



International Advocacy Reports and Statements

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Review of Cyprus

Cyprus implemented a Nation Action Plan on Gender Equality in 2007 that focused on six priority areas including reducing gender stereotypes in the media and providing counseling for victims of domestic violence. There was also a recent awareness raising campaign on sexual orientation as well as the establishment of a National Gay Helpline and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is punished criminally. Several states raised the issue that there are high levels of domestic violence and there continues to be discrimination in the labour market. There was also discussion of the prevalence of trafficking including the sexual exploitation of women and children, which Cyprus is addressing the issue by reducing artists visas for cabaret dancers, who can often become trafficking victims. States also suggested strengthening protections for vulnerable parties including migrant women and to ensure equal pay for equal work for women. There was a lot of debate about the Turkish presence in Cyprus and whether this constituted a foreign occupation and human rights violation.

Review of Norway

Norway has gender equity in politics and has had success with its gender quota system. There has been an increase in the number of reported rapes, which might represent the effect of the de-stigmatization of rape through national awareness raising campaigns. States expressed concern about the persistence of domestic violence, too minimal sentences for sex offenders, and the continued under-representation of women in nontraditional careers outside of the government. There was much discussion about attitudes towards migrants including discrimination, hate crimes and inequality in the labour market and housing.

Review of Albania

Albania has new laws on domestic violence and has created a National Action Plan on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence. Women's participation has increased in elections, although states noted that the media's coverage of the recent election was very biased towards the sitting political party. Many states were concerned with *kanun*, a traditional practices of justice that includes honor killings, vengeance for grudges, and domestic violence. Albania stated that *kanun* is not a current system of justice and that the government enforces laws against murder and domestic violence. States also expressed concern about discrimination against women and suggested new reforms to ensure equal participation in politics and the labour market and to eliminate customary practices of gender inequality. Specific issues raised by the Netherlands include changing laws to protect the rights of separated married women who currently cannot own property because they are not considered the head of household. There is also no comprehensive law against discrimination that includes sexual orientation and gender identity.

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