DIRECTORATE GENERAL DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN DIGNITY
DIRECTORATE OF EQUAL RIGHTS AND DIGNITY

Department for Human Dignity and Gender Equality
Violence against Women Division
Secretariat of the Istanbul Convention Monitoring Mechanism

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

First meeting of the Network of specialised lawyers and NGOs assisting victims of violence against women

PROGRAMME

22 November 2024, Strasbourg (Palais de l'Europe, room 6) 9:00-18:00

9:00 – 9:30	**Welcome and opening session** **Jeroen Schokkenbroek,** Director of Equal Rights and Dignity**,** Council of Europe
9:30 – 11:00	**Addressing violence against women on the basis of the European Convention of Human Rights and the Court's jurisprudence** **Darian Pavli**, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights: Overview of caselaw on violence against women Q&A **Aida Grgic**, Senior Legal Advisor, European Court of Human Rights*:* The admissibility of cases to the ECtHR Q&A
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:45	**The role of *lex specialis* human rights conventions and their monitoring in strategic litigation: the example of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention)** **Maria Andriani Kostopoulou**, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO): The relevance of GREVIO's findings for strategic litigation **Sabrina Wittman**, Violence against Women Division, Council of Europe: The link between the standards of the Istanbul Convention and the European Convention of Human Rights Q&A
12:45 – 14:15	Lunch break
14:15 – 15:45	**How to bring a case to Strasbourg: strategic choices and considerations** **Gregory Thuan,** lawyer, France**:** Choosing the right case and getting started **Katarzyna Sękowska-Kozłowska**, Director of Poznan Human Rights Centre: Identifying the structural elements in domestic violence cases

	Marcella Pirrone, Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) Network: Building alliances with women's rights NGOs **Maria Moodie, lawyer, United Kingdom:** Reflections on possible future cases to bring Q&A
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 16:45	**Case study No.1** **Marta Cigna**, lawyer, Italy: Insights from the case of I. M. v Italy Q&A
16:45 – 17:30	**Case study No.2** **Michael Polak**, lawyer, United Kingdom: Litigation experience in the case of X. v Greece Q&A
17:30 – 18:00	**Feedback on the day and wrap up** • Tour de table • Closing by **Johanna Nelles**, Executive Secretary of the Istanbul Convention, Council of Europe
18:00	Reception