



European
Commission

CHAMPIONING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE EU AND BEYOND

8 MARCH 2024

[#InternationalWomensDay](#)

“We have done ground-breaking and pioneering work on gender equality. We have concluded files that many thought would be blocked forever, like the Women on Boards Directive and the EU’s historic accession to the Istanbul Convention. But our work is far from over and we must continue pushing for progress together.”

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

GENDER EQUALITY STRATEGY

Sets out the Commission’s agenda for 2020-2025 to promote equality between women and men in all their diversity in the EU.

ACTION PLAN ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT IN EXTERNAL ACTION (GAP III)

Sets out the EU’s agenda for 2021 – 2027 to promote women and girls equality and empowerment around the world.

Justice
and Consumers



○ **COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

The Commission is taking action to tackle violence against women:

EU accession to **the Istanbul Convention** (October 2023)

Digital Services Act for online platforms to **remove illegal and harmful content** (from August 2023)

EU network on the **prevention of gender-based and domestic violence** (2023)

Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence (politically agreed in February 2024)

Revision of the Directive on trafficking in human beings (politically agreed in January 2024)

Recommendation on preventing and combating **harmful practices** against women and girls (expected in 2024)

Facilitating a **Code of conduct on gender-based cyberviolence** (expected in 2025)

€500 million allocated to the global EU-UN Spotlight Initiative



○ EMPOWERING WOMEN IN THE LABOUR MARKET

The Commission is active to ensure that women and men can thrive in a gender equal economy:

Directive on pay transparency

(May 2023)

Care Strategy and Recommendations on long-term care and on early childhood education and care improving accessible and quality childcare (September and December 2022)

Monitoring implementation: **Work-life balance Directive**

(as of August 2022)

Directive on adequate minimum wages

(October 2022)

#EndGenderStereotypes Campaign

(2023)

○ PROMOTING WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING

The Commission leads by example and stepped up its efforts to increase women's representation in decision-making positions:

Gender balance on company boards Directive

(November 2022)

First gender-balanced College of Commissioners

(2019-2024)

Women held 48.5% of all management positions within the Commission.

(March 2024)

Commission encouraged **gender-balanced candidate lists for European Parliament elections**



○ INVESTING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE EU AND AROUND THE WORLD

Gender equality is a key element of the EU budget, NextGenerationEU and funding for EU's external action:

Over **130 different actions on gender equality** under Member States' Recovery and Resilience Plans

€1.55 billion over 2021-2027 under EU's Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values funding programme

EU **funding in external action** for gender equality and women's empowerment **increased from 9 billion in 2021 to 13 billion in 2022**

Target of 85% of all external actions will promote gender equality, including through the Global Gateway strategy