



Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia
OSCE

AMB. STEFANO BALDI

Evento di lancio del progetto OSCE “Enhancing criminal justice capacities for combating gender-based violence in South-Eastern Europe”

Vienna, 9 dicembre 2021

Amb. Kupchyna, dear Alena, thank you for the kind invitation.

I would like to join colleagues and express my sincere congratulations for the work that the OSCE does to strengthen participating States’ national capacities to fight against gender-based violence. This project is a very good example of the important concrete work the Organisation carries out to tackle this issue. As a further example, allow me to mention ODIHR’s project CHANGE supported by Italy and other participating States present here today.

Italy attaches primary importance to the fight against gender-based violence. Sadly, this phenomenon affects every country, including Italy, and requires enhanced efforts and further collaboration of all actors involved, at both national and international level. For this reason, Italy works tirelessly to keep high on the international agenda the commitment to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment, as well as to prevent and fight violence against women and girls.

As G20 Presidency, in August 2021 Italy organised the first ever G20 Conference on Women’s Empowerment. The event aimed at bringing together diverse stakeholders and inputs to favour a systemic, structured and crosscutting approach to women’s empowerment. The Conference recognised that “now more than ever, women and girls urgently need the support and the action of the G20, to ensure that their rights are guaranteed worldwide, to prosecute offenders responsible for violations, to prevent further actions against women.” A specific call to action was also launched to protect women in Afghanistan.

As current Presidency of the Council of Europe, Italy strongly supports further ratifications and implementation of the Istanbul Convention (the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence). It is very important that all countries in South-Eastern Europe participating in this project have ratified it. The Istanbul Convention not only encourages integrated policy-making, but also criminalises specific offences, such as stalking, forced marriage and female genital mutilation. Where it has been implemented, it has worked – and with positive changes to national laws.

Finally, at the national level, as part of our commitment to foster the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, two weeks ago, on the 2021 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Italian Council of Ministers approved the new Strategic National Action Plan on men's violence against women for the period 2021-2023. The new Plan strengthens national measures to prevent gender-based violence and protect victims, to promote education and training, to enhance support for migrant women and victims of multiple and intersecting discriminations, to strengthen women's economic empowerment. The plan was developed through large community-wide consultations and it promotes a holistic approach, which relies on the strong collaboration between national and regional institutions and civil society organisations.

I wish you all the best for the success of the project.