

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first to express Slovenia's full alignment with the statement delivered by Ireland on behalf of the European Union.

Slovenia welcomes the important dialogue on this year priority theme. We believe that violence against women and girls is a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women, which affects society as a whole. It is a manifestation of the historically unequal relations between women and men that constitutes an obstacle to women's active participation in society.

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For several years Slovenia is keeping the issues of violence against women and girls high on the political agenda.

We believe that adopted regulatory legal framework has to be strongly supported by research, awareness raising activities and training of professionals dealing with violence taking into consideration the importance to work with victims and perpetrators as well.

In Slovenia:

- Almost 65% of women are full-time employed,
- 65% of all university educated young people are women,
- 70% of judges are women in Slovenia.

Furthermore Slovenia records one of the smallest gender pay gap.

According to the above mentioned statistic Slovenian women can be considered as economic independent and highly educated.

However, in 2011 we got stricken by results after the first ever national study on extent and prevalence of violence in private sphere.

They show that every second women in Slovenia, from age 15, have experienced at least one form of intimate partner violence during their lifetime.

Findings of the study are used to support further efforts for more effective implementation of the national legislation on preventing and combating violence against women, including domestic violence.

In the context of preventing and combating violence against women and girls we believe that a special attention needs to be given to discriminatory traditional, social and cultural norms and gender stereotypes. Where needed harmful practices need to be addressed as well.

In 2012 the first national research on Gender Equality in Family Life and Partner Relations shown that traditional gender roles and stereotypes within a family still remain a big challenge for gender equality in Slovenia.

Slovene women spend more time than men on household work and taking care for their children, are more likely to be the ones who take more time off from work and are also more-likely to be employed part-time for child care reasons than men.

To tackle those challenges further steps have been taken in 2012 to encourage men to take up their family responsibilities to ensure equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men. However the results achieved continue to lag behind the ambitious commitments made in Beijing and standards that emanate from the CEDAW Convention.