

# Online conference on The Digital Dimension of Violence against Women

**THURSDAY | 10 MARCH 2022 |**  
14.00 – 17:00 CET (15.00 – 18.00 EET)

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## REPORT



In cooperation with

## INTRODUCTION

**Bodossaki Foundation** and **SolidarityNow** as Active Citizens Fund Operator in Greece co-organize with Active Citizens Fund Operator in Cyprus (**NGO Support Centre - GrantXpert Consulting Limited**) the online conference “The Digital Dimension of Violence Against Women” in cooperation with the **Council of Europe**, the **Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security** and the **EEA Norway Grants SYNERGY Network against Gender-based and Domestic Violence**.

Building on the first General Recommendation of the Council of Europe’s Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) the online conference that took place on Thursday, 10th March, 2.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m. (CET) focused on ways to combat online and technology-facilitated Violence. The event consisted of presentations by a panel of leading experts on gender issues, as well as parallel working group discussions where participants had the opportunity to exchange ideas and successful practices for combatting these challenges effectively.

The rapid evolution of information and communication technologies facilitates the creation of new forms of violence and direct access to women and girls, such as the non-consensual image or video capture and publication, exploitation, sexualised bullying, cyber flashing, technology-facilitated stalking, online psychological violence and economic abuse.

*The Active citizens fund in Greece is supported through a € 13.5 m grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway as part of the EEA Grants 2014 - 2021. The programme aims to develop the sustainability and capacity of the civil society sector in Greece, and to strengthen its role in promoting and safeguarding democratic procedures, active citizenship and human rights. The Fund Operator for the Active citizens fund in Greece is Bodossaki Foundation in consortium with SolidarityNow. More information: [www.activecitizensfund.gr/en/](http://www.activecitizensfund.gr/en/)*

*The Active Citizens Fund (ACF) in Cyprus is supported through a €1.5m grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway under the EEA Grants 2014-2021, aiming to contribute to reducing economic and social disparities and strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation between the beneficiary states and the donor states. ACF Cyprus recognises the fundamental role the civil society sector plays in ensuring democratic governance, human rights and social cohesion and focuses on the following two main objectives: strengthening civil society and active citizenship and empowering vulnerable groups in Cyprus. The Fund Operator for the Active Citizens Fund in Cyprus is NGO Support Centre in consortium with GrantXpert Consulting. For more information, visit [www.activecitizensfund.cy](http://www.activecitizensfund.cy)*

1 conference  
100+ participants  
10 speakers  
4 working groups  
5 partners

# AGENDA

## 2.00 p.m. | Welcome

On behalf of EEA & Norway Grants in Greece & Cyprus:

- Maria Fola, EEA Grants Advisor, Norwegian Embassy in Athens

On behalf of the organising partners:

- Jennifer Clarke, Programme Director, Active citizens fund Greece/Director of Programmes and Grants, Bodossaki Foundation
- Konstantina Karayianni, Programme Director, Active citizens fund Cyprus/President, NGO Support Centre

## 2.05 p.m. | Opening remarks

- Yianna Hormova, Secretary-General for Demography, Family Policy and Gender Equality, Hellenic Republic
- Iosifina Antoniou, Commissioner for Gender Equality, Republic of Cyprus

## 2.15 p.m. | Expert panel presentations

- Aleid van den Brink, Member of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO): *Introduction to the themes and background to the General Recommendation.*
- Elif Sariaydin, Violence Against Women Division, Secretariat of the Istanbul Convention monitoring mechanism, Council of Europe: *Presentation of the General Recommendation and promising practice*
- Olivia Soave, Senior External Relations Manager, Kaspersky: *Technology solutions for fighting online gender-based violence*
- Eleonora Esposito, Gender-based violence Seconded National Expert European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE): *EIGE's work on cyberviolence against women and girls*

## 3.00 p.m. | Parallel working groups (in breakout rooms) for ideas and successful practices exchange on different sub-themes:

1. **Sexual Harassment**
2. **Stalking**
3. **Psychological violence**

An expert-consultant will be appointed to each breakout room to coordinate/facilitate the discussion:

- Claire Guiraud, CoE Expert and Former Secretary General of Haut Conseil à l'Égalité.
- Pille Tsopp Pagan Protection Expert and Member of Board, NPO Women's Support and Information Centre
- Marijke Weewauters, Advisor, Belgian Institute for Equality of Men and Women
- Sami Nevala, Policy Coordinator – Statistics Research & Data Unit of European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

## 3.50 p.m. | Return to plenary for presentations and conclusions

## 4.20 p.m. | Closing remarks

Caterina Bolognese, Head of Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe

## 2.00 p.m. | Welcome

### **Maria Fola | EEA Grants Advisor, Norwegian Embassy in Athens**

Ms. Fola introduced the SYNERGY Network against Gender-based and Domestic Violence and invited the participants of the conference to help define and outline the problem and find ways to navigate to possible solutions and recommendations:

*The SYNERGY Network brings together governmental and non-governmental stakeholders from different countries cooperating to prevent and combat gender-based and domestic violence under the EEA and Norway Grants. The grants aim to contribute to a more equal Europe - socially and economically - and to strengthen relations between the beneficiary countries and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.* Ms. Fola invited the participants of the conference to help define and outline the problem and find ways to navigate to possible solutions and recommendations.

### **Jennifer Clarke | Programme Director Active Citizens Fund Greece / Director of Programmes & Grants, Bodossaki Foundation**

Ms. Clarke welcomed the participants and highlighted the rapidly evolving digital dimension of violence against women that needs our attention and fast reaction, by creating synergies and giving space for dialogue.

### **Konstantina Karayianni | Programme Director Active citizens funds Cyprus / President, NGO Support Centre**

The NGO Support Center is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organization dedicated to the development and strengthening of civil society in Cyprus. Ms. Karayianni highlighted the contribution of Covid-19 to an explosion in cases of violence against women and the urgency for opening the space for dialogue.

## 2.05 p.m. | Opening remarks

### **Josephine Antoniou | Commissioner for Gender Equality, Republic of Cyprus**

In her video message to the conference, Ms. Antoniou shared that violence against women is one of the most serious obstacles to achieving gender equality. The consequences of violence are immediate, long-term and affect the physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health of women.

In 2017, Cyprus proceeded with the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

Specific actions and measures are needed from all stages (parliamentary and municipal authorities) in order to prevent gender-based violence.

The empowerment of women and tackling violence against women is not only a matter of political will and legislative framework but also a matter of cultivating a new culture based on the values of equality, dignity and democracy which should be at the center of the family, the education and the public and private life of men and women.

## 2.15 p.m. | Expert panel presentations

### **Aleid van den Brink, Member of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) | Introduction to the themes and background to the General Recommendation**

GREVIO is the independent expert body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Prevention and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention). In November 2021, GREVIO published the General Recommendation on the digital dimension of violence against women, offering a new set of recommendations based on the Istanbul Convention. This set of recommendations is not only addressed to the policy level but to all service providers for women's advocates.

Ms. Van den Brink offered personal insights and encouraged everyone to "learn from the past and be careful not to repeat it", referring to past practices of advising women to hide, to live in isolation as a protective measure against violence. This is sometimes necessary because we need safe places, but it is not the only way. We should ensure an environment for women to live in, that is not secret yet is safe. Therefore, we should keep our focus on a safe presence of women and girls in the digital world.

As social media platforms and digital gadgets have invaded almost all aspects of our lives, digital manifestations of violence against women and girls have increased in the last decade. What characterizes this rapidly evolving digital dimension is that it gives space for violence against women to be bigger, faster and more abusive, while the long-term effects of these practices are now far more. Furthermore, we now observe the continuity of the different forms of such violence and many times see a combination of online & offline means.

That is why GREVIO dedicated its very first General Recommendation to the digital sphere within the meaning of the Istanbul Convention. The process that was followed consisted of four steps:

- 1. Gathering all the existing available material**
- 2. Engaging a group of experts in creating clear definitions and typologies**
- 3. Taking the Convention and the definitions as a starting point, three categories were identified:**
  - a. Online sexual harassment**
  - b. Online and technology-facilitated stalking**
  - c. Digital dimension of psychological violence**
- 4. Reaching out to EU bodies for comments & feedback**

A number of Council of Europe committees and monitoring bodies were approached with a view to gathering their input and opinions, followed by input on the recommendations from a number of civil society actors, including European and national NGOs and umbrella organizations, independent experts and researchers as well as other international organizations (more than 30 concrete recommendations were gathered).

You can find the full GREVIO General Recommendation on the digital dimension of violence against women [here](#).

## **Elif Sariaydin, Violence Against Women Division, Secretariat of the Istanbul Convention monitoring mechanism, Council of Europe | Presentation of the General Recommendation and promising practice**

During the initial research period, experts observed that there is no universally accepted term for the phenomenon. As the research moved on it seemed that “online & technology-facilitated violence against women” was the closest term to the real world.

GREVIO also notes that the different forms of violence against women and domestic violence occurring in the digital sphere and those occurring in the physical world are not mutually exclusive and frequently overlap with one another, exacerbating the traumatising impact of the abuse, at times even threatening the physical safety of the victim. It is thus essential not to overlook the digital dimension of violence, as it’s been reported that real-life attacks on women have often started online. Taking as a starting point the definition of violence against women set out in Article 3A of the Istanbul Convention, there are three main categories:

### **1. Digital dimension of psychological violence**

- It’s often used in the context of domestic violence
- Perpetrators use technological devices such as stalking devices (as global positioning systems GPS), in many cases after a relationship is over
- Expertise amongst the law enforcements in low and has just started developing

### **2. Online and technology-facilitated stalking**

- Some examples are spying on, contacting in a repeated manner, tracking their passport, hacking on their accounts, stealing their devices etc.
- The Internet of Things is a technology used to stalk the victims

### **3. Online sexual harassment**

- One of the most present forms of violence in online platforms and social media platforms which includes an enormous number of behaviors
- Forms of sexual harassment include non-consensual image or video sharing, non-consensual taking, producing or procuring of intimate images or videos, exploitation, coercion and threats, sexualised bullying and cyber flashing.

GREVIO recommends that States Parties take the recommended measures in the areas of prevention, protection, prosecution and coordinated policies (4Ps).

### **PREVENTION contains recommendations such as:**

- Provide digital literacy in society, through education and capacity building for all: law enforcement bodies, criminal justice actors, members of the judiciary, health-care professionals, asylum officials, social service professionals, education professionals etc.
- Implement awareness-raising campaigns for all (boys, men, girls, women)
- Implement intervention programs
- Encourage the ICT sector and internet intermediaries, including social media platforms, to create internal monitoring mechanisms towards ensuring the inclusion of victim-centric perspectives. Also advocate stronger awareness of the perspective and experiences of female users, in particular those exposed to or at risk of intersecting forms of discrimination
- Encourage media to take steps in eradicating gender-based discrimination, victim-blaming attitudes and violations of the privacy of victims. Uproot male-dominated power dynamics in media landscapes.

**PROTECTION contains recommendations such as:**

- Support services for victims and their children accessible for all, insufficient geographic distribution across each state country
- Create easily accessible services to law enforcement
- Make support services for psychological counseling for the victims, including legal and technical advice
- Incentivise internet intermediaries including ISPs, search engines and social media platforms to ensure robust moderation of content that falls within the scope of the Istanbul Convention. This will happen through the removal of accounts or content, in multiple languages on the basis of transparent principles that protect the human rights of all, including women's right to live free from violence and to provide easily accessible user guidance to flag abusive content and request its removal

**PROSECUTION contains recommendations such as:**

- State Parties should equip their law enforcement with the human, financial and technical resources (special units for this kind of offenses, training activities)
- Increase capacity-building efforts for criminal justice and law-enforcement professionals. Perpetrators can be located all around the world, wherefore international cooperation needs to be established in order to ensure access to evidence (private & public) & working collaboratively with the law enforcement
- Ensure the publication of incidence reports by the criminal justice sector on violence against women in the digital sphere, in order to strengthen the confidence of victims in the criminal justice system
- Encourage the responsibility of all relevant actors, such as ICT companies and internet intermediaries, through content moderation, while encouraging media companies to work collaboratively with law enforcement agencies

**COORDINATED POLICIES contain recommendations such as:**

- Allocate appropriate human and financial resources to national and local government bodies to effectively prevent, protect from and prosecute violence against women perpetrated online and through technology
- Highlight the responsibilities of internet intermediaries when devising and implementing legislative frameworks relating to internet intermediaries, in line with their obligations under the Istanbul Convention
- Gather data on violence against women with a digital component, including complaint, incidence and conviction rates, as well as data on the civil justice measures imposed, such as restraining orders, analyzed from an intersectional lens
- Establish partnerships with private & public sectors, social media platforms, search engines, NGOs and other online source providers in all languages, in order to improve responses to violence against women in its digital dimension by pooling the expertise and capacity of all stakeholders
- Prevent commercial entities from making a profit out of sexual abuse of women and girls



## **Olivia Soave, Senior External Relations Manager at Kaspersky | Technology solutions for fighting online gender-based violence**

Technology companies can and should be part of the solution. The global cyber security company Kaspersky works closely with the public and private sector and tries to tackle the problem by engaging multiple players in its activities. The company deals with tech-facilitated abuse and specifically Stalkware, that enables a perpetrator to secretly spy on another person's private life via a smart device.

Stalkware software is easy to buy, easy to install and use and although illegal, it's available and very popular for download. It's a gateway for harassment and other such acts and it has a direct link to physical violence as well. The Coalition Against Stalkware estimates that Stalkerware usage likely exceeds 1 million incidents per year.

**53.870** users were affected by Stalkware globally in 2020 while **6.459** in the EU  
**30%** of the people see no problem in secretly monitoring their partner (at least under certain circumstances)  
**15%** of respondents worldwide have been required by their partner to install a monitoring app  
**34%** of those indicating this answer have also already experienced abuse by an intimate partner

The Coalition Against Stalkware (founded in 2019) helps address this issue with more than 40+ members from all over the world, by creating cooperation where diverse players (IT security companies, academia research, law enforcement agencies, Interpol) share their expertise.

The Coalition Against Stalkware works in three directions:

**1. Training.** By sharing knowledge, collecting data and discussing terminology with NGOs and other players. There was a lack of technical expertise, which has improved a lot, but still smaller organizations need support in technical issues. DeStalk is a technical training developed, where many law enforcement agencies have been trained in cooperation with Interpol.

**2. Technology-based solutions to fight Stalkware.** An example is the free open source Stalkware detection tool Tiny Check. The goal of Tiny Check is to help non-profit organizations support victims of domestic violence and protect their privacy. The tool does not inform the perpetrator about the scan, checks all devices possible and is affordable and open source.

### **3. Providing Privacy Alerts: Providing more detailed warnings to users by antivirus solutions**

#### **Useful links:**

- o Full Report on The State of Stalkware in 2020: [https://media.kasperskycontenthub.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/100/2020/03/25175212/EN\\_The-State-of-Stalkerware-2020.pdf](https://media.kasperskycontenthub.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/100/2020/03/25175212/EN_The-State-of-Stalkerware-2020.pdf)
- o Digital Stalking in Relationships Survey: [https://media.kasperskydaily.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/86/2021/11/17164103/Kaspersky\\_Digital-stalking-in-relationships\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://media.kasperskydaily.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/86/2021/11/17164103/Kaspersky_Digital-stalking-in-relationships_Report_FINAL.pdf)
- o More information about TinyCheck: <https://github.com/KasperskyLab/TinyCheck>



## Dr. Eleonora Esposito | EIGE's work on cyberviolence against women and girls

EIGE (European Institute for Gender Equality) focuses on cyberviolence against women and girls (CVAWG) since 2017, conducting desk research on:

- o Different forms of cyberviolence
- o Data availability and research
- o Law enforcement responses
- o Recommendations

**Cyberviolence against women and girls is gender-based violence. In 2021, there has been a new study involving all the 27 EU countries, in order to:**

- **Objective 1: Increase Member State (MS) knowledge of CVAWG and related policy effectiveness to address challenges across EU-27**
- **Objective 2: Increase Member State capacity to define CVAWG and its forms**

Objective 1 (Research process):

- o Review RESEARCH on all forms of CVAWG
- o Analyze POLICIES development and impact
- o Identify ACTORS working on CVAWG
- o Map and analyze SURVEY & ADMINISTRATIVE DATA SOURCES
- o Analyze key CHALLENGES in POLICIES & DATA COLLECTION

Objective 1 (Preliminary Findings):

- o Fragmentation & inconsistencies between EU and MS level
- o Limited data available

On the EU level, there seems to be no harmonized legal definition of CVAWG and no legal definition or instrument addressing CVAWG specifically. On the MS level, general offenses apply to CVAWG, provisions are gender-neutral, while different forms of CVAWG are accounted as the same

Objective 2 (Research process):

- o Identify LEGAL DEFINITIONS and definitions used for STATISTICAL PURPOSES
- o Analyze and compare TERMINOLOGY used for STATISTICAL PURPOSES
- o Develop a list of main FORMS & COMPONENTS of CVAWG
- o Identifying the CHALLENGES in establishing DEFINITIONS
- o Propose NEW DEFINITIONS for STATISTICAL PURPOSES

Objective 2 (Preliminary Findings):

A set of new Gender-based terms & definitions is formed for CVAWG and its main components such as cyberstalking, cyber-harassment, cyber-bullying, online gender-based hate speech, image-based sexual abuse.

Available in 2022 together with a glossary of terminologies.

EIGE's key message on CVAWG:

**What is measured becomes VISIBLE**

**What is visible can be MONITORED**

**What is monitored gets IMPROVED**

## 3.00 p.m. | Parallel working groups for ideas and successful practices exchange on the theme: Online sexual harassment

**Facilitator: Claire Guiraud | CoE Expert and Former Secretary General of Haut Conseil à l'Égalité**

### **a. Prevention**

- o Awareness Raising Activities
- o Engaging men & boys in the process
- o Involving a diversity of speakers
- o Engaging influencers
- o Talking about consent and providing a good definition (eg. Police officers participating in campaigns in schools around consent to shift the image of who is talking about the issues)
- o Sexual education in schools
- o Accessibility of information
- o Utilize social media (SoMe) strategically. Different means of SoMe are reaching different audiences and target groups
- o Discouraging event of prosecution as a prevention measure
- o Develop digital literacy for women & girls

### **b. Protection**

- o Support services for victims
- o Encourage victims to report sexual harassment
- o Let women and girls know that there is a relative legal framework also for online harassment
- o Research on the impact of sexual harassment
- o Communication shift from victim-blaming to perpetrator blaming

### **c. Prosecution**

- o A good practice from Germany: companies have 24h due to assess and delete reported content and must monitor and publish data

## 3.00 p.m. | Parallel working groups for ideas and successful practices exchange on the theme: Online stalking

**Facilitator: Pille Tsopp-Pagan | Protection Expert and Member of Board, NPO Women's Support and Information Center**

### **a. Protection**

- o Raising Awareness and sharing info widely about this kind of abuse
- o Tackle the culture of stalking: campaigns on social media, massive state media campaigns about legality/illegality and the borderline between ethical and unethical
- o Educate the authorities
- o Authorities support victims to reach out to the police
- o Special police forces for domestic violence in Greece
- o The public sector and NPOs specialized personnel to support victims for specialized psychosocial support. Support NGOs and civic/grassroots organisations to be more reachable and knowledgeable to protect victims and provide education
- o Global social media companies working to stop online stalking

### **b. Prevention**

- o Raising Awareness
- o Tackle the culture of stalking: campaigns on social media, massive state media campaigns about legality/illegality and the borderline between ethical and unethical
- o Continuous campaigning on social media to catch up with new users until becomes common culture
- o Tackle the gender stereotypes with campaigns (what is causing what)
- o Education
- o Training teenagers on dangers
- o Digital literacy training (incl. law enforcement officers and people involved in enforcement/protection)
- o Quicker court reflexes
- o More strict and immediate court proceedings to prevent perpetrators from actions (in Greece). Country's court proceeding system should follow more quickly the development of digital harassment/stalking

A promising practice from the GREVIO/Finland report, on awareness-raising on sexual harassment in schools:  
<http://www.eimeidankoulussa.fi/?lang=en>

## 3.00 p.m. | Parallel working groups for ideas and successful practices exchange on the theme: Online psychological violence

**Facilitator: Marijke Weewauters | Advisor, Belgian Institute for Equality of Men and Women**

### **a. Protection**

- Give tools for free to provide information
- People check information only when they think that they are the victims. However, information should be accessible all the time and to everyone
- Cooperation with online platforms (Google, Facebook etc.)
- Ask the platforms to legally take down the profile if there has been a child crime
- Best Practice from Norway: telecommunications Telenor and slettmeg.no support the client that has been hacked. It is called "delete me". The company is still majorly owned by the Norwegian state, but it is partly privatized. They have included "Nettslett" in all private mobile subscriptions to combat cyberbullying or help when people's private pictures are hacked. You get legal assistance if you are exposed to cyberbullying; it covers legal advice, expenses for a lawyer, lost salary income and a psychologist. They focus a lot on children and young adults, but it's available for everybody who has a mobile subscription with them

### **b. Prevention**

- Awareness Raising. We should always give more information and be "ahead"
- Sexual education in schools, not only in the digital environment but as a course that establishes healthy relationships
- All professionals (police officers/educators) need to be trained not only in digital violence but also about the technology itself
- Educating the media on how to treat cases that get published
- Training for the journalists that report on digital violence. Strong commitment to respect the ethical guidelines
- Firm legislation
- The judges should impose the right penalties. If the penalty is very strong, someone may consider it twice before committing a crime

### **c. Prosecution**

- Legally strong mandate to prosecute
- Some of the participants said that in their country there is no legislation
- In Cyprus they have laws in psychological violence, but not for digital psychological violence
- Awareness training for police, prosecutors, judges on the damaging effect of psychological violence (to understand the effect this has on the victims)
- Training and education of the legislators, prosecutors and judges
- The regime of control against the victims

### **d. Policies**

- Action plans
- Interministerial/governors/municipalities
- Special one on digital violence
- Cross-sectoral collaborations
- It's not just an IT crime, is a gender-based crime

## 3.00 p.m. | Parallel working groups for ideas and successful practices exchange on the theme: Online psychological violence

**Facilitator: Sami Nevala | Policy Coordinator - Statistics Research & Data Unit of European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)**

### a. Prevention

- o Raise Awareness
- o Involve influencers in awareness campaigns
- o Education
- o Users should set their privacy settings on Social Media (easily edited from Platforms)
- o Give the ability for parents to set limitations to their children for their online presence
- o Continuously update the privacy settings
- o Quizzes and surveys to educate users
- o Training of professionals on how to ask the right questions, identify the victims etc.
- o Education in schools, specifically for girls & boys

### b. Protection

- o Hold the Online Platforms more accountable for re-victimization
- o Providing easy information to users (to report, block etc.)
- o Train professionals on how they can help protect the victims

## 4.20 p.m. | Closing remarks

**Caterina Bolognese | Head of Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe**

We need to keep working together. These discussions are food for thought and inspiration for all of us.

A question for further research is how protective measures also have a preventative effect. It's also important to show that if we are determined in our action this will have in itself a preventive effect. We won't tolerate it anymore.

The internet promises closer connectivity but violence against women and girls has also exploded online. This is only a continuation of face-to-face violence that takes place in the streets, and it's widely amplified due to the internet.

The Istanbul Convention is a living instrument that evolves together with society and together with it GREVIO's General Recommendation and other tools to prevent, protect and hold perpetrators accountable. They should be kept alive and frequently revised and updated.

Addressing special thanks to everyone who participated!

## SPEAKERS BIOS



**Aleid van den Brink** has a background in social sciences. Aleid van den Brink has been working her whole career in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence against women. She is very proud with the paradigm shift they could make with their new concept for shelter services, the Orange House: safe but not secret. In 2018 she retired as CEO of 'Blijf Groep'.

The honorable membership of GREVIO (Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence) since September 2018 allows her to connect many aspects of her expertise in practice with the greater good of human rights. GREVIO is the independent expert body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Prevention and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention). Currently she is also active in the Global Network of Women's Shelters, as chair of the GNWS Foundation in the Hague. She has been involved in the network since 2008, when the first World Conference of Women's Shelters took place in Edmonton, Canada. She is chair of the board of 'Het Aletta Jacobs Fonds', the foundation that supports Atria, Dutch Institute on gender equality and women's history. She is a board member of 'Het Fonds Bijzondere Noden Amsterdam', a foundation for all citizens to solve urgent financial needs.



**Dr. Eleonora Esposito** is a Researcher at the Institute for Culture and Society (ICS) of the University of Navarra (Spain) and a Seconded National Expert at the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). At EIGE, Dr. Esposito is Project Manager of Cyberviolence against Women and Girls, a new project focusing on the conceptual mapping and statistical definition of gender-based cyberviolence across the EU-27 and aimed at the improvement of EU policy effectiveness against it. A Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow (2019-2021), Dr. Esposito was Principal Investigator of Online Hate against European Women Leaders (WONT-HATE), a Horizon2020 project exploring motives and forms of gender-based cyberviolence, with a focus on the impact on the political participation of women across the EU.



**Olivia Soave** is a Senior External Relations Manager within Kaspersky's Global Corporate Communications team. Olivia's particular areas of focus are tech-enabled abuse and stalkerware. She works closely with civil society organizations, researchers, public entities and private companies to raise awareness on, and develop technology solutions for fighting online gender-based violence. Prior to joining Kaspersky, Olivia worked in public affairs and crisis management in Asia, Europe and North America. A French native, she graduated from Sciences Po Lille, France.

## EXPERTS BIOS



Of Italian and US parents, **Caterina Bolognese** was raised and educated in Italy, Australia and Germany, specialising in languages and law. After working in comparative criminal law research in Germany she joined the Council of Europe, where she has worked on constitutional issues and criminal law reform, and monitored trafficking for sexual exploitation. She directed the office in Georgia and worked for many years with the Organisation's anti-torture monitoring, where she focused on women in prison. Caterina has managed the Council of Europe's team on Gender Equality since 2018.



**Claire Guiraud** has 10+ years of experience in the fields of gender equality policies. After having served in France as Secretary-General of the High Council for Gender Equality and as Policy Adviser in the offices of two former ministers in charge of women's rights, Claire Guiraud is now working as a gender expert for governments & international organisations (Council of Europe, French Development Agency, etc), NGOs and private foundations. She is the co-author of "Le féminisme pour les nul.le.s" (Editions First, 2019). She graduated from Ecole Supérieure de Commerce in Paris (ESCP Europe) and in anthropology and ethnology.



**Sami Nevala** is the policy coordinator for statistics at the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, based in Vienna, Austria. He has overseen the collection of reliable and comparable data on a variety of fundamental rights issues, including the agency's EU-wide survey on violence against women and data collected through various FRA surveys on hate-motivated harassment and violence. He has specialised in victimisation surveys and crime statistics through working for the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control – HEUNI – and his consultancy work for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).