



Scientific Analysis and Advice  
on Gender Equality in the EU

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: HARMFUL PRACTICES  
AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS  
SAAGE SEMINAR**

20.06.2022

Thon EU Hotel  
Rue de la Loi, 75 Bruxelles  
Time: 9:30-15:00

# ABOUT THE EVENT

The European Commission's Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 commits to tabling a "Recommendation on the prevention of harmful practices, including the need for effective pre-emptive measures and acknowledging the importance of education. The Recommendation will also address the strengthening of public services, prevention and support measures, capacity-building of professionals and victim-centred access to justice".

In the Call for Evidence issued it is noted that "Harmful practices are forms of violence committed primarily against women and girls. They are forms of gender-based violence and serious violations of women and children's rights. The most common forms of harmful practices include female genital mutilation or cutting, forced or early marriage and 'honour' based violence". It is further clarified that "This initiative aims to tackle harmful practices by addressing prevention, support, training of professionals and victim-centred access to justice".

## Purpose

The seminar seeks to:

- Deepen knowledge about and understanding of the range of harmful practices against women and girls and effective means of combating these.
- Stimulate insights to inform an effective further response from the European level.

## Format

The seminar will be hybrid.

## Participants

The participants at this seminar will be European Commission staff and a number of experts on the issues identified through the SAAGE network.

## Moderator

Niall Crowley, Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini (FGB).



# AGENDA



## Activity

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- 09.00** Welcome coffee
- 09.30** *Opening*  
*Current ambitions for a European Commission Recommendation on combating harmful practices against women and girls.*  
Karen Vandekerckhove  
Head of Unit, Gender Equality Unit of DG JUST, European Commission
- 09.45** *Panel One: Understanding the Challenge*  
*'Honour' Based Violence and Early/Child/Forced Marriage: Enabling Inclusive, Intersectional Interventions*  
Professor Aisha K. Gill Ph.D. (University of Essex) CBE  
Professor of Criminology, University of Roehampton, UK  
  
*Female genital mutilation/cutting in Europe: current situation and gaps to be addressed*  
Els Leye Ph.D.  
Researcher and Consultant, Els Leye Consultancy
- 10.45** Coffee break
- 11.15** *Panel Two: Prevention, Support, Prosecution*  
  
*Preventing harmful practices in the Netherlands: at the crossroads of culture, politics and policy*  
Professor Dr. René Romkens  
Römken Research & Consultancy, Em. Professor on gender-based violence – University of Amsterdam/Sociology.  
  
*Prevention of and Responses to FGM, Challenges and Innovations in Spain*  
Professor Adriana Kaplan Marcusán  
Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain  
  
*Key Principles in Responding to Harmful Practices and the Experience in Denmark*  
Anika Liversage, Ph.D.  
Senior Researcher, VIVE Danish Centre for Social Research, Copenhagen, Denmark  
  
*Questions and Answers followed by Discussion*
- 12.30** Lunch
- 13.30** *Panel Three: European Level Action*  
Johanna Engstrom, Gender Equality Unit DG JUST, European Commission  
Valentine Josenhans, Council of Europe (GREVIO)  
Eleonora Esposito, Ph.D., EIGE  
Alexia Fafara, European Women's Lobby - Observatory on Violence against Women  
Questions and Answers followed by Discussion
- 15.00** Close