

ANNEX 1 TO DOC-BOARD-19-11-11

Annex 1: EDF Women's Committee – Work Plan 2019-2021

Background

This document sets out the priorities for EDF's work for the period 2019-2021 in the field of women and girls with disabilities. It is based on the EDF work plan for 2019 as adopted by the EDF Executive Committee and Board in 2018 and should be read in conjunction with this overall work plan for the Forum.

The document aims to incorporate the perspectives of women and girls with disabilities and mothers of persons with disabilities in the work of EDF. This mainstreaming exercise draws on General Comment no. 3 on women with disabilities of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and seeks to apply an intersectional approach between gender and disability.

As the EDF has its own Women's Committee, the action areas set out in this document constitute the action or work plan for the Women's Committee for this year, to be implemented with support from the EDF Secretariat.

Having said this, we must bear in mind that as this work plan for 2019-2021 is an ambitious one and many of the points will take longer to implement and accomplish, it should guide the Committee's work over the coming years.

Contents

Based on objective number 5 of the EDF work plan for 2019, the following action areas in the field of women and girls with disabilities are addressed in this work plan: gender mainstreaming in European Union disability policies; disability mainstreaming in EU gender equality policies; active monitoring of EU implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention); the rights of women and girls with disabilities; statements, position papers and other documents to be prepared by the

Women's Committee; monitoring international human rights treaties in Europe; strengthening the Committee's networks; external representation; and communication work.

The items covered in objective number 5 of the EDF work plan for 2019 are, in turn, taken from the Concluding Observations of the UN CRPD Committee to the European Union in 2015.

The intersection of gender and disability in EDF's work

Action area 1 - gender mainstreaming in EU disability policies

- Ensure the European Union mainstreams the perspective of women and girls with disabilities and mothers of persons with disabilities in its forthcoming disability strategies, policies and programmes;
- Guarantee the European Union develops affirmative actions to advance the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

Action area 2 - mainstreaming disability in EU gender equality policies

- Ensure the perspectives of women and girls with disabilities and mothers of persons with disabilities are considered in the implementation of the current and any future European Union Gender Action Plans. This includes the three present thematic areas: ensuring girls' and women's physical and psychological integrity; promoting the social and economic rights/empowerment of women and girls; and strengthening girls' and women's voice and participation, as well as in its horizontal pillar to shift the institutional culture to more effectively deliver on EU commitments;
- Ensure the perspectives of women and girls with disabilities and mothers of persons with disabilities are included in the new European Gender Equality Strategy post-2019;
- Guarantee the European Union develops affirmative actions to advance the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

Action area 3 - combating violence against women and girls with disabilities

- Push the European Union to rapidly accede to and implement the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), and ensure, in its implementation, the EU takes the necessary measures to mainstream women and girls with all types of disabilities in all legislation, policies and strategies for combating violence, abuse and exploitation, and provides effective protection inside and outside of the home environment;
- Step up efforts to ensure the European Union takes all possible measures to abolish forced sterilisation and coerced abortion in EU Member States and make sure the individual's right to free, prior and informed consent to treatment is upheld and supported decision-making mechanisms are provided in European Union Member States.

Action area 4 - advancing the human rights of women and girls with disabilities

- Ensure the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls with disabilities in European Union health-related initiatives;
- Ensure the European Union funds research and studies on the human rights of women and girls with disabilities, including disaggregated data;
- Ensure the European Union develops a human-rights based indicators system in cooperation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, as well as a comparable comprehensive data collection system with data disaggregated by gender, age, rural or urban population and impairment type;
- Push for the establishment of mechanisms to monitor progress on the human rights of women and girls with disabilities.
- Design awareness raising tools and provide training on the rights of women and girls with disabilities to relevant stakeholders

Action area 5 - Women's Committee position papers, statements and other documents

- Continue to disseminate widely the report on 'Ending forced sterilisation of women and girls with disabilities' in the European Union and its Member States;
- Ensure the EDF position paper on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls with disabilities is disseminated widely among EDF members;
- Draft a protocol on assistance for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of violence based on the provisions of the Istanbul Convention.

Action area 6 - monitoring international human rights treaties relevant to women and girls with disabilities

- Monitor the review process by the CRPD Committee of European States Parties: 21st period of sessions, 11th March - 5th April 2019 - Turkey (13th-14th March), Spain (18th-19th March) and Norway (25th-26th March); 22nd period of sessions, 26th August - 20th September 2019 - Albania and Greece;
- Monitor the review process by the CEDAW Committee of European States Parties: 72nd period of sessions, 18th February - 8th March 2019 - United Kingdom (26th February) and Serbia (28th February); 73rd period of sessions, 1st July - 19th July 2019 - Austria; 74th period of sessions, 21st October - 8th November 2019 - Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan and Lithuania;
- Monitor the review process by the Council of Europe GREVIO (independent expert body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention) in 2019: presentation of reports by Spain, Andorra and Belgium by February 2019, and Slovenia, Malta and Poland by June 2019; evaluation visits to Italy, Netherlands and Serbia in March 2019 and Spain, Andorra and Belgium in October 2019; publication of GREVIO reports on Portugal and Sweden in January 2019, and Finland and France in July 2019.

Action area 7 - networking

- Promote co-operation and sharing of best practises among national organisations of women with disabilities in Europe;
- Develop a joint European project with the engagement of national organisations of women with disabilities.

Action area 8 - external representation

- Provide support to play an active role in European Women's Lobby governing bodies and working groups (EDF is a member of EWL);
- Ensure EDF is engaged in the High-Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming in the new European Commission as part of civil society representation.

Action area 9 - communication

- Enhance content in the page on gender equality in the EDF web site with further information on women and girls with disabilities, including the review calendars by international monitoring bodies;
- Add a specific section on gender in all EDF bulletins and newsletters and provide content;
- Ensure EDF joins and supports the #MeToo movement.
- Issue press releases for key dates, including the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (February 6th), International Women's Day (March 8th), International Day of the Girl Child (October 11th), International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25th).

2019 action points

In 2019, the EDF Women's Committee should:

Action area 1 - gender mainstreaming in EU disability policies

- Participate in the [public consultation](#) on evaluation of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020: the consultation will take place in the second quarter of 2019.

Action area 2 - mainstreaming disability in EU gender equality policies

- Participate in the consultation on the European Gender Strategy: the consultation will be open on 8th of March, for twelve weeks. The Commission aims to adopt the new strategy in October 2019.

Action area 3 - combating violence against women and girls with disabilities

- Prepare and conduct a webinar on the Istanbul Convention for organisations of women with disabilities in the countries under review this year by the Council of Europe GREVIO.

Action area 4 - advancing the human rights of women and girls with disabilities

- Publish and disseminate the EDF position paper on sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls with disabilities on 8th of March.

Action area 5 - Women's Committee position papers, statements and other documents

- Draft, publish and disseminate a protocol on assistance for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of violence based on the provisions of the Istanbul Convention.

Action area 6 - monitoring international human rights treaties relevant to women and girls with disabilities

- Prepare and conduct a webinar on the CEDAW, the role of the CEDAW Committee and how to provide alternative report to the CEDAW Committee – this could also be done on the side of EDF AGA in June.

Action area 7 - networking

- Carry out a mapping exercise to identify all national organisations of women with disabilities in Europe.

Action area 8 - external representation

- Increase the involvement of members in the European Women's Lobby, through applications to participate in EWL's working group.

Action area 9 – communication

- Prepare and issue communications to mark International Women's Day (March 8th), the International Day of the Girl Child (October 11th) and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25th).
- Review and enhance information related to gender equality and women and girls with disabilities published on EDF's website.