



REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

Threats to us all: Rising anti-gender groups and their connections to other anti-rights threats

CONCEPT NOTE

Background and rationale

Anti-rights threats are rising throughout the world, threatening democracy, human rights and the rule of law. One of the most vocal of these threats are the anti-gender groups, opposing the long and hard gained rights of women, girls and LGBTQI+ individuals. These threats are connected, target similar groups within societies and use common tactics. In this side event, we'll draw attention to the anti-gender groups and their connections with other anti-rights threats such as climate crisis denialism, anti-vaccine groups, etc. Best practices and strategies will be shared among different movements to resist these threats

These groups have identified the Covid 19 pandemic to increase their hateful and discriminatory speeches that aim to destabilize democracies and rule of law by polarizing societies and discrediting democratic institutions. The continued attacks on the Istanbul Convention as part of its strategy of denying sexist violence, the declared liberated areas of LGTBIQ+ people, the attack on sexual and reproductive rights undermine the ability to comply with SDG 5 and SDG 16 due the attack on rights of women is a vehicle to erode democratic institutions and the rule of law. Their connection with climate crisis denialism undermines our capacity to achieve SDDG 14 and 15.

We are witnessing a boom in these groups, which in many cases are entering the institutions of the countries of the region. Knowing them, their connections, their strategies as well as counteracting their denial and hate speech is a key element for the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda.

Session objectives and expected outcomes

Objectives

- Share the serious threat that the anti-gender and anti-rights movements and deniers of the climate change crisis represent for the institutions and democracies of the region as well as for achieving sustainable development.
- Situate the attack on gender equality and the attack on the human rights of women as a vehicle that attacks the entire population and democracies.
- Share effective strategies to find ways to resist anti-gender and anti-rights and climate change denier narratives to counteract the de-democratizing processes we face in the region.

Expected outcomes

- The participants in the event become aware of the importance of attacks on the human rights of women for the maintenance of democracies
- The information shared in the event helps the participants to develop a holistic and intersectional vision of the main problems facing the region and to approach them from these approaches.
- Contribute to the development of capacities of the participants in the event to be able to face and overcome the different systemic and intertwined barriers to be able to comply with the SDGs

Organizers

Lead organizers: Women's Major Group

Contributors: Gender Centru - Moldova & L' Associació de Drets Sexuals I Reproductius

Focal points: Almudena Rodriguez

E-Mail: internacional@lassociacio.org

Agenda and Structure

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1. Moderator: 7 minutes

Welcome remarks:

Welcome everyone and thank you for joining us in this important event ***Threats to us all: Rising anti-gender groups and their connections to other anti-rights threats***

Laying out purpose and expected outcomes/key messages of the event.

Introduction of speakers to provide the 1erst question.

2. Video showing the situation in the region: 3 minutes

3. Panellists answer 1erst Question: *The first question provides an opportunity to describe the current state of play. (42 minutes)*

- 7 minutes for each panellist: 42 minutes.
- Moderator: Spotlight on moderator first and current speaker after.

4. Panellist answer 2nd Question:

The second question is designed to be more action oriented, encouraging stakeholders to think about how they can be involved. This question also allows for each organization to share what they bring to the table. At the end, responses will be synthesized by the moderator and shared in a call to action. (42 minutes)

- 7 minutes for each panellist:
- Moderator: Spotlight on moderator first and current speaker after.

5. Question in chat: 7 minutes.

6. Closing remarks: 2 minutes

List of Panellists

- **Neil Datta:** Secretary of the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights.
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- **Marta Lempart:** All-Poland Women's Strike.
 - **United4IstanbulConvention**
 - **Biljana: LGBTI Group**
 - **Noelia Igareda**, researcher of “ Anti-Gender Hate Speech in Populist Right-Wing Social Media Communication”. <http://www.genha.eu/>: Antigona Research Group – Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), Center for Policy Studies (CPS) – Central European University (CEU), Centro Interdisciplinare di Ricerca sulla Vittimologia e sulla Sicurezza (CIRViS) – University of Bologna (UNIBO) Department of Law - University of Gothenburg (UGOT) Department of Communication - University of Vienna (UNIVIE) 2021.
 - **OutRight International**
 - **Victor Madrigal:** UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.
 - **Moderator:** Almudena Rodriguez
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