Women have been historically discriminated in society. Based on assumptions about the “natural” gender roles in society, women have been denied important rights from the suffrage, the right to sign contracts or perform work outside the home to custody rights. Over the last century, important developments have taken place. The conceptualization of women’s rights as human rights and their incorporation into international law played an important role in this. Women’s equality became the subject of international documents such as the UN’s Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the 1995 The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women or more recently the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. In addition, supranational courts such as the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights, the International Criminal Court or the Court of Justice of the European Union have responded to women’s demands by an increasingly gender-sensitive reading of different international and regional legal norms. Notwithstanding, women’s full equality has not yet been achieved. Women everywhere are still subject to different forms of violence in war and in times of peace, in the public and the private spheres, they earn less and are facing higher poverty rates than men, are under-represented in positions of power in fields like politics, on the boards of companies and on the benches of the highest national and international courts and face other gender-specific forms of discrimination such as poor access to justice and to sexual, reproductive and maternal care.

This conference aims to discuss a few aspects of the state of women’s human rights and the challenges to achieving gender equality in the twenty-first century. It will do so by looking at developments in the field of gender equality under International and European Law and before regional courts, particularly the European Court of Human Rights.

The conference hopes to provide a forum of reflection on gender equality for members of the judiciary, legal practitioners, academics, representatives of European institutions and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professionals.
CONFERENCE AGENDA

Friday, 14 February 2020

8:30 – 9:00  Registration

9:00 – 9:15  Opening Speeches

- Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos, President of the European Court of Human Rights
- Akamatsu Takeshi, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of Japan to the Council of Europe, Consul General of Japan in Strasbourg

9:15 – 9:40  Introduction by the Organizers

Chair: Ganna Yudkivska, Judge, European Court of Human Rights

Speakers

- Iulia Motoc, Judge, European Court of Human Rights
- Ivana Jelić, Judge, European Court of Human Rights
- Elena Brodeala, Yale Law School’s Robina Fellow at the Council of Europe

09:40 – 10:10

Keynote Speaker

Yoko Hayashi

Lawyer and Partner of Athena Law Office, Tokyo, Japan
Former President of the UN CEDAW Committee

In Pursuit of the Universal Value: Complementarity of International, Regional and Domestic law

Introduced by
Gabriele Kucsko-Stdlmayer, Judge, European Court of Human Rights
**Plenary Session - Press Room**

10:10 – 11:30  **Session I. Gender Equality before the ECtHR**

**Chair**

Anja Seibert-Fohr  
Judge, European Court of Human Rights

Alexandra Timmer  
Associate Professor at the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights  
*An Analysis of the ECtHR's Case Law on Gender Equality*

Sandra Fredman  
Rhodes Professor of the Laws of the British Commonwealth and the USA at Oxford University  
*Taking Gender Seriously: Substantive Equality and the ECHR*

Valerie Sperling  
Professor at Clark University, United States of America  
and

Lisa McIntosh Sundstrom  
Associate Professor at the University of British Columbia, Canada  
*Courting Gender Justice: Russia, Turkey, and the European Court of Human Rights*

Alice Margaria  
Research Fellow in the ‘Law and Anthropology’ Department of the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology  
*Another Side of Gender Equality: Fathers in the ECtHR Jurisprudence*

11:30 – 11:45 **Coffee break for all participants**

**Plenary Session - Press Room**

11:50 – 12:50  **Session II. Violence Against Women in International and European Law**

**Chair**

Christine Chanet  
Honorary Adviser to the French Court of Cassation, Former President of the UN Human Rights Committee

Diane Roman  
Professor of Public Law, University Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne  
*Gender Violence and Female Genital Mutilations: is there a European Court for Women’s Rights?*

Mathias Möschel  
Associate Professor, the Legal Studies Department of Central European University (CEU), Budapest  
*The EU’s Actions in Combating Violence Against Women*

Maria Bucur  
Professor of Gender Studies at Indiana University Bloomington  
*Domestic Violence as Humanitarian Crisis*
12:45 – 14:45  Lunch for the speakers/chairs

**Parallel Session – Press Room**

14:45 – 15:55  Session III. Violence Against Women and the Council of Europe

**Chair**

Ksenija Turković,  
Judge, European Court Of Human Rights

Luis Jimena Quesada  
Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Valencia, Former President of the European Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe  
*Violence Against Women under the European Social Charter*

Ayşe Işıl Karakaş  
Professor at Kadir Has University, Turkey and Former Judge, European Court of Human Rights  
*Positive Obligations of the State on Domestic Violence: Remarks on the Case-law of the ECHR*

Panelists

Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou  
GREVIO Member, Council of Europe  
*Building Synergies: Violence Against Women and the Istanbul Convention in the Case-law of the ECtHR*

Shazia Choudhry  
Professor of Law at Queen Mary, London  
*Child Contact, Domestic Abuse and the European Convention on Human Rights - Progress and Future Challenges for the European Court of Human Rights*

**Parallel Session – Seminar Room**

14:45 – 15:55  Session IV. Gender and Decision-Making

**Chair**

Armen Harutyunyan  
Judge, European Court of Human Rights

Stéphanie Hennette Vauchez  
Professor of Law at Université Paris Nanterre  
*Of Sticky Floors and Glass Ceilings: Why Is It So Difficult to Significantly Enhance the Number of Women Judges in International Courts?*

Ivana Krstić  
Professor of International Human Rights Law and Director of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Law  
*Gender Bias in Judges’ Decision-Making*

Panelists

Silvia Suteu  
Lecturer in Public Law, University College London  
*Participatory Constitution-Making and Women’s Rights: Two Distinctive Agendas?*
Christie S. Warren  
Professor of the Practice of International and Comparative Law and founding Director of the Center for Comparative Legal Studies and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding at William & Mary Law School in the US  
Barriers during Peace; Opportunities after War

15:55 – 16:15  Coffee break for all participants

Plenary Session - Press Room

16:15 – 17:25  Session V. Challenges to Reaching Gender Equality at International and Local Level

Mihaela Miroiu  
Chair  
Professor, National School for Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania

Vladimíra Pejchalová Grünwaldová  
Lecturer, University of West Bohemia, and Business Institute in Prague  
Gender Equality, Human Rights Challenges

Anna Śledzińska-Simon  
Assistant Professor, the University of Wrocław, Poland  
Gender Ideology, Women’s Rights and Right-Wing Populism. Can International Law Provide Remedies?

Panelists

Raluca Bercea  
Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, West University of Timișoara, Romania  
Challenges to Implementing ECtHR Judgments at Domestic Level: The Case of Violence Against Women

Oana Bălăță  
Associate Professor, University of Bucharest, Romania  
Gender and the Judiciary. A Case Study on Romania

17:25  Closing Remarks

Chair:  Robert Spano, Judge and Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights

Speaker:  Jean-Paul Costa, President of the Fondation René Cassin - International Institute of Human Rights, Former President of the European Court of Human Rights, Organiser

19:00  Reception for speakers and chairs at Japanese Ambassador’s residence in Strasbourg

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