoration of international peace and security and condemns the use of rape and other forms of sexual violence in conflict situations, stating that rape can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity, or a constitutive act with respect to genocide,
10. Welcoming [UNSC resolution 1888](#), adopted on 30 September 2009, which complements resolution 1820 by asking the Secretary-General of the United Nations to rapidly deploy a team of experts to situations of particular concern regarding sexual violence and to include information about the prevalence of sexual violence in a report by UN peacekeeping missions to the Security Council,
11. Welcoming the appointment in February 2010 of Margot Wallström of Sweden as a Special UN Representative to lead efforts to end conflict-related sexual violence against women and children, as called for in UNSC resolutions 1820 and 1888,
12. Supporting the five priorities of the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict to end impunity, empower women, mobilize political leadership, increase recognition of rape as a tactic and consequence of conflict, and ensure a more coherent response from the UN system,
13. Welcoming [UNSC resolution 1889](#), adopted on 5 October 2009, that reaffirms the provisions of resolution 1325, stressing the need for UN Member States to effectively implement the resolution, calling for measures to improve women's empowerment, their participation in peace processes and their key role in rebuilding war-torn societies and calling on the Secretary-General to submit a set of indicators to track implementation of the resolution,
14. Appreciating the work of women's non-governmental organizations such as the German Women's Security Council, the Women Peacemakers Program and the Global Monitoring Checklist on Women, Peace and Security, which monitor the implementation of resolution 1325 in the absence of national action plans and aim to contribute towards international understanding of women, peace and security efforts by highlighting examples of activities to support UNSCR 1325 at the local and national level by women, civil society, national governments and the international community,
15. Welcoming the national action plans (NAPs) already made to implement UNSC resolution 1325 and welcoming the NAPs under preparation,
16. Commending the approach of the Irish Ministry for Foreign Affairs in the process of preparing Ireland's NAP on resolution 1325 including a cross-learning initiative with Liberia, East Timor and Northern Ireland,

17. Welcoming the European Union Comprehensive Approach for the Implementation of UNSC resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security and the [2008-2009 UN 39 System-Wide Action Plan on resolution 1325](#), as well as the active support for resolution 1325 within the African Union and in Latin America,

18. Expressing concern over the limited progress in implementing UNSC resolution 1325 and its sister resolutions on women, peace and security despite national, regional and international action plans,

19. Noting that most states with NAPs to implement UNSC resolution 1325 have not established baselines nor put indicators in place to measure compliance and progress,

20. Welcoming the measures produced by 14 UN entities under the leadership of the Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and introduced by the UN Secretary-General, including a set of 26 indicators pertaining to prevention, participation, protection, relief and recovery, designed to track the implementation of UNSC resolution 1325,

21. Welcoming the UN Security Council's support for the comprehensive set of indicators on the implementation of its resolution on women, peace and security,

22. Appreciating the guidelines provided by the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and recommendations made to UN Member States, multilateral and regional institutions, the United Nations and civil society on steps to take to stimulate the development and implementation of NAPs relating to UNSC resolutions 1325 and 1820 in a report dated 24 April 2009 from a meeting of the Institute for Inclusive Security and Realizing Rights: the Ethical Globalization Initiative,

23. Welcoming the establishment of a new gender entity at the UN – UN Women – which will replace and consolidate the mandates of the four existing UN women's agencies and serve as an instrumental entity in assisting States to eliminate the root causes of systemic gender discrimination and sexism and, thereby, the root causes of gender-based violence in peace and war times,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

24. Calls upon participating States to develop NAPs applying to both public and private entities to implement UNSC resolutions on women, peace and security incorporating the measures included in UNSC resolution 1325 in their respective security and defence and external action policies, in order to achieve the following objectives:

a. Promote the participation of women in peacekeeping missions and in decision-making bodies,

- b. Promote gender mainstreaming in all peace-building operations,
- c. Ensure specific training in gender equality and on resolution 1325 for staff involved in peacekeeping and peace-building missions,
- d. Protect the human rights of women and girls during and after conflicts,
- e. Incorporate the principle of gender equality in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration operations;
- f. Raise awareness in civil society of resolution 1325;

25. Urges participating States to include into NAPs baselines and performance indicators to measure compliance with and progress in implementing UNSC resolutions on women, peace and security;

26. Encourages participating States to develop systems for monitoring and assessing implementation including regular and publically accessible reporting;

27. Calls upon participating States to provide for appropriate human and financial resources for the development of NAPs and implementation and monitoring of progress and results;

28. Calls upon participating States to ensure that domestic law and legal systems implement their obligations under international conventions, including the obligations to protect women from sexual violence, prosecute perpetrators of sexual violence, ensure that all victims of sexual violence have equal protection under the law and equal access to justice, end impunity for sexual violence, and integrate NAPs into relevant national policies;

29. Encourages participating States to provide support to the priorities of the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict;

30. Urges participating States to support the decision taken in September 2009 by the UN General Assembly to establish a new gender entity at the UN in order to strengthen the gender dimension of the work of the UN with the aim to make women and men equal partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, and peace and security.

RESOLUTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION ON GROUNDS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY

1. Bearing in mind that international law establishes that all human beings are born free and equal,

2. Considering that this principle admits no exception and includes the right to freely express one's sexual orientation and gender identity, which are an important element in a person's integrity,

3. Observing however that State homophobia persists and the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and other basic rights are denied to lesbian, gay, bisexual or transsexual (LGBT) persons in a number of OSCE participating States,

4. Convinced that the OSCE has the duty to promote a clear message in favour of respect and non-discrimination in order for all persons to live with dignity in all its participating States, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity,

5. Welcomes the fact that some States have adopted measures against discrimination affecting LGBT persons,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

6. Calls on participating States to ensure that the fundamental rights of LGBT persons, including freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of association, are respected in accordance with international human rights standards;

7. Condemns any incitement to hatred and any discriminatory or abusive statement against LGBT persons or groups;

8. Calls on participating States to adopt legislation banning any form of discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity;

9. Further calls on participating States to repeal legislation that is discriminatory against LGBT persons, in line with the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights;

10. Calls on participating States to sign and ratify Protocol number 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights, which establishes a comprehensive prohibition of discrimination;

11. Recognizes persecution due to a persons sexual orientation or gender identity as grounds for granting asylum, in application of the UNHCR Guidance Note on refugee claims relating to sexual orientation and gender identity of 21 November 2008.

RESOLUTION ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

1. Recognizing that reproductive health problems remain the leading cause of ill health and death for women of childbearing age worldwide,

2. Concerned that impoverished women suffer disproportionately from unintended pregnancies, maternal death and disability, sexually transmitted infections

including HIV, sexual violence and other problems related to their reproductive system and sexual behaviour,

3. Acknowledging the World Health Organization's estimates that around half a million women and adolescent girls have died every year since 1980 from largely preventable complications related to pregnancy, childbirth and unsafe abortions,

4. Recalling that the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5 – calling for a reduction of maternal mortality by 75% and full universal access to reproductive health, is the least likely goal to be achieved of all the MDGs, as highlighted in the adopted resolution on Maternal Mortality in the 2009 Vilnius Declaration of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly¹¹,

5. Deeply concerned that the high rates of preventable maternal mortality in the OSCE area are related to the presence of gender inequalities which include; violence, including sexual violence against women and girls, lack of access to contraceptives, unsafe abortions or lack of access to abortion, lack of education and economic opportunities, lack of participation in decision-making, multiple forms of discrimination, and unequal health services and facilities for women and girls in particular,

6. Acknowledging that the full and equal exercise by women of their human rights, including the right to sexual and reproductive health, is essential to achieve a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic development of the OSCE area, as pointed out in the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the promotion of gender equality,

7. Concerned that Eastern Europe and Central Asia is the only region where HIV prevalence remains on the rise, bringing the number of people living with HIV in the region to 1.5 million and aware that Ukraine and the Russian Federation are experiencing especially severe and growing national epidemics, and that Ukraine has the highest infection level reported in all of Europe, according to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organization (WHO) epidemic update 2009,

8. Recalling MDG 6, to halt and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015, acknowledging the recommendations by UNAIDS to link HIV prevention with sexual and reproductive health services and legal services for women, and taking note that special efforts to reach 68 those at higher risk and excluded from access to reproductive and sexual health services, will result in more relevant and cost-effective programmes with greater impact,

9. Recognizing that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that “the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth”,

¹¹ Vilnius Declaration of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Resolutions Adopted at the Eighteenth Annual Session, 2009, p. 55. Available at [Microsoft Word - Final Vilnius Declaration.doc \(oscepa.org\)](#).

10. Recalling the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the review conferences and commitments regarding the reduction of maternal mortality and universal access to reproductive health, including those contained in the [2000 Millennium Declaration \(General Assembly resolution 55/2\)](#), the [2005 World Summit Outcome](#), and other relevant UN General Assembly resolutions,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

11. Repeats the call upon the participating States to strengthen their political efforts and financial resources to reduce infant and maternal mortality and to achieve MDG 4, MDG 5 and MDG 6 by 2015;

12. Encourages the States to promote and protect women's sexual and reproductive rights as part of their human rights, including addressing gender inequalities and discrimination against women and girls in the OSCE area;

13. Encourages participating States to further support and increase effective reproductive health interventions, promote the empowerment of women and girls and give renewed emphasis to maternal mortality initiatives through honouring existing international commitments;

14. Urges participating States to recognize and implement the evidence-based recommendations made by WHO, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank, to reduce preventable infant and maternal mortality and HIV/AIDS and increase women's right and access to health including increased access to comprehensive reproductive and sexual health information and services for women and young people, family planning, reproductive health supplies, prenatal care to help women carry to term, food and nutrition, medication to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS, safe delivery by skilled birth attendants, post-natal care, breastfeeding information, treatment of sexually transmitted infections including HIV, management of complications of abortion, and equipping and training health service providers to ensure access to safe abortions;

15. Urges participating States to recognize and implement the modern medical technologies permitting doctors to treat pre-born patients in the womb and contribute to attaining MDG 4 and MDG 5;

16. Encourages States within the OSCE area to strengthen partnerships between the States, civil society and the private sector as an effective measure in addressing and preventing maternal mortality and HIV/AIDS and to promote women's rights including their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

2011 BELGRADE DECLARATION

RESOLUTION ON WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION AT THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

1. Noting that article 1.4 of the [OSCE PA Rules of Procedure](#) states that: "Each national Delegation should have both genders represented",

2. Noting with concern that in the OSCE PA National Delegations' Members Directory circulated in Vienna on 21 February 21 2011, the following appears:

(a) Out of the 54 national delegations (there is no available data for Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan) in 17 delegations (31.48%) men are the only incumbents,

(b) 60.27% of the women are deputy members,

(c) There are only 10 women who are Head of a delegation (18.5%),

(d) Out of the 307 MPs only 73 (23.7%) are women,

(e) 26 women MPs (almost 50%) come from 10 delegations,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

3. Calls on the national parliaments to improve the representation of women in the OSCE PA national delegations in order to go forward in women's empowerment.

RESOLUTION ON GENDER, MIGRATION AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

1. Recognizing that equal opportunities for women and men and the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights by women are essential to peace, sustainable democracy, economic development and prosperity and, therefore, to security and stability in the OSCE region,

2. Recognizing that at the UN Beijing Conference in 1995 women's rights were recognized as de facto human rights,

3. Noting that in some OSCE participating States women still do not participate fully in the economic, social, cultural and political lives of their countries,

4. Acknowledging that in many OSCE participating States, women are still the poorest and most vulnerable members of society,

5. Being aware that poverty is a key indicator of political and social instability, and that it affects men and women differently,

6. Noting that the full potential of women's economic activities and their contribution to the economic prosperity of their families and countries is unrealized and underutilized across the OSCE region,

7. Acknowledging that women share responsibility for income generation and economic stability and that their income has a multiplier effect given that it is more likely to be invested in their families and communities,

8. Concerned that women's economic dependence on men, especially in times of economic difficulty and crises, increases their vulnerability and susceptibility to violence, abuse, oppression, isolation, exploitation and discrimination, domestically or socially, and potential as victims of deliberately submissive foreign bride arrangements and illegitimate economic activities such as prostitution and human trafficking,

9. Acknowledging that gainful economic opportunities, economic empowerment, migration education and training are legitimate avenues and solutions by which women and girls can reduce their impoverishment, achieve economic independence, improve their living conditions and realize their full economic potential,

10. Noting the variation in the prominence and success of women entrepreneurs across countries of the OSCE region and that women entrepreneurs are more likely to face challenges relating to discrimination regarding access to and control over such economic and financial resources as loans, credit, financing, property and inheritance rights, as well as barriers pertaining to social norms and traditional values, the undervaluing of women's potential and abilities, inadequate business skills and education and inadequate access to markets,

11. Acknowledging that the experiences and disadvantages of female migrants, labourers and entrepreneurs are different from those of men, due to their status, the nature of the employment sectors in which they are typically represented, their educational requirements, the limited legal channels for female migrant workers, and exclusion from the protection of sound labour legislation,

12. Noting that gender-based analysis has shown that female workers and migrants are more likely to be underrepresented in senior positions of responsibility and management, be paid lower wages, work longer hours, have less job security and face increased sexual harassment, abuse and discrimination than male counterparts,

13. Recognizing the various types of female migrants, such as permanent and temporary, labour and family class, low skill and high skill, refugees and asylum seekers, documented and undocumented, young and old, each presenting its own opportunities and challenges requiring equally diverse policy responses,

14. Concerned that the disproportionate number of migrant women employed in economic labour sectors, such as domestic and care services, garment manufacturing, hospitality, and agriculture, remain unregulated in some countries,

15. Affirming the economic and social benefits resulting from legal and orderly migration by women, including labour migration, and of actively promoting possibilities for women in the labour market and as business entrepreneurs, both for their own benefit and for the benefit of their families and their country's economic potential,

16. Noting that wider access to affordable and reliable justice on the part of vulnerable groups such as female migrants and women economically dependent on their spouses is an important avenue for ensuring their rights are respected, particularly under circumstances of marital dissolution, custody of children, employment discrimination and harassment, and equity of pay for equal work,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

17. Reiterates and commends past OSCE Parliamentary Assembly resolutions on gender, migration and economic opportunities, the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, and the work of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the OSCE Gender Section and OSCE field missions in promoting gender mainstreaming and regarding support for projects and seminars addressing gender equality, migration, labour, economic opportunities and skills, and data collection, entrepreneurship and economic empowerment;

18. Stresses the need to raise awareness about the untapped potential of women in all economic sectors;

19. Affirms the rights of women to increased economic autonomy, including control over their earnings, legal migration opportunities, safe and secure recruitment procedures, access to judicial proceedings, fair remuneration and decent working conditions, including the right to negotiate better terms of employment;

20. Notes the principle that maternity/paternity policies and childcare programmes are key elements in promoting equal employment opportunities and responsibility-sharing between women and men and enhancing the economic prosperity of women and their families;

21. Encourages OSCE participating States to build liaisons and strong relations with nongovernmental labour and business sectors to promote training opportunities, education, employment and pay equity for women in the labour market by way of various programmes, policies, legislative and financial/tax incentives; encourages mentoring relationships and co-operation at the national and regional levels among women's organizations relating to labour, migration and

entrepreneurship, including trade unions, non-governmental organizations and business associations which focus on training and counselling, exchanging good practices regarding women's entrepreneurship, developing associations and networks of women entrepreneurs, identifying priorities for economic reforms and policies that support women's economic independence and prosperity, enhancing employment opportunities, and support and protection of female migrant workers and entrepreneurs;

22. Calls upon participating States to adopt legislation that creates an enabling environment to provide equality of economic and employment opportunity for men and women; ensures equal access for women and girls to education, training and equal wages; promotes gender balance in senior positions of responsibility and management; and improves working conditions and provides equal access to benefits including child care;

23. Calls upon participating States to adopt policies that facilitate economic opportunities and independence for women, including promoting the growth of female entrepreneurship, establishing non-burdensome licensing and taxation regimes, and developing gender-sensitive programmes that facilitate access to finance, education and training and the development of local, national and regional business associations;

24. Calls upon participating States to adopt programmes and strategies that implement women's rights regarding equality of economic and employment opportunity, education, training and wages;

25. Urges participating States to enhance their capacity for reliable collection, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data and research on migration, employment and economic independence according to standardized methodology, and to consider issuing grants or other means of supporting non-governmental organizations to collect, analyse and disseminate sex-disaggregated data and research;

26. Encourages participating States to exchange best practice concerning gender, migration and the economic independence of women in order to develop more effective policies in business support, education and labour regulation, and to identify priority areas for further capacity-building.

RESOLUTION ON PROMOTING POLICIES ON EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN OF THE ROMA POPULATION

1. Considering that:

(a) Gender equality is a fundamental right and a fundamental principle of the European Union and therefore one of its indispensable objectives.

(b) Gender equality is essential to achieving the objectives set in terms of economic and social cohesion, high levels of employment and social protection, and sustainable growth.

(c) The European Union cannot afford to ignore the human capital, capacity and talent offered by women.

(d) Discrimination on the ground of sex destroys the lives of individuals, is detrimental to the economy and society as a whole, and undermines support for and confidence in the fundamental European value of gender equality and the rule of law.

(e) Equality of opportunities for women and men and the protection of their human rights are essential to peace, sustainable democracy and economic development, and hence to security and stability in the OSCE area,

2. Recalling the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality,

3. Recalling the Beijing Platform of Action and resolution 1325 (2000) of the United Nations Security Council, both of which call for the equal participation and full involvement of women,

4. Having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 1 June 2006 on the situation of Roma women in the European Union,

5. Considering that women from ethnic minorities and especially Roma women face much more serious multiple discrimination than men from the same ethnic group or women from the majority, that the employment rate of Roma women is lower than that of Roma men, and that, given their role in the family, women can be the cornerstones of the integration of marginalized women,

6. Considering that the Roma woman, in her role as a transmitter of values, has helped to keep culture alive and to maintain traditions and values, thereby safeguarding the heritage,

7. Emphasizing that for the past two decades Roma women have been claiming a space of their own for Roma values that does not imply any loss, without forgetting that they have been declaring that the genuine promotion of the Roma people requires the committed participation of Roma women, without any forfeiting of cultural identity,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

8. Encourages the participating States to offer equality of educational opportunity to the sons and daughters of the Roma.

9. Asks the participating States to favour the continuity of Roma women in their school careers.
10. Further requests the participating States to promote assistance for retaining Roma women at university and to foster university access for those over 25 years old.
11. Encourages the sponsoring of positive action measures permitting the incorporation and promotion of Roma women in the labour market.
12. Asks the participating States to promote positive action measures in order to afford Roma women their opportunity in the various public and private institutions.
13. Asks the participating States to promote policies aimed at reconciling family and working life and to advance knowledge of suitable family planning that favours and balances motherhood and personal and social development.
14. Asks the participating States to establish a permanent Observatory to defend the public image of Roma women.
15. Asks the participating States to promote equal opportunities for Roma women in politics, at university, in trade unions, in associations and in every other ambit of society.
16. Further asks the participating States to involve Roma women in drawing up equality plans for contemplation of the proposals as an ethnic minority, and to support the demands and initiatives of the various Roma women's associations.
17. Asks the participating States to establish opportunities for raising the awareness of Roma women with respect to education for health through prevention, supporting activities that contribute to improving the health of women.
18. Asks the member countries to support the demand of Roma women for participation in the work of the various national and international bodies addressing the situation of Roma women.
19. Invites the OSCE participating States and the OSCE institutions to report on progress made in meeting the commitments set out in this resolution.

2012 MONACO DECLARATION

RESOLUTION ON EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN OSCE DECISION-MAKING

1. Recognizing that equal opportunities for women and men and the protection of their human rights are essential to peace, sustainable democracy, economic development and therefore to security and stability in the OSCE region,
2. Recalling the [2004 OSCE Action Plan for Gender Issues](#), the Beijing Platform for Action and the UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which calls for full and equal participation of women in decision making with regard to conflict prevention as well as in post-conflict reconstruction, and stressing the importance of women's full and equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security,
3. Noting that there are fewer women in the national OSCE PA delegations, as well as fewer women in higher office within the OSCE PA, than there are men,
4. Noting that elections in themselves still do not guarantee high-level leadership positions for women,
5. Noting that women's involvement in the process of making important government decisions can be an important milestone on the path to achieving gender balance in senior positions,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

6. Recognizes the equal rights of men and women to be heard and taken into account in the internal proceedings of the OSCE;
7. Regrets that gender issues are still not visible on the political agenda of the OSCE;
8. Urges the OSCE Secretary General, Heads of Institutions and Heads of Missions as day-to-day managers within the Organization to increase efforts to promote a more gender-equal working environment within the OSCE in order to set an example for all levels of society in participating States;
9. Urges the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to develop a project to prepare leaders among female MPs;
10. Strongly urges national Parliaments to ensure gender-balance in the composition of the Delegations to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and demands representation of both genders in all delegations;

11. Calls on participating States to co-operate and exchange experiences on the development of legislation on special measures to promote gender balance;
12. Urges the OSCE Secretary General, Heads of Institutions and Heads of Missions to ensure that all proceedings take place in an environment, including lodgings, which is free from prostitution and pornography;
13. Further urges the OSCE Secretary General to aspire to representation of both genders in all on-stage proceedings within the Organization;
14. Urges the OSCE Secretary General to enhance transparency in the meeting procedure by ensuring a public speakers' list;
15. Further urges the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to aspire to representation of both genders in all on-stage proceedings within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

RESOLUTION ON GENDER AND MINORITIES IN THE OSCE REGION

1. Reaffirming that equal opportunities for women and men, and the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights by women, as well as respect for the rights of persons belonging to national minorities as universally recognized human rights, are essential to peace, justice, sustainable democracy, economic development and prosperity and, therefore, to security and stability in the OSCE region,
2. Acknowledging the cross-cutting issue of gender and minority status, and the condition of women belonging to national, religious, linguistic and ethnic minorities, notably immigrant, indigenous and Roma and Sinti women, in the OSCE region as among the most vulnerable to political, economic and social alienation,
3. Recalling that in the [Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe](#), the OSCE participating States committed themselves to respect "human rights and fundamental freedoms ... for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,"¹² as also confirmed by the OSCE PA in numerous declarations,
4. Commending the work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues, and the Gender Unit at the OSCE Secretariat in promoting awareness and best practice concerning the most vulnerable groups in the OSCE region,
5. Noting the progress achieved on the part of many participating States regarding the implementation and enforcement of rights of persons belonging to national minorities, ethnic, religious and linguistic groups, indigenous peoples, immigrants,

¹² Conference on Security and Co-Operation in Europe Final Act, 1975, p. 6. Available at [untitled \(osce.org\)](#).

and the Roma and Sinti populations in the OSCE region, as well as on improving gender equality,

6. Recognizing the bridging role that women can play in promoting mutual understanding and tolerance in societies characterized by national, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity,

7. Mindful that in the OSCE region women who belong to minorities are less likely to participate fully in the economic, social, cultural and political lives of their countries, are less likely to have access to education and employment, housing, health care services, judicial protection or electoral office at a level equal with men belonging to their group, and with non-minority women and men, and are more vulnerable than men to subsequent poverty, exploitation, trafficking, slavery, domestic and societal violence, and the lack of legal protection as migrant workers,

8. Aware that more fully harnessing a country's diversity will strengthen its economic productivity and competitiveness,

9. Concerned that women belonging to minority groups face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and that the cross-cutting theme of the specific plight of women belonging to minorities is inadequately addressed at the OSCE,

10. Recalling the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular article 26, which states that "Everyone has the right to education"¹³, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in particular article 10, which states that "States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure to them equal rights with men in the field of education"¹⁴,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

11. Calls upon the participating States to continue to increase their efforts to safeguard and promote equal opportunities for women belonging to national minorities, particularly regarding access to education, shelter, health services, and employment, and offer sensitivity training where women and minorities are concerned;

12. Stresses the need for national parliaments to ensure that national legislation protects, respects and fulfils the equal rights and freedoms of minorities and women;

¹³ United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, p. 54. Available at [udhr booklet en web.pdf \(un.org\)](#).

¹⁴ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1981, p. 4. Available at [Microsoft Word - Document1 \(ohchr.org\)](#).

13. Calls on participating States to enhance their capacity for reliable collection, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data and research on ethnic, linguistic and religious groups, national minorities, indigenous peoples, and the Roma and Sinti populations according to standardized methodology, and to consider issuing grants or other means of supporting non-governmental organizations to collect, analyse and disseminate sexdisaggregated data and research, for the purpose of protecting, promoting and fulfilling women's rights;

14. Encourages participating States to exchange best practice concerning gender, ethnic, linguistic and religious groups, national minorities, indigenous peoples, and the Roma and Sinti populations in order to develop more effective policies regarding their political, economic and social inclusion and identify priority areas for further capacity building;

15. Urges participating States to increase women's participation in negotiations to resolve conflicts and in post-conflict reconciliation efforts and governance and to provide assistance that addresses the specific needs of women, in particular minority women, as per United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, especially in those conflicts arising from intolerance and where sexual violence, which has a gender and ethnic dimension, has been systematic;

16. Calls on the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues, and the Gender Unit at the OSCE Secretariat to strengthen their collaboration in promoting awareness of and solutions to the challenges faced by women belonging to minority groups;

17. Encourages participating States to recognize the importance of education, especially for women, since education is the most important tool to enable them to make a living independently, and notes that education is a key factor for women belonging to the Roma or Sinti populations or any other minority group.

2013 ISTANBUL DECLARATION

RESOLUTION ON GENDER ASPECTS OF LABOUR MIGRATION

1. Reaffirming its commitment to implement the principles proclaimed in the [Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(New York, 1967\)](#) and, to that end, to adopt measures to eliminate such discrimination in all its forms and manifestations,
2. Stressing that effective gender mainstreaming for achieving equality between men and women is essential for making full use of human capital in the OSCE region,
3. Taking into account that the OSCE commitments in the field of migration focus on the implementation of policy objectives in three main areas, namely: (1) protecting migrants; (2) reaping the benefits and mitigating the adverse effects of migration in the countries of origin and the countries of destination; and (3) strengthening co-operation between the countries of origin and the countries of destination in the management of migration,
4. Supporting a comprehensive approach to migration policy based on international standards for migration,
5. Bearing in mind that the feminization of migration has become a global trend,
6. Recognizing the significant contribution made by female migrant workers to the economic and social development of the countries of departure and the countries of destination,
7. Expressing concern that female migrant workers may face additional difficulties and discrimination at all stages of the migration process due to limited access to certain types and sectors of employment, educational requirements and existing stereotypes,
8. Also expressing concern about the considerable risk that female migrant workers have of finding themselves in a vulnerable situation and about the number of victims of abuse, including through violence and trafficking,
9. Taking into account international principles and norms of international law as well as the documents of specialized international organizations on questions of gender policy and migration,
10. Bearing in mind the declarations of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on questions of gender policy and migration,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

11. Calls upon participating States to elaborate and implement a gender-sensitive migration policy aimed at:

i. the creation of a political and legal environment conducive to equal opportunities for employment and equal access to its blessings and benefits for both male and female migrants;

ii. the implementation of a strategy which includes the application of both general provisions on the protection of migrants and provisions designed specifically for the protection of female migrant workers that improve their opportunities in the areas of freedom of choice, access to resources and the enjoyment of their rights;

12. Encourages participating States to use best practices for promoting the principle of non-discrimination and to ensure co-ordination and co-operation between parliaments, Governments and other stakeholders (trade unions, non-governmental organizations, diaspora organizations and corporations) in the support and protection of female migrant workers;

13. Draws attention to the need for participating States to strengthen measures to suppress unregulated migration and criminal networks engaged in the smuggling and trafficking of persons;

14. Refers to the relationship between the legal status of female migrant workers and their degree of protection from abuse and exploitation, and in that connection gives priority to the creation of a preventive measure for legal migration channels for women;

15. Invites participating States which are countries of origin to make use of the possibility of ensuring the safe migration of their female citizens through the creation of legal and institutional mechanisms that protect and enhance their opportunities at the recruitment stage and prior to migration (including through the provision of information, the organization of training and the upgrading of qualifications for future migrants);

16. Supports multilateral and bilateral co-operation between the countries of origin and the countries of destination in the regulation of general migration issues in order to strengthen legal migration and combat trafficking in persons;

17. Calls upon participating States to co-operate effectively with international organizations specialized in the fields of women's rights and migration.

2015 HELSINKI DECLARATION

RESOLUTION ON WOMEN AND GIRLS MADE VULNERABLE BY ARMED CONFLICT, CRISIS OR MINORITY STATUS

1. Reaffirming the importance of the OSCE participating States' existing commitments on gender equality, tolerance and non-discrimination, improving the situation of Roma and Sinti women and girls within the OSCE area, and preventing violence against women, including the [Ministerial Decision on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women \(MC.DEC/7/14/Corr.1\)](#),
2. Outraged by credible reports of sexual violence, exploitation and abuse of women and girls affected by armed conflict and displacement in parts of the Mediterranean region and the Middle East, and cognizant that security in the OSCE area and in these regions is linked,
3. Expressing deep concern regarding the particular vulnerability of Indigenous, Roma and Sinti women and girls, and women and girls from other minority groups in the OSCE region, to violence, including sexual violence, as well as other forms of exploitation and abuse,
4. Emphasizing that preventing and responding to sexual violence, exploitation and abuse of women and girls significantly contributes to comprehensive security in and around the OSCE region,
5. Expressing concern at the fact that violence against women and girls remains at a high level and that vulnerable groups of women have limited access to justice,
6. Noting that in the past decade the world has faced new threats and challenges, such as growing internal and external migration among women and the rise of the influence of religious fundamentalism,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. Calls on participating States to ensure that the specific needs of women and girls are incorporated into all aspects of humanitarian assistance programming, and that addressing violence against women and girls, including sexual violence, is prioritized;
8. Calls on participating States to enhance educational and vocational training and economic opportunities for women and girls, especially those affected by armed conflict or crisis and those from minority groups, as a means to reduce their vulnerability to violence, including sexual violence, exploitation and abuse;

9. Calls on OSCE parliaments and parliamentarians to begin or enhance the collection of sex-disaggregated data, and to use effective gender-based analysis tools to ensure that public policy is evidence-based;

10. Calls on OSCE parliamentarians to promote action and to work together with civil society to combat all forms of violence, including sexual violence, against women and girls, and to end child, early and forced marriage and other forms of gender-based exploitation and abuse, taking care to address the specific needs of those made vulnerable as a result of armed conflict, crisis or minority status;

11. Encourages the OSCE and participating States to adopt action plans on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and urges parliamentarians to take an active role in reviewing the effectiveness of their implementation;

12. Calls on countries in the OSCE region to make every effort to create a society free from violence, corruption and xenophobia and to create conditions and opportunities in which every member of society can gain access to quality healthcare, education, justice and personal security.

2016 TBILISI DECLARATION

RESOLUTION ON INTEGRATING GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE RESPONSE TO THE MIGRANT AND REFUGEE CRISIS

1. Reaffirming the importance of OSCE commitments to integrate gender in addressing migrant and refugee flows, including in the [2004 Gender Action Plan \(MC.DEC/14/04\)](#) and [OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/09 on Migration Management \(MC.DEC/5/09\)](#), as well as the OSCE PA 2013 Resolution on Gender Aspects of Labour Migration,
2. Recalling the [Convention relating to the Status of Refugees \(1951\) and its Protocol \(1967\)](#), which enshrine the rights and protections that must be accorded to all refugees, as well as [UNHCR's Guidelines on Gender-Related Persecution and Guidelines for Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-based Violence](#), among others,
3. Recalling the [OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings](#) and the [United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols on trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants](#),
4. Recalling the [United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), including the commitment to ensure safe, orderly, and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants,
5. Considering that gender affects both the reasons for migrating and every stage of the migration experience,
6. Aware of the implications of the movements of migrants and refugees of different genders on home and host communities, and of the need to avoid stereotypes and discrimination against men as well as women,
7. Aware that women and girls, who comprise a growing proportion of the migrants and refugees arriving in Europe, face particular risks, including sexual and gender-based violence, and have unique protection needs, such as reproductive health services, and that they often face gendered barriers in accessing services while in transit and upon arrival in host countries,
8. Recognizing the benefit of supporting initiatives to strengthen the resilience of refugee and migrant women, including programmes targeting economic empowerment,
9. Recognizing the important role that women play in conflict prevention and throughout the conflict cycle when given the opportunity, which in turn reduces

the need for women and girls, men and boys to flee their homes and become displaced persons,

10. Concerned that gender is often overlooked or treated as an ad hoc consideration in the analysis of trends in migration and in the design and implementation of responses to large-scale migrant and refugee flows,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

11. Calls on the OSCE and its participating States to collect sex-disaggregated data and conduct gender-based analysis of all plans, policies, programmes, and funding in response to the migrant and refugee crisis, and to promote the use of Gender Based Analysis;

12. Urges the OSCE and its participating States to develop and implement gender-responsive policies, programmes, and services to address the specific needs and priorities of women and girl refugees and migrants;

13. Calls on participating States to ensure that proper consideration is given to women's asylum claims and that the range of claims of gender-related persecution are accorded due recognition, as recommended in the 2004 OSCE Gender Action Plan;

14. Calls on participating States to ensure that female migrants and refugees under their jurisdiction are protected from all forms of exploitation, discrimination, violence and abuse, particularly sexual and gender-based violence and human trafficking, including by state authorities such as border personnel, police, and immigration officials, as well as humanitarian workers;

15. Calls on participating States to deploy gender experts as part of the on-the-ground humanitarian response to the migrant and refugee crisis;

16. Urges the OSCE participating States to ensure that transit areas and camps respect the dignity of migrants and refugees and that such premises are designed in a gender-sensitive manner, including by setting up single-sex, well-lit toilet facilities and separate safe sleeping areas for women and girls;

17. Calls on participating States to prevent refugee and migrant women's social exclusion and isolation by integrating gender-sensitive measures into their migration policies related to labour market access, ensuring access to safe housing and providing skills and training opportunities for such women;

18. Calls on the OSCE and the OSCE PA to develop forums and tools for the sharing of best practices in gender-sensitive response to migration and refugee crises;

19. Calls on participating States to address the root causes of migrant and refugee flows through gender-sensitive humanitarian and development assistance to refugee and migrant producing countries;

20. Calls on the OSCE, the OSCE PA and the participating States to implement the Women, Peace and Security agenda (UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions) and involve women in conflict prevention and in negotiations and decision-making throughout the conflict cycle;

21. Calls on the OSCE and its participating States to give particular attention to the issue of child marriages among refugees and migrants. Several participating States are facing this issue in the current refugee crisis. Child marriages require a cautious approach. In this regard, the following points must be taken into consideration:

a. child marriages must be prevented wherever possible;

b. spouses united by the bonds of these marriages do not automatically need to be separated. It is necessary to take account of age difference, local law in the country of origin, the emotional bond between the spouses;

c. the administrative and/or judicial authorities of the participating States must verify the validity of the marriage based on private international law.

2017 MINSK DECLARATION

RESOLUTION ON PROMOTING GENDER INCLUSIVE AND RESPONSIVE MEDIATION

1. Reaffirming that participating States of the OSCE have committed to upholding the principles enshrined in the [1975 Helsinki Final Act](#), which include the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, equal rights and self-determination of peoples, co-operation among States, and the fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law,
2. Recognizing the OSCE's longstanding role in preventive diplomacy and mediation, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's role in parliamentary diplomacy, and the strong networks that regional organizations bring to peace processes,
3. Endorsing the UN's Women, Peace, and Security agenda calling on UN Member States to ensure the full participation of women in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security; also recognizing that, as highlighted in the 15 year review of UN Security Resolution 1325, [Preventing Conflict Transforming Justice Securing the Peace: A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325](#), research demonstrates that peace processes with significant women's participation are more likely to succeed,
4. Referring to [UN General Assembly Resolution 68/303 \(2014\) on Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution](#), that recognizes the importance of equal and effective participation of women in all aspects of the conflict cycle and of providing adequate gender expertise for all mediators and their teams,
5. Recalling [Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/11 on the Elements of the Conflict Cycle, Related to Enhancing the OSCE's Capabilities in Early Warning, Early Action, Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation Support, and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation \(2011\)](#),
6. Welcoming commitments to gender equality made by OSCE participating States since the adoption of the [2004 Gender Action Plan](#), including the [Ministerial Decision on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation \(MC.DEC/14/05\)](#); the [Ministerial Decision on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women \(MC.DEC/15/05\)](#); and the [Ministerial Decision on Women's Participation in Political and Public Life \(MC.DEC/7/09\)](#); and the [Ministerial Decision on Promoting Equal Opportunity for Women in the Economic Sphere \(MC.DEC/10/11\)](#),

7. Referring to the [OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Baku Declaration \(2014\)](#) and its Resolution on the Development of Mediation Capacity in the OSCE Area¹⁵, and referring also to the [OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Tbilisi Declaration \(2016\)](#), which calls on participating States to implement their commitments with respect to women's leadership and participation in conflict prevention, resolution, and recovery,

8. Expressing serious concern over the conflicts persisting in various areas of the OSCE and acknowledging that conflicts are detrimental to human rights and negatively impact the economy, regional co-operation and development, and stressing that poverty, inequality and exclusion represent a challenge to the stability and security of participating States,

9. Acknowledging that situations of armed conflict and crisis affect women and men, boys and girls differently and that gender inequalities are deepened and exacerbated by violence,

10. Recognizing the vital roles that women play in consolidating peace, including by promoting understanding and tolerance between different groups; and also noting that women's limited engagement in mediation efforts heightens the risk of conflict relapse,

11. Underlining that inclusive mediation is not only about the number of women involved in peace processes but also about enlarging the influence of women in decision-making,

12. Deeply concerned that, despite existing commitments, women continue to be underrepresented in formal peace processes and that gender issues are not adequately considered in most peace processes,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

13. Calls on participating States and OSCE personnel and representatives involved in mediation to ensure that equal opportunities exist for women to hold meaningful roles in decision-making as part of mediation processes, including leadership positions as mediators and lead negotiators, and that the inclusion of women is considered in the design of all mediation processes;

14. Calls on participating States and OSCE personnel and representatives involved in mediation to ensure that women from diverse backgrounds, including minorities and other marginalized groups, are involved in mediation processes;

15. Recommends that participating States consider local and regional authorities as important facilitators for women's empowerment;

¹⁵ Baku Declaration and Resolutions Adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the Twenty-Third Annual Session, 2014, p. 20. Available at [file \(oscepa.org\)](file://oscepa.org).

16. Urges OSCE institutions to examine how gender mainstreaming, also referred to as gender-based analysis, can be practically implemented within conflict prevention structures, activities, and in outcome documents of peace agreements; and also calls for the OSCE to increase mentorship, training and networking opportunities to prepare women for increased roles in mediation and on participating States to ensure that funding is in place for such initiatives;

17. Urges participating States to address the barriers to women's involvement in mediation processes, including sexism, lack of education and childcare and inadequate access to funding;

18. Calls on men involved in OSCE mediation efforts to champion gender mainstreaming in all such efforts, by promoting the inclusion of women in the process and ensuring that women's perspectives and needs are integrated in the outcome documents of such processes;

19. Commends the recent publication [Designing Inclusive Strategies for Sustainable Security: Results-Oriented National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security, a joint effort of the OSCE Gender Section and Inclusive Security](#), for including the number of women in mediation as a tangible measure of a country's implementation of UNSCR 1325;

20. Requests that the promotion of gender mainstreaming and the systematic use of results from gender-based analysis in mediation processes be added to the mandate of the OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediation;

21. Calls on the OSCE and the OSCE PA to collect data on the gender and professional position of all individuals involved in OSCE-related mediation processes and provide such information to the OSCE PA Special Representatives on Gender Issues and Mediation annually, along with other disaggregated data currently provided regarding personnel and membership;

22. Supports the priority of the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship to encourage women's participation as part of its focus on addressing violent conflicts in the OSCE region; urges the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship to publish a concrete action plan for enhancing gender inclusive mediation as part of these efforts; and encourages the upcoming OSCE Chairmanships to actively continue promoting gender inclusive mediation as a part of their work.

2018 BERLIN DECLARATION

RESOLUTION ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

1. Reiterating that the OSCE participating States have committed to upholding the principles enshrined in the [1975 Helsinki Final Act](#), which include the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, equal rights and self-determination of peoples, co-operation among States and the fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law,
2. Deeply concerned that the persistence of gender-based violence in all of its forms – including domestic and sexual violence, harassment, human trafficking, and early and forced marriage – is one of the most pervasive human rights violations throughout the OSCE region,
3. Recalling [Ministerial Council Decisions No. 14/04 on the Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality](#), [No. 15/05](#) and [No. 7/14 on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women](#), [No. 14/05 on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management, and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation](#), and [No. 3/11 on Elements of the Conflict Cycle, Related to Enhancing the OSCE's Capabilities in Early Warning, Early Action, Dialogue Facilitation, and Mediation Support, and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation](#),
4. Highlighting United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, as well as subsequent resolutions that comprise the comprehensive women, peace and security agenda, which call for – inter alia – the full participation of women in all efforts designed to maintain and promote peace and security,
5. Reaffirming that the OSCE's commitments to promoting and protecting equal rights and opportunities are essential for sustainable peace, democracy and economic development, and thereby for security and stability in the OSCE region,
6. Referring to the [OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Tbilisi Declaration \(2016\)](#), which calls on participating States to implement commitments regarding women's leadership and their participation in conflict prevention, resolution and recovery, and its [Minsk Declaration \(2017\)](#), which urges participating States to mainstream gender into conflict prevention activities and in peace agreements,
7. Bearing in mind the significant impacts of gender-based violence on victims, families and society as a whole, including psychological, cultural and economic,
8. Noting the recommendations of the Conference on Combating Violence Against Women in the OSCE Region and the 2nd Gender Equality Review Conference, which were held in Vienna in June 2016 and June 2017, respectively,

9. Underscoring that research demonstrates a correlation between high rates of gender-based violence and outbreaks of conflict, and that efforts to enhance women's participation and influence in peace and security matters are shown to improve operational effectiveness, build resilience, prevent and resolve conflicts and sustain peace,

10. Emphasizing that multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence based on identity factors – such as ethnicity, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity and expression – are intensified by armed conflict, and that refugees and migrants are especially vulnerable to violence,

11. Recognizing the importance of engaging men and boys as allies in efforts aimed at eliminating discrimination and all forms of gender-based violence by promoting an understanding of – and addressing – the root causes of gender inequality,

12. Emphasizing that, while violence in politics occurs both for men and women, a critical difference is that the type of violence against women seeks to restrict their political participation to prevent them from having their voices heard,

13. Underscoring that participating States should address prejudice and violence to ensure that women can exercise their fundamental human and political rights, and noting that normalization of prejudice and violence against visible and prominent women in politics can lead to the normalization of violence against women in society at large,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

14. Calls on all OSCE participating States that have not yet done so to pass legislation consistent with international norms and standards that addresses domestic and sexual violence, harassment, including workplace harassment and abuse of authority;

15. Asks all OSCE participating States that have not already done so to develop and implement National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security, as required by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325;

16. Recommends that the OSCE and participating States work together to accelerate implementation of their existing commitments by developing a comprehensive, multisectoral action plan to prevent and combat gender-based violence in the OSCE region, and by allocating sufficient funds and other resources to this effort;

17. Encourages the OSCE and the OSCE PA to create platforms for the exchange of best practices, capacity-building tools, and training materials to assist participating States in their efforts to combat gender-based violence, including by supporting the increased participation of women throughout security sector institutions, including in state armed and security forces; peacekeeping forces;

border control services; migrant camp staff; state oversight and management agencies; independent oversight bodies; and justice systems;

18. Urges the OSCE and participating States to fill critical data and knowledge gaps about the prevalence of gender-based violence in the OSCE region by improving the collection of sex-disaggregated data, including in relation to online harassment and other emerging forms of gender-based violence, and also urges OSCE participating States to closely monitor the results of the ongoing OSCE Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women;

19. Also calls on the OSCE, OSCE participating States and the OSCE PA to combat workplace sexual harassment in OSCE executive structures, government bureaucracy, national parliaments and the private sector, as gender-based violence hampers the full participation of women in public life;

20. Recommends that the OSCE MenEngage Network continues to mobilize men and boys as powerful agents of change and beneficiaries of gender equality by facilitating public dialogue on the links between masculinity norms and gender-based violence;

21. Requests that the OSCE assist participating States in preventing sexual violence in armed conflict situations, including by taking appropriate measures to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse by armed forces and uniformed personnel, in adopting measures to end impunity, and in developing measures for the effective support, care and rehabilitation of victims;

22. Calls for the OSCE to enhance its efforts to recruit more women for positions in its politico-military dimension.

2019 LUXEMBOURG DECLARATION

RESOLUTION ON THE INTEGRATION OF GENDER AND YOUTH PERSPECTIVES IN EFFORTS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Recognizing that climate change has become a multi-faceted threat resulting in environmental stresses, competition for natural resources, sea-level rise, increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, and forced migration, all of which can lead to conflict,
2. Highlighting the importance of respecting commitments made in the Paris Agreement to keep global temperature this century well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and applauding the adoption of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Gender Action Plan by the parties to the Agreement,
3. Taking note of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, to which OSCE participating States have agreed, and particularly Goal 13, which calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts,
4. Acknowledging that the greatest threat to the future well-being of humanity is climate change and that today's youth will face a disproportionately high burden in managing the resulting serious consequences, including those outlined in the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's October 2018 Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C](#),
5. Noting that climate change and associated impacts, such as natural disasters and lost economic opportunities, are drivers of global migration which can be expected to increase in the coming years,
6. Recognizing that individuals experience climate change differently due to gender and other areas of inequality and that women and girls are often disproportionately affected by climate change,
7. Acknowledging that women and girls play important roles in ensuring water, food and energy security for their families and communities, and that when climate change makes this work more challenging and time consuming, girls are more likely to drop out of school to meet the basic needs of their family, perpetuating cycles of poverty,
8. Acknowledging that women and girls face unique challenges as primary caregivers and are at higher risk of sexual and gender-based violence in situations of natural disaster, displacement, and conflict, all of which can be expected to increase as a result of climate change,

9. Expressing concern that if women and youths from diverse backgrounds are excluded from decision-making with respect to climate change policy, existing inequalities are likely to be perpetuated, and the effectiveness of policies and programmes reduced,

10. Recalling [OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions No. 4/09 \(Athens\)](#), [No. 5/13 \(Kyiv\)](#) and [No. 6/14 \(Basel\)](#), which acknowledge the OSCE's role in combating climate change, and the risks that climate change and other environmental challenges pose to security; and the OSCE PA's climate change-related Resolutions, including the 2017 Resolution on Drinking Water: Fostering Co-operation to Protect a Scarce Resource Adversely Affected by Climate Change¹⁶,

11. Recalling the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and [OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions No. 14/05 \(Ljubljana\)](#) and [No. 7/09 \(Athens\)](#), which promote women's involvement in decision-making and call for equal opportunities irrespective of gender; the OSCE PA Resolutions addressing this same topic, including the Berlin Declaration; and the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security,

12. Recalling the youth-related commitments made in the [Helsinki Final Act](#), as well as OSCE Ministerial Council Declarations No. 3/14 (Basel), No. 5/15 (Belgrade) and [No. 3/18 \(Milan\)](#); the youth-related Resolutions of the OSCE PA, including the [2018 Resolution on A Shared Priority: Fostering Peace and Security through Enabling Young People to Reach their Full Potential](#); and the [United Nations Security Council Resolutions on youth, peace and security](#),

13. Encouraged by recent youth-led protests and social movements calling for greater action to address climate change that have been led and inspired by the actions of a young woman, Greta Thunberg,

14. Noting the lack of information and data analysis with respect to the intersection of gender, youth and climate change,

15. Affirming the need for gender- and youth-responsive climate change policy that encompasses mitigation, adaptation and resilience measures, and that considers the differential impacts of climate change on various groups, including people with disabilities, racialized individuals, indigenous people, and other minority groups,

16. Stressing the importance of enabling youth from diverse backgrounds to play active and meaningful roles in international and domestic efforts to address climate change, The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

17. Calls on the OSCE and participating States to address the threats posed to future generations by climate change and to integrate conflict prevention in all efforts to understand and address the impacts of climate change;

¹⁶ Minsk Declaration and Resolutions Adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the Twenty-Sixth Annual Session, p. 44-47. Available at [file \(oscepa.org\)](http://file.oscepa.org).

18. Urges the OSCE and the OSCE PA, in collaboration with regional and international partners, to collect, analyse and disseminate data on the intersection of gender, youth and climate change, and calls on participating States to take that data into account in the development of climate change policy and mitigation, adaptation and resilience measures;

19. Encourages participating States to incorporate diverse gender and youth perspectives in developing their climate change policy to ensure that different impacts for different groups are considered in all mitigation, adaptation and resilience measures so that everyone benefits from investment to address climate change;

20. Calls on the OSCE and participating States to meaningfully include diverse youth and individuals from across the gender spectrum in the design and implementation of climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience projects, and in domestic and international policy discussions and climate change negotiations;

21. Urges the OSCE and participating States to facilitate youth leadership on climate change action by providing funding for youth-led organizations, and by offering capacity-building opportunities for youth in project management, negotiation, financial management and other relevant skills;

22. Strongly recommends that participating States develop Climate Change Gender Action Plans that address the specific needs of youth and ensure opportunities for their participation in policy development and implementation.

RESOLUTION ON DIGITALIZATION AS AN ADVANTAGE FOR GENDER POLICIES

1. Welcoming the significant achievements and continuing potential contribution of science, technology and innovation to human welfare and prosperity,

2. Recalling the [Helsinki Final Act of 1975](#), in which OSCE participating States recognized that efforts to develop co-operation in some fields, including in science and technology, contribute to the reinforcement of peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole,

3. Also recalling [United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”](#), which adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-oriented set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets – 3) Good Health and Well-being, 4) Quality Education, 5) Gender Equality,

4. Recalling the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, an international treaty adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly, The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

5. Calls for the enhancement of the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women (SDG 5);

6. Also calls for recognition and value of unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate;

7. Further calls for participating States to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life;

8. Underlines that the right to Internet access is the right of every individual, and therefore a priority of all participating States needs to be to enable equal access of all the citizens to this right, regardless of their gender, age or nationality;

9. Invites all participating States to include the gender equality issue in all segments of society, including in digital initiatives, and emphasizes the limited participation of women in this field and the need for greater encouragement to women to opt for applying new technologies;

10. Indicates the need to better use digitalization's potential to enable more efficient participation of women in decision-making process, and underlines that digitalization contributes to affirmation of basic democratic principles by enabling women to have a more direct access to decision-making on relevant social and political issues;

11. Encourages participating States to put technologies in place to enable parliamentarians who are pregnant or have recently given birth to work and vote remotely, thereby 54 allowing them to be physically absent from the chamber to which they belong when there is no alternative mechanism for their substitution;

12. Encourages greater involvement of civil society organizations in general informatization, digitalization and digital transformation processes, and recognizes their constructive role in promoting women's participation in these processes;

13. Urges greater attention be paid to gender segregation and gender discrimination issues in the information and communication technologies (ICT) sector, particularly as regards the division into the so called "male" and "female" sectors, and to unequal pay for the same type of jobs which may result in greater gaps in pension and invalidity insurance contributions;

14. Proposes to the participating States that, with regard to respect for human rights, special attention should be paid to women's labour rights in the ICT sector, and notes that, regardless of the positive changes and progress achieved in the field of legislation, women still find it difficult to exercise their labour rights in practice;

15. Emphasizes the need to implement gender analysis and produce statistics involving the gender component for the purpose of creating and implementing gender equality policies in the ICT sector, based on gender-sensitive indicators;

16. Invites participating States to promote the principle of gender equality in the ICT sector and to work towards removing the formal and informal barriers that are preventing women from having access to higher positions in the hierarchy of this sector;

17. Emphasizes the importance of establishing special funds to provide financial support to women entrepreneurs starting up their own businesses in the ICT sector;

18. Welcomes the possibility of greater flexibility and more flexible working practices that digital technologies provide for the purpose of achieving balance between private and business obligations, which significantly contributes to increasing the quality of women's lives;

19. Stresses the need for raising public awareness of the advantages provided by the use of digital technologies and digital skills, and of their impact on the improvement of position of women of all ages in the modern digital era;

20. Encourages participating States to move away from gender stereotypes related to some professions, including in the ICT sector, when planning their educational policies; 21. Emphasizes the need for raising public awareness of the importance of improving women's digital literacy through education curriculums and professional training;

22. Urges the implementation of professional and mentoring support programmes for female students obtaining a university education in the fields of technology and mathematics for their further training and employment in the ICT sector;

23. Praises the fact that digitalization enables women to have better access to healthcare system services, and thus to be better informed on their health, and emphasizes the need to invest more in efforts in this regard;

24. Points to the importance of registering healthcare services provided to women in electronic systems, and of ensuring their right to privacy;

25. Invites participating States to work on digitalization of their healthcare systems and implementation of strategies and policies enabling establishment of electronic

medical databases, and to raise women's awareness of the importance of these processes, including to strengthen efforts to achieve universal health coverage;

26. Indicates the necessity for timely identification of threats and risks posed by the Internet and ICT, the use of which may generate threats, violent acts and crimes endangering women's safety;

27. Suggests that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and participating States:

a. work towards affirmation of these issues through all OSCE dimensions;

b. promote digital literacy and insist on a higher participation of women in obtaining technical and information literacy by encouraging the establishment of mechanisms for monitoring the results of defined programmes, measures and courses;

c. establish forums and organize events on the margins that would serve as platforms for including all the relevant stakeholders in discussions on the concerned issues, including through the exchange of experience and implementation of proposed measures;

d. insist on a consistent application of existing institutional mechanisms at all levels of government, as well as private sector and civil society organizations, and to work towards their availability for citizens;

e. through national strategies, ensure higher participation of women in the ICT labour market, thus reducing the gender gap, contributing to higher employment and increasing gross domestic product;

f. develop and stimulate special curriculums and educational and retraining projects for elderly women and women from rural areas.

2022 BIRMINGHAM DECLARATION

RESOLUTION ON COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN JOURNALISTS AND POLITICIANS

1. Reiterating the commitment of OSCE participating States to upholding the principles enshrined in the [1975 Helsinki Final Act](#), which include the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, equal rights and self-determination of peoples, co-operation among States and the fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law,
2. Deeply concerned by the widespread and intensifying violence against women in journalism and politics – including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence – which endangers women, puts the well-being of our societies and democracies at risk, and threatens to undermine progress toward gender equality,
3. Recalling [OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions No. 14/04 \(Sofia\) on the Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality](#), [No. 15/05 \(Ljubljana\)](#) and [No. 7/14 \(Basel\) on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women](#), [No. 14/05 \(Ljubljana\) on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management, and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation](#), [No. 3/18 \(Milan\) on the Safety of Journalists](#), and [No. 4/18 \(Milan\) on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women](#),
4. Referring to the [OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's \(OSCE PA's\) Berlin Declaration \(2018\)](#) and its Resolution on Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Violence¹⁷,
5. Guided by the [2021 Annual Report of the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues entitled Violence Against Women Journalists and Politicians: A Growing Crisis](#),
6. Endorsing the UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, as well as subsequent resolutions that comprise the Women, Peace and Security agenda, which call on UN Member States to ensure the full participation of women in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and recognizing that the contribution of women journalists and politicians in post-conflict democratization processes is key to the success of the Women, Peace and Security agenda,
7. Underscoring that women and girls face disproportionate risks of online violence, especially severe types of harassment and sexualized online abuse, and that this form of violence is tied to larger social problems of sexism and misogyny,

¹⁷ p. 24-26, Berlin Declaration and Resolutions Adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the Twenty-Seventh Annual Session, 2018. Available at <https://www.oscepa.org/en/documents/annual-sessions/2018-berlin/declaration-26/3742-berlin-declaration-eng/file>.

8. Recognizing that the increasingly hostile political rhetoric directed toward journalists and media organizations across the OSCE region and the world, combined with the rise of social media and the challenges associated with working during the COVID-19 pandemic, have created unique pressure on women journalists,

9. Welcoming the work of the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in defending freedom of expression and advocating for the safety of 52 women journalists in the OSCE region, including through the Safety of Female Journalists Online project,

10. Convinced that society benefits from diverse and representative media and parliaments, which contribute to a healthy public discourse and social inclusion, to countering disinformation, and to the foundation of a strong democracy,

11. Noting that the underrepresentation of women in the political sphere is both caused and exacerbated by discrimination and gender-based violence, and that available data suggests that the vast majority of women parliamentarians experience such discrimination and violence from the moment they become candidates for political office,

12. Highlighting enhanced security measures and initiatives adopted in the Canadian Parliament in 2020 aimed at providing greater protection to parliamentarians at their homes and offices, including through the use of mobile alarms and a web monitoring service,

13. Concerned that some OSCE participating States have allowed and ignored discrimination, gender-based violence, misogyny and hostile working conditions toward women parliamentarians in their legislative assemblies,

14. Acknowledging that discrimination and violence against women are intensified in conflict situations, where women journalists and politicians are exposed to heightened risks of human rights violations,

15. Emphasizing that women journalists and politicians are targeted by multiple forms of violence because of intersecting identity factors – such as ethnicity, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression,

16. Recognizing that indigenous women, including indigenous journalists and politicians, experience disproportionate discrimination and violence, and recalling the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which stipulates that States shall take measures to ensure that indigenous women and children are fully protected against all forms of discrimination and violence,

17. Noting the lack of information, statistics and data analysis with respect to violence against women journalists and politicians in the OSCE region and the world,

18. Bearing in mind the significant impacts of gender-based violence on journalists and politicians, their families, and society as a whole, including on democratic processes,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

19. Urges the OSCE and OSCE participating States to collect and publish disaggregated data on the prevalence of violence against women journalists and politicians in the OSCE region, and ensure that such data and the information it provides on the experiences of women with intersecting identity factors, informs any action taken to make certain that policies and legislation are effective, inclusive and evidence-based;

20. Calls on OSCE participating States to develop or review legislation to prohibit gender-based violence against women journalists and politicians, including violence occurring online;

21. Recommends that OSCE participating States review electoral legislation to ensure it is effectively addressing violence against women and its impact on the democratic process;

22. Encourages parliamentarians of OSCE participating States to demand that their parliaments review or strengthen parliamentary codes of conduct to ensure they are effective in responding to gender-based violence against parliamentarians;

23. Calls on the OSCE and OSCE participating States to adopt a gender-sensitive and intersectional approach in all actions to ensure the safety of journalists and politicians, including in conflict situations;

24. Asks all OSCE participating States that have not already done so to develop and implement National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security, and to reflect in those plans the key role women journalists and politicians play in conflict prevention and resolution and in post-conflict democratization processes;

25. Strongly recommends that OSCE participating States provide funding to civil society organizations that support women's participation in public life, combat gender-based violence against journalists and politicians, and offer support services to women who have been affected by gender-based violence, including women journalists and politicians;

26. Urges the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to denounce violence against women journalists and politicians, and to draw attention to cases in which women journalists and politicians are harassed, detained or imprisoned, including in conflict situations in the OSCE region;

27. Demands the OSCE and the OSCE PA create platforms for the exchange of best practices and discussions on how to address violence against women journalists and politicians;

28. Tasks the OSCE PA International Secretariat to provide training to election observers to detect and report acts of violence against women in politics.

2023 VANCOUVER DECLARATION

RESOLUTION ON THE GENDERED CONSEQUENCES OF ARMED CONFLICTS

1. Reiterating the commitment of OSCE participating States to upholding the principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, which include the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, equal rights and self-determination of peoples, co-operation among States and the fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law,
2. Recalling [OSCE Ministerial Council decisions No. 14/04 \(Sofia\) on the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality](#), [No. 15/05 \(Ljubljana\)](#) and [No. 7/14 \(Basel\) on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women](#), [No. 14/05 \(Ljubljana\) on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-conflict Rehabilitation](#), and [No. 4/18 \(Milan\) on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women](#),
3. Acknowledging that armed conflicts have gendered consequences, and deeply concerned by the situation of women in the context of the Russian Federation's war of aggression in Ukraine,
4. Referring to the OSCE PA's [Birmingham Declaration](#) and its resolutions on the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine and its people, and its threat to security across the OSCE region¹⁸, and on the importance of the human dimension in the context of current threats to the security of the OSCE area stemming from the Russian aggression against Ukraine¹⁹, as well as the [Berlin Declaration \(2018\)](#) and its resolution on preventing and combating gender-based violence,
5. Guided by the [2019 Annual Report of the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues entitled Gender Mainstreaming and Intersectional Analysis of Key Issues Affecting the OSCE Region: Conflict, Migration and Climate Change](#), the [2021 Annual Report of the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues entitled Violence Against Women Journalists and Politicians: A Growing Crisis](#), and the [Report of the OSCE PA Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues to the Standing Committee at the 29th Annual Session of the OSCE PA](#),
6. Inspired by the [2021 report of the OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings entitled Applying gender-sensitive approaches in combating trafficking in human beings](#),

¹⁸ p. 22-27, Birmingham Declaration and Resolutions Adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the Twenty-Ninth Annual Session, 2023. Available at <https://www.oscepa.org/en/documents/annual-sessions/2022-birmingham/declaration-28/4409-birmingham-declaration-eng/file>.

¹⁹ p. 54-55, *ibid*.

7. Recognizing that women are disproportionately at risk of direct and indirect harm in situations of armed conflict, including sexual and gender-based violence, being the victims of trafficking and forced displacement, and facing challenges in accessing food, health care and education, and noting that situations of armed conflict also exacerbate existing structural gender inequalities,

8. Stressing the gendered consequences of forced displacement faced by women, including risks of sexual and gender-based violence, family separation, mental health repercussions and risks of exploitation, and noting the challenges faced by refugees in the host countries in the OSCE area,

9. Underlining that the increased risks of gender-related and sexual violence in conflict situations magnify the importance of access to affordable sexual and reproductive health and rights services for women, both in conflict zones and in refugee-hosting countries,

10. Acknowledging that women who serve in leadership roles, as journalists, politicians, human rights defenders and in civil society are exposed to heightened risks of human rights violations in conflict situations,

11. Emphasizing the importance of holding perpetrators of human rights violations and war crimes accountable and providing reparation to victims,

12. Encouraged by the establishment of the Dialogue Group on Accountability for Ukraine, and supporting the work of the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine to document suspected cases of war crimes and violations of human rights,

13. Highlighting the reports of the missions of experts produced under the OSCE Moscow Mechanism, the reports of the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, and the reports of the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, and closely following the progress of the International Criminal Court investigation in Ukraine,

14. Endorsing UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security, as well as subsequent resolutions that comprise the women, peace, and security agenda, which calls on United Nations Member States to ensure the full participation of women in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

15. Urges the OSCE and OSCE participating States to support the collection and publication of disaggregated data on the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict situations in the OSCE region and ensure that such data, and the information they provide on the experiences of women with intersecting

identity factors, informs any action taken to make certain that policies and legislation are effective, inclusive and evidence-based;

16. Recognizes that conflicts are not gender-neutral, and that humanitarian assistance provided by OSCE participating States must be sensitive to gender, age and intersectionality to be effective and reach those most in need;

17. Calls on the OSCE and OSCE participating States to adopt a survivor-centred approach in the prevention of and response to sexual violence in conflict contexts;

18. Urges OSCE participating States that are hosting refugees and persons displaced by the Russian Federation's war of aggression in Ukraine to adopt policies to prevent gender and identity-based discrimination;

19. Calls on OSCE participating States that are hosting refugees and displaced persons to ensure access to a full range of universal, accessible and affordable sexual and reproductive health and rights services;

20. Reiterates the resolution on Combating Violence against Women Journalists and Politicians included in the OSCE PA Birmingham Declaration, which called on the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to denounce violence against women journalists and politicians and to draw attention to cases in which women journalists and politicians are harassed, detained or imprisoned, including in conflict situations in the OSCE region;

21. Asks all OSCE participating States that have not already done so to develop and implement national action plans on women, peace and security;

22. Encourages parliamentarians of OSCE participating States to actively monitor whether their national institutions relevant to the security and defence sectors are meeting their commitments to the women, peace and security agenda;

23. Welcomes the work of ODIHR regarding gender and security, and calls on the governments of OSCE participating States to use the tools developed by ODIHR, including the gender and security toolkit, to guide their efforts to integrate a gender perspective and advance gender equality in their security and justice policy, programming and reform;

24. Strongly recommends that OSCE participating States provide funding to civil society organizations that support women's rights, including in Ukraine, with a focus on women-led organizations.

RESOLUTION ON ADOPTING EFFECTIVE MECHANISMS TO SAFEGUARD UKRAINIAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

1. Concerned that women and children have been disproportionately affected and displaced by the Russian Federation's unjustified, brutal, and genocidal war on Ukraine, that 90 per cent of the more than 8 million Ukrainian refugees are women and children, and that the majority of the more than 5 million persons displaced inside Ukraine are women and children,
2. Alarmed that Ukrainian women and children fleeing the war are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking, both when crossing borders and when seeking housing and work as refugees, as well as by reports of disturbing trafficking risks and incidents at border crossings and by an observed and documented lack of 24-hour anti-trafficking police, registration and counselling personnel at major border crossings,
3. Concerned that a survey conducted by the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights on the Safety and Security of Women Refugees from Ukraine²⁰ found that almost half had not received information on the risks of human trafficking, that many had already been targeted with proposals to work in the sex industry or had been subjected to sexual harassment and/or sexual violence, and that some 40 per cent had not found employment,
4. Alarmed that the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine found that Russian forces were committing war crimes against civilians, including rape of girls and women, as well as of boys and men, and that the United Nations Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten, has described the Russian Federation as using rape as a "military strategy" in Ukraine,
5. Greatly concerned that the children of Ukraine are suffering serious injury and trauma due to Russian aggression, including physical injury, death, psychological trauma, sexual abuse, exploitation and hunger, as well as disruption of their education,
6. Alarmed that the Russian Federation has been forcibly transferring Ukrainian children to the Russian Federation and Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine as part of a Russian government policy of forced assimilation and russification of Ukrainian children apparently aimed at destroying their ethnic identity,
7. Recognizing that forcibly transferring children of one group to another group is a violation of article II(e) of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Geneva Convention (IV), including articles 24, 25, 50, 78 and 82, and that the International Criminal Court has indicted President

²⁰ Available at [ODIHR Survey on the Safety and Security of Women Refugees from Ukraine | OSCE](#).

of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin and Commissioner for Children's Rights Maria Lvova-Belova for the war crimes of unlawful deportation of population (children) and unlawful transfer of population (children) from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation under articles 8(2)(a)(vii) and 8(2)(b)(viii) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

8. Concerned that in May 2022, President Putin signed a decree simplifying the procedure for adopting Ukrainian children purportedly without parental care and granting them Russian citizenship and that Russian authorities change the names, dates of birth and other identifying information when Ukrainian children are adopted, thereby making them difficult to trace,

9. Appalled that Russian government-controlled media have blatantly misused coverage of the arrival in the Russian Federation of Ukrainian children for Russian government propaganda purposes,

10. Alarmed by the findings of the [28 April 2023 Moscow Mechanism Report on Violations and Abuses of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law, War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity, Related to the Forcible Transfer and/or Deportation of Ukrainian Children to the Russian Federation](#), which concluded that “non-consensual evacuations, transfers and prolonged displacement of Ukrainian children constitute violations of IHL [international humanitarian law], and in certain cases amount to grave breaches of GCIV [the Geneva Convention (IV)] and war crimes,” that “non-justified prolonged stay or unfounded logistical hurdles violate the obligation to facilitate reunification and contravene the principles embodied within the GCIV that family unity is to be protected and respected” and that “facilitating re-education and permanent integration into Russian families serves to confirm that the displaced Ukrainian children are indeed the victims of deportation in the sense of Article 49 of the GCIV”,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

11. Urges OSCE participating States, the OSCE PA and the OSCE to support the creation of a unified central emergency call centre hub linked to law enforcement in Ukraine and in other countries to enable reporting on and interventions on behalf of missing children originally from Ukraine, as well as suspected cases of human trafficking and sexual exploitation, including online, of persons originally from Ukraine;

12. Calls on OSCE participating States to support the creation of an international mechanism to facilitate vetting by government authorities or law enforcement of volunteers and other non-governmental front-line responders working with refugees or with victims of other major crises or natural disasters;

13. Calls on OSCE participating States to ensure 24-hour anti-trafficking and Ukrainian Language trained law enforcement and assistance present at the

entrance and exit points of major border crossings to prevent and/or respond to potential human trafficking, particularly during refugee crises;

14. Calls on OSCE participating States to run unannounced “stress-tested” simulated trafficking operations to evaluate whether there are effective anti-trafficking and refugee assistance measures at major border crossings;

15. Urges OSCE participating States to support the development of a unified system for tracking Ukrainian child refugees and unaccompanied or separated minors, including registering them at border crossings, encompassing the Schengen zone as well as other countries in the region that have received or are receiving refugees from Ukraine;

16. Urges OSCE participating States to develop and implement, if they have not already done so, national referral mechanisms specific to children that take a trauma-informed and age-appropriate approach to identification of and assistance to child victims of human trafficking;

17. Calls on OSCE participating States to support the development of robust child protection mechanisms for vulnerable Ukrainian children, both in Ukraine and in countries that have received Ukrainian refugees, which include social assistance and protection to help prevent human trafficking and sexual abuse of Ukrainian children;

18. Recognizes that the forcible transfer of Ukrainian children to the Russian Federation and Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine, as part of a Russian government policy of forced assimilation and russification of Ukrainian children, can be considered an act of genocide under the 1948 Genocide Convention;

19. Urges OSCE participating States, the OSCE PA, the OSCE and other relevant international organizations to press the Russian Federation to provide information on the names and whereabouts of all Ukrainian children in its custody, Ukrainian children who have been given Russian citizenship, adoption records since 2014 of children originally from Ukraine regardless of their current citizenship, as well as any records of children originally from Ukraine placed with Russian foster families since 2014;

20. Calls on OSCE participating States, the OSCE PA, the OSCE and other relevant international organizations to develop or support, as appropriate, efforts to ensure that international monitors have access to sites where Ukrainian children are being held and that children from Ukraine in Russian custody are able to contact family members, guardians or an international organization;

21. Calls on OSCE participating States to support, in co-operation with Ukrainian authorities, the development of a unified and consolidated searchable registry of missing children that includes provision for a searchable database including, if available

and provided, DNA from family members and/or children in order to facilitate identification of children and reunification of families;

22. Urges OSCE participating States to designate for sanctions those responsible for the forced transfer of Ukrainian children to the Russian Federation and/or Russian-controlled areas of Ukraine and/or for their forced assimilation, adoption or placement in a foster home;

23. Urges OSCE participating States to support or, as appropriate, develop programmes specifically for trauma treatment and healing, rehabilitation and where necessary prostheses, for Ukrainian children affected by the war, in co-operation with the Government of Ukraine and with relevant regional and international organizations working on the ground, including the OSCE;

24. Recommends that OSCE participating States support programmes to assist Ukraine in rebuilding its education system and, as appropriate, to support education for Ukrainian child refugees;

25. Recommends that OSCE participating States and the OSCE support and assist Ukraine in implementing its legislation and policies concerning the protection of children in the digital environment, for example by providing training and technical support for law enforcement, judges and prosecutors.

RESOLUTION ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE WITH REGARD TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN

1. Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders,

2. Reiterating the urgent need for the Russian Federation to immediately cease its aggression against Ukraine and to withdraw its troops,

3. Expressing solidarity with the Ukrainian people who are defending not only their sovereign State but also the principles and values of the OSCE,

4. Expressing grave concern about the ongoing human rights and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, particularly with regard to the reports of gross violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law by the Russian Federation,

5. Recalling the findings and recommendations of the recent reports by OSCE Moscow Mechanism experts on violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, war crimes, and crimes against humanity,

6. Deeply concerned by the disproportionate effect that the Russian Federation's aggression on Ukraine has on women and children, and the persistent and widespread use of violence against them, including conflict-related sexual violence, and underscoring the need to hold perpetrators accountable,

7. Condemning in the strongest possible terms the cases of sexual violence used by Russian soldiers as a tactic of war and as a deliberate way to dehumanize victims,

8. Expressing deep concern about the large number of Ukrainian children who since 24 February 2022 and even prior to this date, have been abducted and forcibly displaced from the territory of Ukraine to the temporarily occupied territories and to the territory of the Russian Federation,

9. Strongly condemning the deliberate and systematic policy of the Russian authorities of forcibly transferring and indoctrinating Ukrainian children, and of carrying out forced adoptions and fostering,

10. Firmly condemning the support of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine by Belarus, particularly in respect of the involvement of the Belarusian regime in the illegal transfer of Ukrainian children from the Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine to Belarus, including through the Union State of Belarus and Russia,

11. Noting the recent decision of the International Criminal Court to issue arrest warrants for the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, and the Commissioner for Children's Rights, Maria Lvova-Belova, in connection with alleged war crimes of unlawful deportation and transfer of children in the context of the situation in Ukraine,

12. Recalling UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security and its subsequent resolutions, which call for an effective response to all forms of sexual violence related to conflicts and support women's full, equal and meaningful participation at all stages of peace and security processes,

13. Concerned about the growing number of civilian casualties caused by the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, and strongly condemning attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure,

14. Deploring the large-scale violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and children of Ukraine,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

15. Condemns in the strongest possible terms the human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law resulting from the aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation;

16. Underlines that the Russian Federation's full-scale aggression against Ukraine has placed millions of civilians in existential danger and forced many to flee their homes and seek refuge in neighbouring countries;

17. Stresses the need to redouble efforts to fight all forms of conflict-related sexual violence and to address the issue of the impunity of the perpetrators of such crimes, as well as to enhance efforts to support victims;

18. Acknowledges that the conflict driven by the Russian Federation's unprovoked aggression hits the most vulnerable the hardest: children, women, older people and people with disabilities;

19. Stresses that the Russian Federation bears full responsibility under international human rights law and international humanitarian law for all actions taken by its armed forces, as well as by separatist forces under its control, during the occupation of Ukrainian territories;

20. Urges the OSCE and OSCE participating States to provide greater support for women and children who are subjected to forced displacement due to instability and conflict and who are at increased risk of violence and discrimination;

21. Also strongly recommends strengthening international support and protection for women refugees and displaced women in conflict settings;

22. Calls on the Russian Federation to immediately stop its human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law in Ukraine and to cease the practices of forcible transfer and deportation of children from Ukraine to the temporarily occupied territories and the Russian Federation;

23. Calls on OSCE participating States to provide all necessary assistance, including logistical and financial support and know-how, to Ukraine to support its multi-agency efforts to collect and duly verify data on all children who have been forcibly transferred or deported from Ukraine to the temporarily occupied territories and the Russian Federation, as well as to support Ukraine's efforts to locate the children;

24. Calls for the immediate cessation of all forms of sexual violence against women and children, and calls for the effective prosecution of the perpetrators in compliance with international law;

25. Calls on the international community to ensure there is no impunity for all the international crimes committed in and against Ukraine, including for war crimes

and the crime of aggression, and that perpetrators are prosecuted before the appropriate court;

26. Calls on the OSCE and OSCE participating States to substantially progress implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, in particular by providing protection for forcibly displaced and refugee women and children and combating trafficking in human beings, as well as preventing and addressing conflict-related sexual violence.

2024 BUCHAREST DECLARATION

RESOLUTION ON CONDEMNING THE WEAPONIZATION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT ZONES

1. Expressing strong concern about the widespread weaponization of sexual violence in various conflict zones,
2. Recognizing the seriousness of sexual assault also being used as a tactic to humiliate and degrade women and communities, and to destabilize societies during armed conflicts,
3. Considering United Nations Security Council resolutions 1325 and 2467, inter alia, which recognize sexual violence as a tactic of war and a tool of international terrorism, urging States to implement action plans in this respect,
4. Expressing strong concern about the particular vulnerability of women to sexual violence in conflict situations, as wartime rape is linked to broader issues of gender discrimination,
5. Recalling the commitments and principles contained in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the Istanbul Summit Declaration, and other relevant OSCE documents that promote peace, security, and respect for human rights, as well as other international co-operation efforts such as United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict,
6. Emphasizing the importance of international co-operation to counter the widespread use of sexual violence in conflict through the prosecution of perpetrators and to strengthen mechanism to protect, support and assist the victims of wartime rape,
7. Taking note of the recent Ljubljana-The Hague Convention, signed by more than 30 States in February 2024, which promotes mutual co-operation among States, not only in the investigation and prosecution of war crimes, but also in providing prompt and appropriate remedies for victims of the most serious crimes, in order to significantly reduce the impunity of perpetrators and support victims,
8. Underlining the importance of countering sexual violence through conflict prevention, peace-building, and the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

9. Condemns unreservedly all forms of sexual violence against women and their use as a weapon of war, including the documented crimes committed in Ukraine,

Israel, Rwanda and elsewhere with the aim of humiliating and terrorizing entire communities;

10. Deplores conflict-related sexual violence committed by the Russian Federation's armed forces and by affiliated armed groups against the civilian population of Ukraine, including prisoners of war;

11. Welcomes and encourages all initiatives by OSCE participating States to counter widespread use of sexual violence as a tactic of war, including through the definition of shared rules and the promotion of co-operation initiatives aimed at identifying the perpetrators of sexual violence and ensuring justice and redress for victims;

12. Encourages OSCE Institutions and structures, such as the Gender Section and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, to advance co-operation initiatives to prevent and respond to sexual violence in war zones, including through the promotion of skills development programmes, the establishment of a comprehensive support and protection system for victims, and by ensuring their meaningful participation in decision-making processes;

13. Urges all parties involved in armed conflicts to immediately cease all acts of sexual violence, facilitate safe and unhindered access to humanitarian assistance, and ensure the protection of civilians, notably women and girls, from all forms of violence and exploitation;

14. Underlines the need to enhance monitoring and reporting systems to better understand the magnitude and devastating effects of sexual violence in conflict zones, in order to provide effective recommendations for further action, if necessary;

15. Calls on the OSCE and its participating States to adopt a gender-sensitive and survivor-centred approach when responding to sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict contexts, including by advocating for safe, ethical and survivor-centred monitoring and reporting of conflict-related sexual violence and by supporting the provision of medical, psychosocial, economic and legal aid services that are tailored to the specific needs of survivors;

16. Reiterates its commitment to countering sexual violence against women and exploring further avenues to enhance international co-operation in this respect.

RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN FOSTERING DEMOCRATIC AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

1. Reiterating the commitment of OSCE participating States to uphold the principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, such as respect for human rights,

respect for fundamental freedoms, including freedom of association, and the fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law,

2. Reaffirming OSCE commitments relevant to creating and maintaining civic space, including the Istanbul Document, in which OSCE participating States committed to enhancing the ability of non-governmental organisation to fully contribute to supporting the continued development of civil society and enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

3. Guided by the OSCE PA Vancouver Declaration and its resolution on the role of national parliaments in enhancing the participation of civil society in decision-making processes, and the Luxembourg Declaration and its resolution on the role of civil society in realising the aims and aspirations of the OSCE,

4. Underscoring United Nations Human Rights Council resolutions 24/21, 27/31, 32/31, 38/12 and 53/13 which affirm the importance of promoting and protecting civic space

5. Recalling the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, to which all Osce participating States have committed, in particular Goal 16, which seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies by ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making,

6. Observing with concern that democratic progress has declined or stagnated in some parts of the world, including within the OSCE region, and noting that this democratic decline affects freedom of association, including the extent to which civil society organizations can operate freely,

7. Emphasizing that democratic decline and the shrinking space for civil society are interrelated,

8. Affirming that civil society organizations have a right to participate in public debate regardless of whether their position is critical of positions adopted by public authorities,

9. Concerned by the emergence of government-organized non-governmental organizations designed to support ruling governments while presenting themselves as independent, and convinced that such organizations undermine a diverse civil society, including by depriving independent civil society organizations of public funding,

10. Emphasizing that the ability of civil society organizations to seek, obtain and use financial resources from a variety of sources is essential to the existence of a diverse civil society,

11. Disturbed by the use, including by some OSCE participating States, of policies designed to deter civil society organizations from operating, and noting that these policies often contain vague provisions that provide broad discretion to public authorities and with which failure to comply carries disproportionate penalties, which can create a chilling effect on civil society,

12. Expressing concern about some OSCE participating States adopting legislation and administrative measures relating to national security and counter-terrorism and subsequently misusing such legislation and measures to hinder the work of civil society,

13. Witnessing with grave concern the rise of so-called anti-gender governments, which attempt to obstruct the activities of civil society organizations engaged in promoting the rights of women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons by shrinking the space necessary for these organizations to operate,

14. Alarmed that, in some OSCE participating States, persons and organizations engaged in promoting the rights of women and LGBTI persons frequently face online and offline harassment, threats, attacks, surveillance and hate campaigns,

15. Underscoring that human rights defenders working to advance gender equality face disproportionate rates of violence and discrimination,

16. Troubled by the Russian Federation's intensified repression of independent journalists, representatives of civil society organizations, human rights defenders, and individuals and organizations engaged in promoting the rights of women and LGBTI persons, and observing that this repression has had a disproportionately devastating effect on the lives and freedoms of LGBTI persons,

17. Recalling the OSCE Moscow Mechanism Report on the serious threat to the OSCE human dimension in Belarus since 5 November 2020, which notes that at least one quarter of civil society organizations in Belarus have stopped operating since 5 November 2020, recommends that all legislation restricting the formation and operation of independent civil society organizations in Belarus be repealed, and calls on the international community to help representatives of belarusian civil society organizations, human rights defenders, and journalists in exile to sustain their activities abroad,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

18. Underscores the fundamental role of civil society organizations in the promotion of human rights, including the rights of women and LGBTI persons such as sexual and reproductive health services and support to survivors of gender-based violence;

19. Calls on OSCE participating States to ensure that their domestic legal environment enables civil society organizations to participate meaningfully in their society's political, economic, social and cultural life;

20. Asks all OSCE participating States that have not already done so to sign, ratify and implement the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women, which provides that all parties must recognize, encourage and support the work of civil society organizations active in combating violence against women and establish effective co-operation with these organizations;

21. Urges OSCE participating States to guarantee that domestic legislation , policies and practices enable civil society organizations to engage in meaningful dialogue with public authorities regarding the development of laws and policies relating to gender issues, and ensure that such dialogue be structured, predictable and inclusive;

22. Recommends that parliamentarians of OSCE participating States improve their understanding of the gendered impacts of legislation, and that parliaments establish and formalize relationships with independent civil society organizations working on gender issues and draw on their expertise when deliberating legislation;

23. Condemns unjustified restrictions on the funding of civil society organizations - in particular women's rights and human rights organizations - adopted by certain OSCE participating States, including restrictions designed to criminalize foreign funding and create burdensome administrative procedures to access permissible sources of funding;

24. Calls on OSCE participating States to ensure that civil society organizations can engage in fundraising activities, whether working on gender issues or other issues, and can access diverse sources of funding, including private and foreign funding, without undue restrictions;

25. Recommends that the OSCE put in place a system to monitor threats to civic space in OSCE participating States by developing a civic space index based on existing frameworks for measuring civic space;

26. Invites the OSCE to assist participating States in ensuring that civic education and human rights education are included in their curricula at all levels of education, and recognizes that civic and human rights education help develop a democratic political culture, foster inclusive societies and increase civic participation;

27. Encourages the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), as part of its election observation missions, to continue to involve civil society organizations, to monitor the ability of civil society to operate freely before and during elections and to pay particular attention to the impacts of election-related legislation on a country's civic space;

28. Welcomes the work of ODIHR to support OSCE participating States in implementing commitments relating to gender equality, including by facilitating dialogue and co-operation among civil society organizations, as well as between civil society and participating States, in promoting gender-mainstreaming.