



REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

Dismantling discriminatory social norms to progress on the SDGs

CONCEPT NOTE

Background and rationale

Social norms are unwritten rules that guide behaviour of communities and individuals. They influence what people think, feel and do, give people expectations of what others do and approve of. In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, gender and social norms drive gender inequality and the discrimination against women and girls and they contribute to gender-based violence including harmful practices such as child marriage and gender-biased sex selection. They also hinder implementation of gender equality normative frameworks and limit women's access to rights, resources and wellbeing.

Positive social norms change can accelerate progress in gender equality and SDG 5, it has the potential not only to progress gender equality and ensure women's participation at all levels, but also help end violence and discrimination against women and girls, and increase demand and access to services. This panel will showcase country level work that tackles limiting and deep-rooted norms towards transformative gender equality results. It will bring together government officials, CSOs and direct beneficiaries, to generate a constructive dialogue and highlight the collective progress, lessons learned

and recommendations. The experiences will show the holistic impact in people's lives, their beliefs, attitudes, and practices, and will provide further evidence on the pivotal role social norms have in the dynamics that drive gender inequalities, inclusive growth, and progress in all the SDGs .

Session objectives and expected outcomes

The aim of the event is to share best practices and initiatives working on positive social norms change to accelerate progress in gender equality and SDG 5.

The specific objectives :

1. To showcase work at the country level to change discriminatory social norms and aims at transformative gender equality results.
2. To generate a constructive dialogue around positive social norms, change by bringing together government officials, CSOs and direct beneficiaries.
3. To highlight collective progress, lessons learned and recommendations for positive social norms change.
4. To provide evidence on the pivotal role social norms have in the dynamics that drive gender inequalities, inclusive growth, and progress in all the SDGs.

Organizers

Lead organizers: Issue Based Coalition on Gender Equality for ECA.

Contributors:

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

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Agenda and Structure

Thursday, 7 April 2022 (08:30- 09:45, Geneva time)

Opening remarks

1. Introduction of panel by moderator
2. A dive into the work with fathers, changing social norms through papa schools and other interventions in Azerbaijan.
3. A look into the Girls' satellites soar to the stars.
4. Communication techniques used by the police IO on BiH to encourage reporting on VAW - partners from BiH police

Q&A

5. Closing remarks

List of Panellists

Ilayda Eskitaşçioğlu - Moderator, research fellow at the UNESCO Chair for Gender Equality and Sustainable Development and founder of the NGO We Need to Talk

Service provider and front line worker in the Papa Schools, Azerbaijan.

Partner from Girls' satellites soar to the stars. Kazakhstan

Police officer - partners from BiH police. Western Balkans