



*“Working together towards a Europe free from violence”*



**Digital Network Meeting**  
**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021**  
**13:00 – 15:30 (CET)**

*Agenda*

13:00 – 13:30

## Welcome!

We are working together for a Europe free from violence. Everyone, everywhere and at all times, should feel safe and be free from gender-based and domestic violence, regardless of where you live, travel, work or study in Europe.

- **Hilde Barstad, State Secretary for the Minister of Justice and Public Security in Norway**  
“European cooperation against violence is more important than ever before!”
- **Rosa Monteiro, Portuguese Secretary of State for Citizenship and Equality**
- **Daniele Cangemi, Head of Human Dignity and Gender Equality Department, Council of Europe**  
“The Istanbul Convention provides a source of guidance for an effective European cooperation”
- **Tori Hoven, Head of Programmes Department, Financial Mechanism Office, EEA and Norway Grants**  
“The EEA and Norway Grants enables European cooperation against violence”

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## “SOFT POWER” - a dance theatre production mobilizing for action in the fight against violence

This double-bill dance performance by Panta Rei Dance Theatre and Sibiu Ballet, together with choreographer Sandra Mavhima, was shown at a high level conference in the context of Romanian EU Presidency in 2019. The dance was a part of the bilateral project between Romania and Norway supported by the EEA and Norway Grants.

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13:30 – 14:30

## Lessons learned from the **COVID-19 pandemic** to mitigate its impact on gender-based and domestic violence.

Keynote Speaker:

**Nina Nordström, Ambassador of Finland to the Council of Europe and President of the Committee of Parties to the Istanbul Convention**

“How does the Istanbul Convention guide countries’ actions against violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic?”

Examples of country specific measures and practices put in place:

- **Sigríður Björk Guðjónsdóttir, the National Police Commissioner of Iceland**  
“Action team against violence”.
  - **Bronius Palšis, Police, chief investigator of Activity and prevention division in the Public police board of the Police Department under the Ministry of the Interior in Lithuania**  
“Domestic Violence Challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic”.
  - **Alice Neffe, Acting Director in the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment within the Ministry of Family and Social Policy in Poland, and Justyna Chrapkowska, Chief specialist, Department of Strategy and European Funds, Ministry of Justice in Poland**  
“Polish experiences... Emergency barring orders.”
  - **Monalisa Cirstea, Director, National Agency for Equality between Women and Men in Romania**  
“Integrated actions for victims of domestic violence during COVID 19 pandemic”.
  - **Marta Silva, Head of Unit, Domestic and Gender Based Unit, Commission for citizenship and gender equality, Presidency of the Council of Ministers in Portugal**  
“Portuguese responses to Domestic and Gender Based Violence, under pandemic crisis.”
  - **Freja Ulvestad Kärki, Project manager Norwegian Directorate of Health, and Julie Haatuft, Project Manager, Secretariat for the Shelter Movement in Norway**
    - “Mitigating additional risk for vulnerable groups in a pandemic.”
    - “VO-helpline - National Domestic Violence Helpline 116 006 for anyone experiencing domestic abuse”.
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14:30 – 14:40

## Coffee Break

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14:40 – 14:55

## Presentation of the SYNERGY website [eeagender.org](https://eeagender.org)

The main purpose of this new digital communication platform is to give inspiration and guidance on future policymaking by highlighting project stories and policy measures that have been taken, to prevent and combat domestic and gender-based violence.

- Linda Rustad, director, and editor in-chief at [Kilden genderresearch.no](https://kilden.no)
- Vibeke Hoem, adviser at [Kilden genderresearch.no](https://kilden.no)

Questions and answers

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14:55 – 15:15

## Presentation of the Council of Europe online [Access to Justice for Women Course](https://www.coe.int/en/web/help) offered for the SYNERGY Network

The Council of Europe [HELP - Access to Justice for Women Course](https://www.coe.int/en/web/help) provides a comprehensive overview of international and European women's rights and gender equality standards, case-law and promising practices, providing a single resource on gender equality and justice.

- Jenna Shearer Demir, Programme Advisor, Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe
- Ana Medarska-Lazova, Deputy Head of the HELP Unit, HELP Secretariat, Council of Europe

Questions and answers

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15:15 – 15:30

## The Way Forward [2021-2024](#)

- Ideas for future SYNERGY network activities...