

A EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

LOBBYING KIT

**For a transparent monitoring process of the
Council of Europe Convention on Preventing
and Combating Violence against Women &
Domestic Violence**



The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) is an internationally recognised, visionary treaty with great potential to become an effective tool for ending violence against women and girls. This new Council of Europe Convention is an extremely important step towards equality between women and men, and considering this, we believe the process of monitoring this Convention should be transparent, and take into account the views of NGOs and experts with full understanding and knowledge on violence against women.

The Convention's monitoring mechanism will be key to guarantee that it realises this potential. To ensure an effective monitoring mechanism, civil society and particularly women's NGOs will play an important role at several levels:

1. Advocating among States Parties to the Convention for the nomination of strong candidates to the "Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence" (GREVIO);
2. Active contributions to the monitoring process (through, for example, shadow reports to GREVIO);
3. Advocating for a meaningful application of the new mechanism to involve national parliaments in the evaluation and monitoring (as described in Article 70 of the Convention).

You can find more details on the monitoring mechanism of the Istanbul Convention on the CoE's page "About Monitoring".



Today, you can take urgent action on States Parties' nominations of GREVIO members in countries that have ratified the Istanbul Convention:

Take Action!

- Who to Target
- What to do
- When to Act
- Ensuring impact!

On 19 November 2014, the rules of the election procedure were adopted by the Council of Europe (CoE) Committee of Ministers, and States Parties were invited to submit to the CoE Secretary General nominations for up to 3 candidates by 2 March 2015.

According to the rules, the national selection procedure leading to the nomination of candidates for GREVIO shall be transparent and open to competition in order to lead to the nomination of the most qualified candidates. Competence, independence, availability and language skills (English and/or French) shall be the guiding principles for the nomination and election of future GREVIO members.

This Lobbying Kit aims to provide all EWL members as well as other women's organisations and NGO partners with tips and arguments to ensure that your government's national selection of candidates is indeed a process that is transparent and open to competition, and that the best qualified candidates apply.

Here are the following steps:

Step 1 - Who to target:

Find out which Ministry is in charge of the nominations (generally, it is the Women's Ministry, the Justice Ministry or possibly the Foreign Ministry)

Step 2 - What to do:

Approach the Ministry through a letter or personal contacts to enquire about the national selection procedure. On the next page you find a model letter for outreach to the relevant ministry. If you have personal contacts at the ministry, you may also wish to approach them through a personal meeting or by phone. The important items to check are notably:

- Whether it will be an open call for applications. if not, how else it will be ensured that the process is transparent and open to competition;
- How it will be disseminated to ensure that all potential candidates are reached;
- What is the deadline for applications (with the deadline of submissions to the CoE being 2 March 2015, the deadline for applications will likely be earlier);

- Which criteria will be applied (based on the requirements set out in Rules 2 to 5);
- Any other issues that may be relevant in your national context.

Encourage and support qualified candidates to apply as GREVIO expert in the required format (cf. the model CV in the appendix of the rules of the election procedure) by the deadline given by the Ministry.

Step 3 - When to act:

As the deadline for submissions to the Council of Europe is already on Monday 2 March 2015, time is of the essence! Therefore, start your outreach to the ministries as quickly as possible before the end of 2014.

Step 4 - Give more impact to your action!

Contact EWL members and other NGOs; you might also contact the European Network of Equality Bodies.

Contact your national member of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Network "Women Free from Violence" - they can be good allies in the process of the monitoring of the Convention

Contact the media if necessary.

For ease of reference, find here an alphabetical list of countries that have ratified the Istanbul Convention (December 2014), i.e. which can nominate GREVIO candidates:

1. Albania
2. Andorra
3. Austria
4. Bosnia and Herzegovina
5. Denmark
6. France
7. Italy
8. Malta
9. Monaco
10. Montenegro
11. Portugal
12. Serbia
13. Spain
14. Sweden
15. Turkey

Model letter

Address Ministry

Place, date

Dear Minister XY, [or other appropriate address in your country]

The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) is a visionary treaty with great potential as an effective tool for ending violence against women and girls. We are delighted that [country XY] was among the first Council of Europe Member States to ratify the Convention and has shown such strong commitment to ending violence against women and domestic violence.

The Convention's monitoring mechanism will be key to ensuring that it realises its full potential. We are now at an important stage of the process: On 19 November 2014, the rules of the election procedure to GREVIO were adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, and you were invited to submit to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe nominations for up to 3 candidates for GREVIO by 2 March 2015.

As laid out in the rules, the national selection procedure for the nomination of GREVIO members shall be transparent and open to competition, in order to lead to the nomination of the most qualified candidates. Competence, independence, availability and language skills (English and/or French) shall be the guiding principles for the nomination and election of future GREVIO members.

FOR THE NEXT PARAGRAPH, THERE ARE 2 OPTIONS [please delete this]:

A) IF NO INFORMATION ON THE MODALITIES OF THE NATIONAL SELECTION PROCEDURE HAS BEEN PUBLISHED:

We are writing to you today to enquire about the modalities of the selection procedure. We trust that you will ensure that the rules of the election procedure are fully respected and that

- the process is transparent and open to competition, such as through an open call for applications / expressions of interest;
- strict criteria are applied (based on the requirements set out in Rules 2 to 5) so that only the highest quality experts are nominated as candidates;
- the open call is disseminated widely and through all relevant channels, to guarantee that all potential candidates are reached;
- the deadline for applications is set in such a way that all qualified candidates are able to apply;
- [any other issues that may be relevant in your national context – if no other issues, please delete]

B) IF YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS STARTED THE PROCESS BUT NOT IN A SATISFACTORY MANNER:

We are dissatisfied with the current process, which lacks transparency and openness. We urge you to fully respect the rules of the election procedure that were adopted on 19 November and to ensure that:

- the process is transparent and open to competition, such as through an open call for applications / expressions of interest;
- strict criteria are applied (based on the requirements set out in Rules 2 to 5) so that only the highest quality experts are nominated as candidates;
- the open call is disseminated widely and through all relevant channels, to guarantee that all potential candidates are reached;
- the deadline for applications is set in such a way that all qualified candidates are able to apply;
- [any other issues that may be relevant in your national context – if no other issues, please delete]

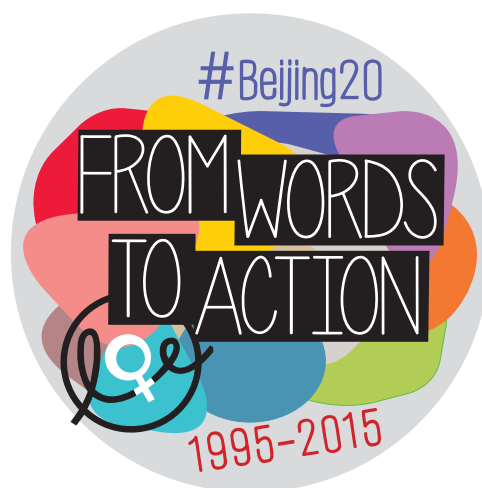
We are committed to support your efforts to fulfill the obligations under the Istanbul Convention and are looking forward to continued dialogue.

Your faithfully,

(Your name)

(Your organisation / coalition of organisations)

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) Observatory gathers together experts with huge expertise in different forms of male violence against women. The EWL Observatory's main objectives are to identify critical and emerging issues in order to feed the policy work of the EWL to advocate for improved policies and service provision for prevention and support of women victims of male violence. It raises visibility of the phenomenon of male violence against women and monitors the commitments at local, regional, national and European level regarding violence against women. The EWL Observatory on violence against women comprises now 33 experts (one from the 28 Member States and from 5 accession/neighbouring countries), nominated by national EWL coordination.



www.womenlobby.org

 **European Women's Lobby**

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