

DOC-BOARD-19-11-11

Updates from Women's Committee

Document for information and discussion

Purpose of this item

This document gives an update to board members on the work of EDF Women's Committee and priorities to advance the rights of women and girls with disabilities at national, European and international levels.

Questions for the Board

- What other actions should EDF take to advance the rights of women and girls with disabilities and ensure their perspectives are taken into account?
- How involved are you and your members in women's rights? What actions are you planning?

Workplan and meetings

In the beginning of 2019, the EDF Women's Committee adopted an ambitious work plan for 2019-2021 focusing on nine action areas:

1. Gender mainstreaming in EU disability policies
2. Mainstreaming disability in EU gender equality policies
3. Combating violence against women and girls with disabilities
4. Advancing the human rights of women and girls with disabilities
5. Women's Committee position papers, statements and other documents
6. Monitoring international human rights treaties relevant to women and girls with disabilities
7. Networking

8. Communication

The workplan is accompanied by action points adopted every year. Both documents are available in the annex.

The Committee met in Riga, Latvia, in September 2019. A training on the CEDAW was delivered by the Chair of the Committee Ana Pelaez, and the Committee discussed its achievements and further work for the years.

Some of this years' achievement includes:

- Participation in the European Commission's public consultation on gender equality in the European Union
- Publication of EDF position paper on sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls with disabilities ([available in 4 languages and easy-to-read](#))
- Representation of EDF by Pirkko Mahlamäki at the Beijing +25 Regional Review Meeting in Geneva
- [Workshop on UN Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women after EDF Annual General Assembly](#) in Brussels
- Launch of [EDF Women's Voice newsletter](#)

The Committee also provided input into several EDF policy papers and reports, such as the Human rights report on poverty and social exclusion.

The next Committee's meeting will be in Brussels on the 27th November 2019, prior to the European Day of Persons with Disabilities. The Committee will discuss and adopt its implementation report for 2019 and actions points for 2020. They will be presented to the next board meeting.

Current and upcoming priorities

Current and upcoming priorities from the perspectives of EDF Women's Committee are the following.

European level

- Inclusion of the perspectives of women and girls with disabilities in the next European Disability Strategy
- Inclusion of the perspectives of women and girls with disabilities in the next Gender Equality Strategy
- Participation of EDF members in the review process of the [Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence \(GREVIO\)](#) in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention on combatting violence against women and domestic violence (agenda of review in annex 2)

International level

- Participation of EDF members in the review process of the UN Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (agenda of review in annex 2)
- Participation of EDF and its members in the overall work of the CEDAW Committee, for instance participation in Days of General Discussion and submissions for general recommendations
- Representation of European women with disabilities in the membership of the CRPD Committee (2020 elections)
- Participation and representation in the [Beijing +25 review processes](#) - the Beijing Platform for Action is a worldwide agenda for the advancement of women's rights adopted in 1995