



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES

A EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

LOBBYING KIT

**For a transparent nomination
process of new independent experts
to GREVIO**

**Council of Europe Convention on Preventing
and Combating Violence against Women &
Domestic Violence, Istanbul Convention**

**LOUD AND UNITED:
STOP VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN & GIRLS**





[The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence \(Istanbul Convention\)](#) which entered into force in August 2014, has now been signed by 45 member states of the Council of Europe (CoE) and by the [European Union \(EU\) itself who signed the Convention in June 2017](#), during the European Union (EU) year of focused actions to combat violence against women and girls. The CoE Convention has been ratified by 28 member states of the Council of Europe, including 17 EU member states. The CoE Istanbul Convention is the most comprehensive and legally binding treaty of its kind and has proved to be an essential tool in combatting violence against women and domestic violence. [Article 13 of the Convention](#) highlights the significance of civil society, specifically women's organisations as essential partners in raising awareness and monitoring implementation. Therefore, the [European Women's Lobby](#), the largest umbrella organisation of women's associations in the EU, believes it is critical to continue to foster political engagement, advocate for the continued ratification and full implementation at both national and EU level and ensure that women's organisations remain a critical part of the implementation and monitoring process.

The [Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence \(GREVIO\)](#) are a panel of independent experts responsible for monitoring the implementation of the CoE Istanbul Convention. The members are nominated by State Parties to the Convention (the countries that have ratified the convention), and are elected by the Committee of Parties. At present there are [10 members of GREVIO](#) who were elected on May 4th 2015. As per the [Rules of Procedure for the election of GREVIO members](#), with the [25th ratification of the Istanbul Convention](#), which occurred in October 2017, 5 new members are to be nominated and elected to the the Independent expert group¹.

In 2014, [the European Women's Lobby \(EWL\)](#) in collaboration with World Future Council, produced a [Lobbying kit](#) in order to coordinate the advocacy and lobbying strategies of EWL member organisations and as well as other women's organisations and NGO partners.

Together with the experts of the [EWL Observatory on violence against women and girls](#), the European Women's Lobby has updated and produced this lobbying kit for the new nomination procedure in 2018. Taking into account the current context, this updated Lobbying Kit aims to provide all EWL members and partners with tips and arguments to ensure that your government's national selection of candidates is indeed a process that is transparent, open to competition, and that the best qualified candidates apply. The purpose is to ensure our expertise and advice is considered in the nomination of the five new GREVIO experts and to ensure transparency is maintained throughout the process.

The following Lobbying Kit provides up to date information on the current monitoring process, an outlined strategy on how to advocate your organisations expertise and provides a template letter for your organisation to send to the relevant national representative involved in the nomination process. This Kit also provides all EWL members as well as other women's organisations and NGO partners with tips and arguments to ensure that your government's national selection process of candidates is indeed transparent, open to competition, and that the best qualified candidates apply.

You can find more details on the monitoring mechanism of the CoE Istanbul Convention on the [Council of Europe dedicated website](#) "About Monitoring".

¹ As of November 2017, GREVIO has completed four evaluation reports on the status of violence against women and domestic violence in states parties that have ratified the Convention; Albania, Austria, Denmark and Monaco. You can see here the timetable for the first (baseline) evaluation procedure from 2016 to 2020 in this link: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/timetable>



Today, you can take urgent action on States Parties' nominations of GREVIO members in countries that have now ratified the Istanbul Convention:

On 30th January 2018, the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention met at the Council of Europe headquarters in Strasbourg and exchanged information on the procedure for the election of five new GREVIO members as per [rules of the election procedure](#) adopted in 2014. All parties to the CoE Convention who do not currently have a national among GREVIO have been invited, by official letter, to submit qualified candidates; deadline for applications are **15th March 2018**. The proposed date for the election of new GREVIO members is provisionally set for **May 2018**.

According to the rules, the national selection procedure leading to the nomination of candidates for GREVIO shall be transparent and open to competition in order to lead to the nomination of the most qualified candidates. Competence, independence, availability and language skills (English and/or French) shall be the guiding principles for the nomination and election of GREVIO members. However, an emphasis on **gender balance** and **diversity of professional expertise** has been highlighted as preferences during this nomination cycle. Taking into consideration therefore the current GREVIO members, the assumption is that **male, medical or legal experts** will be the most preferred candidates.

This Lobbying Kit aims to provide EWL members, members of the partner NGOs in the [European Coalition to end violence against women and girls](#), and other women's organisations with tips and advice to lobby for a transparent and open competition process that leads to the nomination of GREVIO experts with solid expertise, a strong feminist background and progressive and intersectional views, within the preferred criteria.

How to Engage:

Find out who the representative to the Committee of parties is for your national coordination; this could be from a specific ministry dealing with gender equality or from the permanent representation to the CoE. The Ministry of the exterior/ foreign affairs may also be involved in this process.

Contact this representative and encourage a transparent and open nomination process. This can be done either via letter (an example letter can be found on the next

page) or personally via a meeting or phone if you have personal contacts within the ministry.

It is important to include the follow points in your communication to the representative and lobbying actions.

- Query what will be the process for the call for applications and how will it be disseminated to ensure all potential candidates will be reached.
- Which criteria will be applied based on the requirements in Rules 2-5 and given the current context?
- Any other issues that may be relevant in your national context.

Encourage and support qualified candidates, particularly those who meet the preferred criteria, to apply as GREVIO expert in the [required format](#) by the deadline given by the Ministry.

Give more impact to your action!

- Contact EWL members and other NGOs; you might also contact the [Equality Body](#) in your country.
- Get in touch with progressive organisations to support these actions and even create platforms or coalitions. Check the list of members of the partner NGOs in the European Coalition to end violence against women and girls in your countries (see Annex I below).
- Contact your national member of the [Council of Europe Parliamentary Network "Women Free from Violence"](#)
- Contact the media if necessary.

For ease of reference, find here an alphabetical list of countries that have ratified the CoE Istanbul Convention (November 2017) i.e. which can now nominate GREVIO candidates

1. Andorra	10. Monaco
2. Belgium	11. Norway
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina	12. Poland
4. Cyprus	13. Romania
5. Denmark	14. San Marino
6. Estonia	15. Switzerland
7. Finland	16. Slovenia
8. Georgia	17. Sweden
9. Germany	



Model letter

Address Ministry

Place, date

Dear Minister (name), [or other appropriate address in your country]

The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) is the most comprehensive and legally binding treaty which aims to bring an end to violence against women and girls. We are delighted that [country XY] has ratified the Istanbul Convention and has shown such strong commitment to ending violence against women and domestic violence [The last sentence is to be adapted accordingly to your national context].

With the 25th ratification of the Istanbul Convention having been reached in October 2017, as per the rules of procedure, State Parties are now required to nominate and elect five new members to the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO). Your department has been officially invited to submit to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe nominations for up to 3 candidates for these new appointments by March 15th. As laid out in the rules, the national selection procedure for the nomination of GREVIO members shall be transparent and open to competition, in order to lead to the nomination of the most qualified candidates. Competence, independence, availability and language skills (English and/or French) shall be the guiding principles for the nomination and election of future GREVIO members.

FOR THE NEXT PARAGRAPH, THERE ARE 2 OPTIONS [please delete the non-relevant option]:

A) IF NO INFORMATION ON THE MODALITIES OF THE NATIONAL SELECTION PROCEDURE HAS BEEN PUBLISHED:

We are writing to you today to enquire about the modalities of the selection procedure. We trust that you will ensure that the rules of the election procedure are fully respected and that

- the process is transparent and open to competition, such as through an open call for applications / expressions of interest;
- strict criteria are applied (based on the requirements set out in Rules 2 to 5) so that only the highest quality experts are nominated as candidates;
- the open call is disseminated widely and through all relevant channels, to guarantee that all potential candidates are reached;
- the deadline for applications is set in such a way that all qualified candidates are able to apply;
- [any other issues that may be relevant in your national context – if no other issues, please delete]

B) IF YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS STARTED THE PROCESS BUT NOT IN A SATISFACTORY MANNER:

We are dissatisfied with the current process, which lacks transparency and openness. We urge you to fully respect the rules of the election procedure that were adopted on 19 November 2014 and to ensure that:

- the process is transparent and open to competition, such as through an open call for applications / expressions of interest;
- strict criteria are applied (based on the requirements set out in Rules 2 to 5) so that only the highest quality experts are nominated as candidates;
- the open call is disseminated widely and through all relevant channels, to guarantee that all potential candidates are reached;
- the deadline for applications is set in such a way that all qualified candidates are able to apply;
- [any other issues that may be relevant in your national context – if no other issues, please delete]

We are committed to support your efforts to fulfil the obligations under the CoE Istanbul Convention and are looking forward to continued dialogue.

Your faithfully,

(Your name) (Your organisation / coalition of organisations)



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
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The European Women's Lobby (EWL) brings together the women's movement in Europe to influence the general public and European Institutions in support of women's human rights and equality between women and men.

The EWL is the largest European umbrella network of women's associations representing a total of more than 2,000 organisations in all EU Member States and Candidate Countries, as well as 19 European-wide organisations representing the diversity of women and girls in Europe (Find [EWL members](#) here). EWL envisions a society in which women's contribution to all aspects of life is recognised, rewarded and celebrated - in leadership, in care and in production; all women have self-confidence, freedom of choice, and freedom from male violence and exploitation; and no woman or girl is left behind.



The EWL Observatory on violence against women and girls gathers together experts with huge

expertise in different forms of male violence. The EWL Observatory's main objectives are to identify critical and emerging issues in order to feed the policy work of the EWL to advocate for improved policies and service provision for prevention and support of women victims of male violence. It raises visibility of the phenomenon of male violence against women and monitors the commitments at local, regional, national and European level regarding violence against women and girls. The EWL Observatory on violence against women comprises 35 experts, from thirty European countries and five European Networks.

<https://www.womenlobby.org>

European Women's Lobby

[@EuropeanWomen](#)

ANNEX I

The European Coalition to End violence against women and girls, convened by the European Women's Lobby, is a strategic alliance of 27 European NGOs and civil society networks dedicated to social justice and equality in Europe. Addressing the issue of violence against women and girls from different angles, they have joined forces to advocate together for the signature and ratification of the CoE Istanbul Convention by the EU and all Member States and for a meaningful EU year of focused actions against violence against women. Find more information on the initiatives of the members of the European Coalition to end violence against women and girls [here](#).

- [AGE Platform Europe](#)
- [Amnesty International](#)
- [BPW-Europe Business and Professional Women](#)
- [COFACE Families Europe](#)
- [Centre for Reproductive Health and rights](#)
- [End FGM- European Network](#)
- [EuroMed Rights](#)
- [European Disability Forum \(EDF\)](#)
- [European Forum of Muslim women \(EFOMW\)](#)
- [European Network against Racism \(ENAR\)](#)
- [European Network of Migrant Women \(ENoMW\)](#)
- [European Network for the Work with perpetrators of Domestic Violence](#)
- [European Network on Religion and Belief \(ENORB\)](#)
- [European Roma Information Office \(ERIO\)](#)
- [European Trade Union Confederation \(ETUC\)](#)
- [European Women's Lobby \(EWL\)](#)
- [European YWCA](#)
- [European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless \(FEANTSA\)](#)
- [International Alliance for Women \(IAW\)](#)
- [International Planned Parenthood Federation-European Region](#)
- [ILGA-Europe - The European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association](#)
- [Mental Health Europe \(MHE\)](#)
- [Men Engage Alliance](#)
- [PICUM - the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants](#)
- [Social Platform](#)
- [Transgender Europe –TGEU](#)
- [WAVE Network –Women against violence Europe](#)
- [Womankind Worldwide](#)
- [World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts \(WAGGGS\)](#)



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